

**Entry No. IRR-0090**

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Sustainable and equitable farming systems
Endorsement email	:
Keyword 1	: Sustainable intensification
Keyword 2	: Mechanization
Keyword 3	: Yield gaps
Title of Entry	: Upscaling Stress Tolerant Rice through Technology Impact Centres: Case of FAO Project in Uganda
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: 15 minute oral presentation

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Abstract

: Uptake of improved rice technologies is always limited by improper and or lack of relevant inputs required for their promotion. In Uganda improved rice technologies including improved high yielding rice varieties, appropriate labour saving production methods, value addition and efficient seed production models had been developed but their uptake remained limited. The improved varieties were developed in collaboration with IRRI, Africarice and CIAT targeting upland and irrigated production areas. These varieties are as good as the older ones in local adaptability but superior in important characteristics especially yield and resistance to major diseases. Preferred aroma and cooking quality were critical also criteria for release of these varieties as rice is the only cereal which is directly consumed without much change in the form of its grain. With support from FAO earlier interventions in the up-scaling and out-scaling of improved rice technologies were quickly appraised and technology promotion centres later dubbed 'Technology Impact Centres-TIC' were established. Critical segments along the value chain were supported in a business model. Results of the intervention showed that time and cost of land opening and planting was reduced by 30% as a result of testing and adopting labour saving technologies. Under the project seed business modules targeting seed production and marketing were piloted with the newly released rice varieties. Income of the trained contact seed growers increased by 55% per unit area of the seed produced as a result of better quality and higher production volumes of seed produced. The seed growers were introduced to off-takers in the rice value chain creating insatiable market for the trained seed growers. Through training and provision of input under a cost-sharing arrangement, producers were able to gain up to 30% more income for marketing their rice grain of improved quality. This project has demonstrated that science, can bring improve business opportunities along the value chain as long as necessary critical segments are identified and supported. In conclusion, promotion of rice technologies using the TIC model can save time and cost of land opening, increase rice production and quality and subsequently Technology impact centre, seed production model

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