

Category : International Rice Research Conference

Select Theme : Food systems for the future

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Keyword 1 : Strengthening seed systems

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Title of Entry : Rice seed system in Thailand

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Abstract : Seed is one of the main factor influencing the quality of rice products. In developing countries, particularly in Asia, rice seed industry is dominated by the public sector. Nevertheless, private companies take an important role in seed business, particularly after the introduction of hybrid rice. Certification of rice seeds is required for commercialization in several countries while minimum standards are mandatory but not certification is necessarily required in others. As rice is a staple and self-pollinated crop, farmers can save seed from their crop of inbred rice and replant it in the following seasons. It is found that saved seed and exchanged seed are major sources of rice seed in many countries. This paper aims at describing the system of rice seed in Thailand where formal and informal seed system coexist. Seed business model of main private seed suppliers including rice seed group, cooperatives, and private companies are reviewed. The implications from this descriptive analysis are drawn from a case of Thailand's rice seed industry and how high quality rice products are influenced by the seed industry.

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