SUCCESS STORY ON CULTIVATION OF LOW LAND PADDY var. RCM 10 UNDER SUPPORT TO WETLAND AGRICULTURE-WRC/TRC

PROFILE

Name of the activity: Cultivation of low land paddy var. RCM 10
Name of FIG: WRC FIG
Village: 6 Villages
District: Serchhip
Source of Seeds: ATMA, Mizoram

BACKGROUND

Rice being a staple crop in the state, cultivation is of vital importance. The crop is most importantly grown as a Kharif crop during the monsoon (June-July) and harvested during winter (November-December). Majority of the farmers depends on subsistence farming. Increase in rice yields is a challenging task for farmers. Thus, the introduction of improved rice variety as observed is a significant activity of the farming community. However, the farmers often do not have reliable source of good quality seeds or even the financial aid to procure them.

ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

The activity was taken up under 'Support for Wetland Agriculture- Supply of Quality seeds' as it was observed to be a potential activity to improve rice cultivation. The implementation of activity was initiated during the month of May-June, 2021.

The implementation covers six (6) villages covering ***70 households*** in total covering an area of ***35 Ha***. A total of 14 quintal of an improved variety of rice i.e RCM-10 a medium tall (70- 90 cm), short duration, derivative of cross between Prasad and IR-24 was received from seed village under ATMA, Serchhip and Aizawl District procured by PMU, FOCUS and distributed freely among WRC/TRC FIG's farmers. The intervention was implemented with continual guidance, assessment and physical support from the DMU staffs.

Distribution of seeds (with systematic fungicide for seeds treatment)

Raising of seedlings

Harvesting of RCM 10 / Crop Cutting Experiment done by Field staff

OUTPUT/IMPACT

Initially, farmers often use the easily available local variety which they could get free of cost irrespective of the quality, thus resulted in low production. However, with proper management this variety has led to an increased production and assured quality produce. This has resulted in a potential increase in productivity and hence the income. The assessment on the production as per Crop Cutting Experiment done by the staff are recorded as below:

COMPARISON OF AVERAGE YIELD OF RICE (as per CCE)

SL. NO.	VILLAGE	YIELD (MT per Ha) Local varieties	YIELD (MT per Ha) RCM 10	Remarks
1.	Chekawn	1.85	2.85	• Higher yield per Ha. • Short duration • Less water requirement • Susceptible to blast diseases • Requires early transplanting
2.	Khawlailung	1.95	2.75	
3.	E. Lungdar	1.85	2.65	
4.	Chhiahtlang	2.10	3.25	
5.	Bungtlang	2.20	3.30	
6.	Serchhip	2.50	3.50	
	Total	**2.075**	**3.05**	

CONCLUSION

The total yield of rice recorded was 213.50 MT under good management. It has a high milling recovery (75%) and has a sticky taste after cooking which is much appreciated by the farmers. Farmers also obtained pure and good quality seeds for own use. Adoption of short duration varieties is one of the strategies to mitigate emission of methane and nitrous oxide which are greenhouse gases. Since, rice crop is said to be one of the major contributing factors to global warming, short duration varieties is one way of reducing such emissions. Also, increase the time the land would be available for subsequent planting of other crops like rabi crops. It may be concluded that the increase in rice production thereby ensuring food security and improve livelihood of farm community.