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Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Sustainable and equitable farming systems
Endorsement email	:
Keyword 1	: Sustainable management practices
Keyword 2	: Livelihood and social equity
Keyword 3	: Yield gaps
Title of Entry	: Better Life Farming alliance- empowering rice smallholders to reach their farming potential
Presenting author	: Lino Miguel Dias
Presenting author email	: lino.dias@bayer.com
Co author 1	: Colin Taylor
Co author 2	: Simon Thorsten Wiebusch
Co author 3	: Tania Lozansky
Co author 4	: Connie Kang
Co author 5	: Representative farmers
Co author 6	:
Co author 7	:
Co author 8	:
Co author 9	:

Co author 10	:
Co author 11	:
Co author 12	:
Co author 13	:
Co author 14	:
Affiliation presenting author	: Bayer AG, Germany
Affiliation 1	: International Finance Corporation (IFC)
Affiliation 2	: Bayer Thai Company Limited, Thailand & Myanmar, Crop Science
Affiliation 3	: International Finance Corporation (IFC)
Affiliation 4	: Bayer Thai Company Limited, Thailand & Myanmar, Crop Science
Affiliation 5	:
Affiliation 6	:
Affiliation 7	:
Affiliation 8	:
Affiliation 9	:
Affiliation 10	:
Affiliation 11	:
Affiliation 12	:
Affiliation 13	:

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Select only one type of presentation

: 15 minute oral presentation

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Abstract

: By 2050, there will be nearly 10 billion people in the world, and an estimated 50 percent more food will be needed to meet the future demand for nutritious food. Increasing food production is going to be vital. The Better Life Farming alliance is working to help smallholder farmers on their journey to grow their farms into commercially viable and sustainable farming businesses. Bayer International Finance Cooperation (IFC), Netafim, and Swiss Re Corporate Solutions are partnering together on a global level to provide holistic and innovative solutions for smallholder farmers to enable them to grow their farms into sustainable businesses. In South East Asia, the global and local partnerships of Better Life Farming alliance focus mainly on rice smallholders since they are the main contributors to the region's rice production. The alliance is offering a comprehensive approach that covers planting seeds, precision irrigation, crop protection, market accessibility, finance and insurance -- all tailored to the specific local and cultural needs of those who farm less than two hectares of land. About 100 million rice smallholders in Southeast East Asia are vulnerable to multiple challenges-- lack of finance, adverse climate impacts, water scarcity, pests and crop diseases, rural migration, fluctuating commodity prices, and regulatory barriers -- and realize only a fraction of their potential productivity. By connecting global expertise with local insights and partners, and providing advanced agronomic solutions, the alliance aims to help farmers realize their potential by farming not just to survive, but rather to thrive, as a business focused on sustainability. The alliance has seen results from its pilot programs in Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand in rice, addressing their lack of access to advanced agricultural knowledge, technology and practices, inputs, finance, and markets, and looks forward to continuing to create a meaningful impact on the smallholders' lives. The alliance was capable to achieve very promising results throughout all countries with yield increase up to 57% and net income improvement for the smallholders of up to 2.7 times. We would like to invite more partners to join us for this meaningful journey to support smallholders.

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