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Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Sustainable and equitable farming systems
Endorsement email	:
Keyword 1	: Sustainable intensification
Keyword 2	: Yield gaps
Keyword 3	: System of Rice Intensification (SRI)
Title of Entry	: Rice Intensification and Production Sustainability in Nigeria
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Select only one type of presentation

: 15 minute oral presentation

Abstract

: RICE INTENSIFICATION AND PRODUCTION SUSTAINABILITY IN NIGERIA Ikhadeunu, A. A *1, Ayeleke D. A 1 and Oledimma N. U 2 1Federal Department of Agriculture, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, P. M. B 135, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria 2Department of Food Science and Technology, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Nigeria *Corresponding Author: andrewikhadeunu@yahoo.com Nigeria has an arable land of 84 million hectare, only 49 % of it is cultivated. Rice production covers only 10 % of this land. With an estimated 4.9 million hectares suitable for its cultivation, rice can be produced in almost all the states in Nigeria under three ecologies such as rain-fed upland, rain-fed lowland and lowland irrigated. FARO 44 FARO 52 (lowland) and NERICA (upland) are varieties commonly cultivated by farmers. Dry and wet seasons are the two major cycles of rice productions annually. About 1.5 million farmers cultivate wet season of which 94 % are males. About 75 % of the total annual paddy is produced across over 165 clusters and 2,818 sub-clusters during the wet season by small-holder farmers who cultivate an average of 0.5-5 ha with 3.5-4.0 mt/ha average yield. Nigeria is the highest rice producer in West Africa and also the second largest importer in the world with per capita consumption of 34 kg and annual increase of 4.5 %. Current demand is 6.8 million metric tons annually with domestic production of 4.7 m mt leaving deficit of 2.1 m mt. Rice Transformation Agenda (RTA) was launched in 2011 to promote domestic production. Small-holder farmers were supported to access high quality inputs and finance. Investments friendly policies and programmes were also promoted. Farmers were organized into groups and clusters to be easily serviced with inputs and capacity buildings on proven production techniques and agribusiness development. Linkages between major actors along the rice value chain were strengthened. These, with active support of various development partners, donor agencies and international development and research institutions reduced the gap between national production and consumption. Keywords: Rice, small-holder, farmers, ecology, production, yield

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