

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Climate change and environmental sustainability
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Keyword 1	: Incentive mechanisms and finance instruments
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Keyword 3	: Climate smart agriculture
Title of Entry	: AgResults: Reducing Emissions in Rice Production Using Incentive-Based Prizes in Vietnam
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation
Abstract	<p>: The AgResults Initiative is a \$122 million multi-donor fund set up to test the idea that results-based monetary prizes can incentivize the private sector to address market failures. The Vietnam Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reductions Pilot rewards Vietnamese companies who can in Phase 1 prove the viability of their improved on-farm rice management practices that reduce GHG emissions while increasing yields, and in Phase 2 promote, or scale up, those practices to the most smallholder farmers. The contest launched in 2017 in Red River Delta of Vietnam and has so far incentivized 11 companies (“Implementers”) to participate in on-farm testing of improved management practices. After the Vietnam Pilot’s first testing season that ended in November 2017, 9 of 11 contest participants passed the prize threshold – increased yields and decreased emissions on their test plot compared to a control. On average the 9 winners increased yields by 25% and reduced GHG emissions by 15%. By July 2018 the Pilot will have full results from each technological package applied in two testing crops (Summer and Spring) with different climatic conditions. The 11 selected Implementers are testing integrated crop management (ICM) approaches, which include post-harvest residue management, improved rice varieties, improved fertilizer, alternate wetting-drying schemes, and mechanization of crop production. The on-farm testing allows for partnerships and exposure with local cooperatives, which will be critical to the scaling phase. The government is also involved in on-site monitoring, with the mandate to expand successful models to other areas of Vietnam after the pilot. Initial feedback from participants is highly positive, with many already beginning to think about scaling to their partner farmers well in advance of the scaling phase of the contest. Participant also appreciate and benefit from verification services, a finding that has significant implications for the design of prize contests. The results indicate that participating companies are thinking seriously about how to adjust their business models to better interact with and promote farming behavior change amongst their existing smallholder rice growers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="#">Read more»</a></p>

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