



"Enhanced food and nutrition security through conservation agriculture and double cropping"

Project code: OSRO/DRK/106/EC

Donor: European Union

Contribution: USD 1 894 377

Implementation: 01/01/12 –30/06/15

Target areas: North Pyongan and South Hwanghae provinces



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Objective: To enhance food production and consumption at the household level through the promotion of conservation agriculture (CA), double cropping, diversification of farming practices and capacity building, thereby improving household food and nutrition security.

Key partners: Ministry of Agriculture and the Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Beneficiaries reached: Five cooperative farms (benefiting approximately 3 750 households, or 15 000 people).

Activities implemented:

- Provided five cooperative farms with 173 units of 49 different types of machinery and equipment that are vital to implementing CA practices (including tractors, planters, threshers, seeders, etc.).
- Constructed ten units of threshing-cum-drying floor (300 m² each) and five greenhouses (500 m² each) to upgrade cooperative farm infrastructure.
- Conducted four overseas study tours to train 24 beneficiary farmers on various aspects of CA technology practiced in Brazil and China.
- Conducted farmer field days in participating cooperative farms to provide farmers and staff from neighbouring farms with an opportunity to observe the results of new practices and performance of new machinery and equipment in order to replicate them in their own fields.

Results:

- CA practices in cooperative farms integrated with double cropping and covered areas ranging from 60 to 100 ha.
- Improved yields in CA-based fields compared with traditional farming systems.
- Improved beneficiaries' access to post-harvest facilities and their knowledge of good post-harvest practices.
- Helped mitigate the impact of drought through the adoption of CA practices and double cropping on cooperative farms, as well as decreased fuel consumption and demand for farm labour, increased the number of cover crops, extended soil coverage, expanded the system of rice intensification and extended the use of animal traction in the CA context.