

Demonstrating Good Agricultural Practices in Paddy Production

A Matching Grant Fund Project of the Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) and West African Cotton Co Ltd.(WACOT)



Goal

The goal of the project is to integrate 5000 rice farmers into sustainable and competitive business models that lead to increased paddy production as well as to improvements in quality. As a result, the income of the farmers is expected to double by the end of the 2-year project. This contributes significantly to the reduction of poverty of smallholder farmers in Kebbi State, Nigeria.

Our Approach

In order to double the yield and income of the beneficiaries, support is given to the beneficiaries through training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and provision of improved technical packages. By supporting contract farming arrangements between farmers and off takers, the project enables farmers to market their product.

Project strategies include:

- Enrollment of 2500 farmers in the first year 2015- 2016 followed by 2500 in 2016-2017. The first 2500 will continue to receive extension support as they upscale in the second year.
- The farmers are grouped into 160-200 Farmer Self Help Groups (FSHG), with 30 members per group over a period of 2 years. This is one of the first activity initiated on the ground and will continue in the later months as the project progresses.
- Demonstration farms are established to train the farmers on GAP, while the farmers are encouraged to up scale activities on their own plots.
- Capacity Building of FSHGs on GAP and savings with the objective of promoting easy access to finance.
- Bank linkages to give easy access to finance to the farmers and to create savings and banking culture among the farmers.
- Involving different government bodies like NIRSAL, Agric Development Programmes, Ministries, Bank of Agric(BoA).

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