

Development of a Competitive Rice Production – Marketing Value Chain in Southern Highland Tanzania

A Matching Grant Fund Project of the Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) and Raphael Group Limited (RGL)



Goal

The goal of the project is to integrate 6000 rice farmers (54% women) 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 Mbeya and Rukwa Regions, Tanzania.

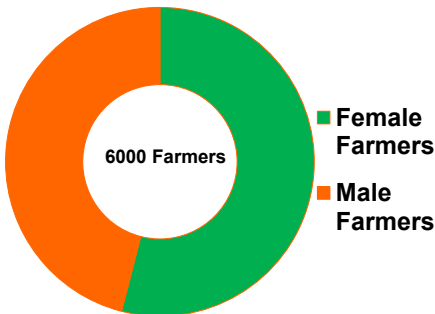
Our Approach

The project approach involves addressing identified constraints by developing strong interventions to increase productivity and quality of rice and complementary crops like vegetables. 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 Good Post-Harvest Handling (PHH), and provision of improved technical packages.

RGL reaches out to its targeted market share by working directly with smallholder farmers and other partners. The working relationship gives each partner opportunity to improve its business. Currently, RGL is processing about 23,940 MT of paddy annually. The installed capacity of its processing plant is 39,900 MT annually. Thus, this partnership gives RGL an opportunity to increase its paddy processing utilisation to at least 80% of plant capacity. By supporting contract farming arrangements between farmers and off takers, the project enables farmers to market their product.

Project strategies include:

- Increasing rice productivity from 1.8 MT/ha to 3.6 Mt/ha and improving quality of paddy through reducing foreign matters contamination from 8% to 1%.
- Increasing business skills of the consortium partners.
- Increasing domestic market share from 1.8% to 2.2% and gain regional market share by at least 0.2%.
- Improving access to finance for all partners.



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