

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Sustainable and equitable farming systems
Endorsement email	:
Keyword 1	: Yield gaps
Keyword 2	: Sustainable management practices
Keyword 3	: Advisory systems
Title of Entry	: Improving yields, livelihoods and food security
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation

Abstract : Improving yields, livelihoods and food security Indian rice farmers are challenged by several issues which limit productivity, including poor irrigation and drainage, infertile soil, low-yielding seeds, and lack of training in improved agronomic practices. New approach yielding results for smallholder farmers The Rice Farm School's program has three goals: 1- to increase hybrid rice adoption 2- improve farming practices, 3- increase agricultural productivity for smallholder farmers. The target was to impact about 15 % of the productivity i.e. 1 MT/Ha through the initiatives. By teaching hands-on seed schools and demonstrating farming practices, the program was designed to help farmers understand not only why change is necessary, but how to make the change and maintain it. Pioneer has about 3,500 Rice Farm Schools, teaching about 25 farmers per school, so about 90,000 farmers are receiving hands-on agronomic training. 370,000 farmers impacted by the program • Demonstrated 1 ha/Farm School / Village • Engaged 0.22 million farmers through 8 easy step training • Enrolled 6000 farm school trainers to train 0.15 Million fellow farmers • Produced additional 62000 mt rice food surplus as a result of increased productivity on an average 1.2 mt/ha by over OPVs, contributing to 1.2MM\$ additional Ag Value. • Adoption rate improved from 21% to 40% Eight Easy Steps to Success The training program broke down hybrid rice cultivation into eight easy steps, known as Rice 8 Step, demonstrated during the three stages of cultivation. 1 st Stage- the Seeding Stage, they learned about seeding, transplanting and spacing. 2nd Stage - the Flowering Stage, the program focused on the benefits of potash (a potassium-based plant nutrient) to maximize panicle fertility & disease protection, the use of LCC (Leaf Color chart) for balanced fertilization practices, as well as training in effective insect and pest management practices. 3rd stage - Finally, in the Harvesting Stage, the trainee farmers were taught how to time their harvest to maximize yield for greatest profitability Our commitment We look forward to establishing new partnership that will help develop the tools needed to deliver an abundant supply of healthy food to everyone in the world

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