

# **FAO Regional Training Course and High Level Dialogue on Hybrid rice in Asia**

*Supported by the FAO/China/South-South Cooperation (SSC) Programme*

October 19-November 3, 2016 (rice harvesting or seedling) in

Hunan , China

## **1. Background/rationale**

### *Relevance in food security and capacity development of Hybrid rice in Asia*

Rice is the staple food of about half the world's population, of which more than 90% of the rice consumers inhabit in Asia. Therefore, rice plays an important role in ensuring food security, and contributing to poverty and malnutrition alleviation in Asia and the world. As the world's population continues to increase, there will be further demand on rice supply to meet additional consumption.

The total consumption of 439 million tons in 2010 and various outlooks for 2030 indicate the global demand for rice to be in the range 503-544 million metric tons. This is equivalent to the average growth rate of 1% per year compared to the total consumption in 2010.

The outlook above highlights the need to intensify rice production in Asia to meet the rising demand since the rice lands have been diminished due to urbanization and industrialization or agricultural diversification. The increase of rice production in the future would primarily rely on the increase of productivity. Nevertheless, it is recorded that the growth of rice productivity has declined in recent years due to little improvement in the rice yield potential. To overcome this challenge, the adoption of hybrid rice technology as experienced in China would offer an alternative to raise further the rice yield potential by exploiting the genetic expression of heterosis or hybrid vigor. However, outside China, despite hybrid rice has been grown in several countries; the pace of adoption is still low or stagnant over many years.

In consideration of these developments, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP) and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) jointly propose to organize the Training Course on the capacity development activities in the areas of hybrid rice and Regional High Level Dialogue under the FAO/China SSC Programme work plan 2016.

### *FAO Regional Rice Initiative*

The Regional Rice Initiative (RRI), which started in 2013 as a pilot project, then officially endorsed by FAO Regional Conference as one of the Four Regional Initiatives in Asia and the Pacific, was designed to contribute to FAO's new Strategic Objective No. 2, "Making agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable." It has since assisted three pilot countries – Indonesia, Lao PDR and the Philippines – focusing on the applications of goods and services produced by and available from rice ecosystems and production landscapes for sustainable rice farming practices, increased production and resource use efficiency, and ultimately, improved food and nutrition security.

The RRI supports rice farmers and producers in applying sustainable rice production practices (such as the Save and Grow mechanism) to rice ecosystems and landscapes in order to increase rice production and improve resource use efficiency, and ultimately improve food and nutrition security. The initiative focuses on the importance and full use of the goods and services produced by and available from rice ecosystems and landscapes.

The RRI addresses **more than just rice**. It is composed of four different Components during the pilot phase: *Component 1* (Aquaculture & fisheries, Water resources/irrigation), *Component 2* – (Trees outside forests, Biodiversity, landscapes & ecosystem services), *Component 3* – (Sustainable intensification of rice-farming systems) and *Component 4* – (Climate change adaptation and rice cultures/heritages).

## **2. The Regional High Level Dialogue (HLD)**

In accordance with the Minutes of the Fifth Annual Consultation Meeting on South-South Cooperation (SSC) between the Ministry of Agricultural (MoA) of the People's Republic of China and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held in Changsha, China 26 Jan 2016, to support global and regional capacity development in developing countries was identified as one of priorities under the FAO/China/SSC programme for Asia and the Pacific region and capacity development activities in the areas of hybrid rice for sustainable food security in Asia and the Pacific closely meets the objectives and priorities of FAO/China/South-South Cooperation Programme (SSC).

### Objectives

The main objective of the HLD is to bring countries in the region together to share experience, present their respective challenges and possible solutions, and discuss activities/programme to promote regional hybrid rice cooperation and development in the region in future. The objectives are proposed as follows:

- To exchange and share experiences, knowledge, technologies and understanding among the countries;
- To exchange the national and local policies and actions that enable to robust rice development;
- To assess the current status of hybrid rice production in Asia and its impacts on food and nutrition security;
- To analyse constraints and technological gaps in the development and adoption of hybrid rice in Asia, and recommendations to overcome these constraints and gaps; and
- To formulate a regional action plan aiming on strengthening regional hybrid rice cooperation and development in Asia.

### Outputs

- Regional and country status on hybrid rice production issues, potential opportunities and future plan of action presented;

- Knowledge shared and experiences learnt on the use of hybrid rice technology with greater attention to policy, research and extension, intellectual property rights (IPR), business development, and public-private partnership;
- A regional action plan towards 2020 on hybrid rice development formulated;
- A regional network on hybrid rice established; and
- Proceedings on the outcomes of the expert consultation published.

#### Participants and Focus countries

The following countries **(12)** are proposed to get invited, including: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Two persons per country **(in total 24 persons)** will be invited to participate in the dialogue. Including the resource persons from FAO, other international/regional entities, and Chinese governments and institutions, the scale of the Dialogue would reach 40 participants

#### Organization

The HLD will be co-organized by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of China and FAO, and will be organized in China. The logistical and administrative arrangement will be provided by Center of International Cooperation Service (CICOS), Ministry of Agriculture, trusted by the Department of International Cooperation (DIC), MoA and agreed by FAO. Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Center (HHRRC) will provide with technical support. MoA and FAO will identify specific participating agencies resources persons, and observers based on the needs.

The meeting will combine the presentations provided by country participants and resource persons with panel discussions and interactive sessions

The duration of HLD is proposed for 3 days.

### **3. A two-week Training Course on Hybrid rice**

#### Objectives

The training course will be provided under the support of FAO-China SSC programme second phase in 2016. Innovative technologies and tools for hybrid rice development will be introduced in relation to other technologically important issues.

#### Outcomes and Outputs

The major outcome of the training is to enhance capacities of the FAO Rice RI focus countries in research development of hybrid rice and exchange learning of innovative technologies. Major outputs are as follows:

- To exchange innovative technologies to develop hybrid rice having high yield, good quality, resistance to major diseases and insects and tolerance to stress

conditions such as drought, salinity and submergence created by climate changes

- To learn Chinese experience on strengthening research and development of high-yielding hybrid rice for food security but also for providing the material for processing food.
- To develop a potential regional collaboration and network on hybrid rice among the regional countries towards 2020

### Participants

The training will bring in 18 technical and/or policy experts from 5 FAO Rice Regional Initiative focus countries, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines and Viet Nam.

Duration and format: The training course is proposed to last for two weeks with a format combined with indoor lectures provided by international and Chinese resources persons, experience exchange amongst the participants, and field trips.

### **4. Logistical details**

- Dates: October 19-31 : Training Course, **Beijing OR Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Center, Changsha, Hunan Province**
- Dates: November 1-3 : High Level Dialogue, **Beijing OR Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Center, Changsha, Hunan Province**
- Language: Primary language is English. Simultaneous translation between English and Chinese will be provided during the High Level Dialogue. Both trainers and trainees of the training course are requested to possess fluency in English.
- FAO Focal points:

| <b>Organization</b> | <b>Name</b>  | <b>Position</b>  | <b>Email</b>   |
|---------------------|--------------|--|--|
| FAORAP              | Xiangjun Yao | Regional Initiative Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific         | <a href="mailto:Xiangjun.yao@fao.org">Xiangjun.yao@fao.org</a> |
| FAORAP              | Du Pram      | Rice Regional Initiative Deliver Manager, and Senior Rice Expert | <a href="mailto:Du.Pham@fao.org">Du.Pham@fao.org</a>           |
| FAO HQ              |              |  |  |
| FAOHQ               |              |  |  |

- China Focal Points:

| <b>Organization</b> | <b>Name</b> | <b>Position</b>                                     | <b>Email</b>   |
|---------------------|-------------|---|--|
| CICOS,MOA           | Yu Yang     | Division Director of Foreign Cooperation, CICOS,MOA | <a href="mailto:yuyang@agri.gov.cn">yuyang@agri.gov.cn</a> |
| CICOS,MOA           | Liu Jiawei  | Programe officer                                    | <a href="mailto:1514137749@qq.com">1514137749@qq.com</a>   |
|                     |             |   |  |
|                     |             |   |  |

- Estimated budget:

All travel, accommodation, and related expenses for the participants nominated by the governments, and the FAO facilitators/focal points/resource persons will be covered by the FAO/China/SSC Trust Fund through a Letter of Agreement (LOA). Participants from other organizations are welcome to participate as observer on their own budget.