



Ministry of Agriculture,
Livestock and Irrigation
Agriculture Development
Support Project



International Rice
Research Institute

Farmer Participatory Approach - an efficient way for sustainable adoption of new released rice varieties

Background Information

Rice is the priority crop for local and national food security in Myanmar. It is not only the most important crop for home consumption, but also a crop with large export potential.

Financed by the World Bank, Agricultural Development Support Project (ADSP) is supporting the agricultural development activities under four irrigation sites including Swa Chaung Dam, Mala Nattaung, North Yamar and Sinthe Dam. ADSP aims to increase crop productivity and cropping intensity of target sites. Along with providing technical backstopping to the Department of Agriculture, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is also working on varietal seed management.

The baseline study at the project sites highlighted a weak seed flow program for new released rice varieties preferred by farmers. Although new high yield and stress tolerance varieties are very promising, the adoption has been limited due to lack of awareness of farmers, availability of seeds and low market demand.

As part of ADSP, “adaptive multi-location/seasonal trial included new released early high yielding rice varieties” being implemented in partnership with IRRI, Extension Division of Department of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation addresses one of challenges on development of new released varieties.

Participatory Varietal Selection approach for adoption of new varieties on ADSP irrigation sites

The Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS) approach has been introduced at the the project sites through collaborative efforts of IRRI, DoA and DAR. Fourteen varieties released in 2012-2017 were evaluated in summer rice season through PVS in Nyaung Lunt village of Sinthe site and Kyaythamyar village of North Yamar site. Two varieties (Pyi Taw Yin and SarNgankhan 5) in Tatkon township and five varieties (Yeanaelo 4, Yeanaelo 7, SarNgankhan 6, Shwe Pyi Hmwe and Htai Hnankauk) in Pale township were selected by farmers through preference analysis and sensory evaluation.

These selected varieties were found to have 120-125 days duration, medium plant height, no lodging, high grain yield, suitable eating quality, free from disease and pest and well adaptation for tested environments. These farmers selected varieties were planned to continue for varietal demonstrations as in next step selection in specific farmer's field and specific sites for next seasons.

The farmer's participatory approach was found to help in the rapid dissemination of new varieties as well as very effective for adoption by local farmers.



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