

PRiDe II NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022

OUR RICE OUR PRIDE



Mr. Tsuboi's Triumphant Return to Uganda



Mr. Fukazawa (right), H.E. Ambassador, Embassy of Japan hands over the Golden Jubilee Medal to Mr. Tsuboi with Hon. Ambassador James Baba (left)

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) partnered with College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) to host the 2nd "JICA Chair" under the theme 'Rice for the Modernization of Agriculture in Uganda' at Makerere University on 27th July 2022. One of the most important aims of "JICA Chair (JICA Program for Japanese studies)" is to explore Japan's modernization and development cooperation experiences in light of its historical and cultural background under the collaboration with leading universities in partner countries.

The keynote speaker in the 2nd JICA Chair was **Mr. Tatsushi Tsuboi**, also known as "Mr. NERICA (New Rice for Africa)" who has contributed to rice promotion in Uganda since 2004. NERICA is the progeny of high-yield Asian rice and disease- and drought-resistant African rice. Mr. Tsuboi started promotion of NERICA in 2004 as a JICA Expert and engaged in "NERICA Rice Promotion Project" to reduce poverty and improve on the country's food security during 2008 – 2011. Moreover, he made tremendous efforts to increase rice production in Uganda during "Promotion of Rice Development Project (PRiDe Phase 1)".

His achievements for rice promotion and human resource development on rice research for nearly 20 years was recognized by the Ugandan Government and he was awarded the Golden Jubilee medal from the president of Uganda on May 1st 2022.

In the keynote lecture, Mr. Tsuboi was grateful to Hon. Ambassador James Baba, Former Minister of State Government of Uganda for engaging the Ugandan Government to adopt NERICA. Hon. James Baba mentioned the importance of enhancement of food security through growing rice. This is because rice can grow all year round and can easily be stored.

When Mr. Tsuboi initiated promotion of NERICA, there was only one rice researcher, Dr. Jimmy Lamo, who is now a leading rice expert in Uganda. Mr. Tsuboi instructed not only Dr. Lamo but also farmers and extension officers within and outside Uganda through

sincere training. As a result, NERICA growing areas expanded dramatically and number of rice researchers increased from 1 to 32. Mr. Tsuboi mentioned that Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) also made a significant contribution to dissemination of NERICA in Uganda.

During the panel discussion, Mr. Alex Lwakuba, Commissioner Crop Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) mentioned that Uganda adopted, modified and applied the improved rice cultivation techniques from Japan. Although the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) did not achieve the target amount of rice production by 2018, the NRDS Phase 2 is now under preparation with strong leadership of MAAIF cooperating with JICA and other stakeholders.



From Left Hon. Ambassador James Baba, Prof. Bashaasha-Makerere Univ., Mr. Fukazawa -H.E. Ambassador of Japan to Uganda, Mr. Tsuboi, Dr. Lamo-Cereal Head NaCRRI, Mr. Uchiyama-JICA Uganda CR, Mr. Lwakuba-Commissioner Crop Production MAAIF

Research Review Meeting

One of the aims of the PRiDe II Project is to build research capacity of counterparts in target research institutes (6 ZARDIs and NaSARRI). PRiDe II carries out research review meetings at the start and the end of every rice cultivation season to share plans and achievements of rice research in each research institute.

Researchers from NaCRRI, NaSARRI and the different ZARDIs carry out various experiments and seed production activities during the season. On 1st July, a meeting was held to discuss the results of 2021B season and the plans for future collaborative experiments between the research institutes and PRiDe II.



In fact, it is important to strengthen the horizontal connection among the different research institutes through such meetings.

Ms. Zainah (in red), PRiDe technician discusses the results of the weed control experiment

Pure Rice Seed Production Training

Rice is a self pollinated plant, therefore farmers can produce rice seed for the next season's cultivation by themselves.

In Musomesa Field School (MFS), farmers are trained to produce pure seed. Pure seed is quite important to secure quality of farmers' products. Pure seed could bring quality products and farmers get opportunities to sell with better price than mixed rice.

In order to obtain pure rice seed, farmers are advised to determine the rice seed production area and mark it off. At MFS, farmers learn the importance of removing off types regularly when they find in their gardens.



Mr. Bayega (left), PRiDe Principal Technician, trains farmers how to mark seed production area and how to remove off types

Farmers motivated to adopt Improved Rice Cultivation Techniques

Most MFS sites in lowland area have come to an end for the 2022A season. Despite the unexpected weather which led to reduced rainfall throughout the country, farmers could harvest their precious rice at their gardens (baby demo-fields) and high yields have been registered. A total of 71 farmers have graduated from the Musomesa Field School in Budaka, Sironko and Kamuli Districts so far.



Farmers in Sironko District with their certificates after the Graduation Ceremony

The graduated farmers are now referred to as the Rice Musomesa and will disseminate the improved rice cultivation techniques

that they learnt in the MFS to the neighboring farmers.

One of the success stories during the harvesting ceremony in Nawanyago S/C, Kamuli District, is about Mr. Sasira Steven. It was his first time to grow rice and he joined the MFS to learn everything how to cultivate rice from scratch. He was amazed with the yield from the mother demo field. Mr. Sasira believed that rice being a small grain could not yield much, however his perception was changed when he found out that the yield in the mother demo field was 4.3ton/ha.

With the knowledge acquired from the MFS seasonal long trainings, Mr. Sasira is confident to adopt rice cultivation with learnt techniques and also encourages others to do the same in order to improve their livelihoods.

The other MFS mother demo sites in lowland area including Luuka, Namutumba and Butaleja Districts will be harvesting in August 2022.

JOCVs' study visit to NaCRRI and Ziobwe

On 28th July 2022, 7 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) visited NaCRRI to share their field activities and consult issues they face with Mr. Tsuboi. Mr. Tsuboi himself experienced JICA Volunteer in the Philippines decades ago, therefore, he is very understanding of JOCVs.

Unfortunately, JOCVs are not allowed to move their working places with motorbikes, thus it is significantly tough condition to work in villages and interact with local people. Based on this, Mr. Tsuboi suggested JICA that JOCVs should invite farmers to their working places or other convenience venues for farmers to conduct rice cultivation training. If JOCVs cannot visit farmers' gardens, chances for farmers to learn the rice cultivation techniques could be prepared by JOCV side.



It was really a good opportunity for the JOCVs to interact with Mr. Tsuboi and receive beneficial advices for their activities.

JICA Volunteers sharing their field activities with Mr. Tsuboi at NaCRRI

One of the JOCVs' working places; Ziobwe Agaliawamu Agri-business Training Association (ZAABTA) has a history that worked with Mr. Tsuboi to support farmers in post harvesting. The JOCV, Ms. Maiko Morita has been working with ZAABTA since Sep

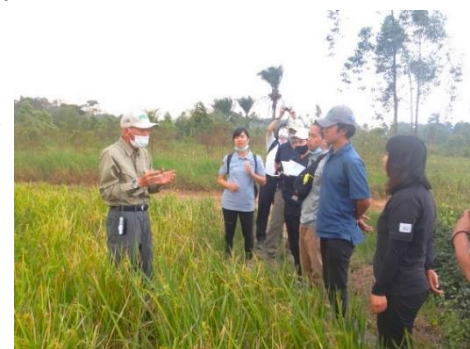


The Centre Manager of ZAABTA explaining their businesses to the JOCVs & Mr. Tsuboi

2021 and she organized an occasion to present the current businesses of the organization for other JOCVs and Mr. Tsuboi. Lastly, Ms. Morita showed her demo-field and neighboring farmers' gardens. Mr. Tsuboi shared his valuable knowledge regarding field management and disease diagnosis such as Rice Yellow Mottle Virus (RYMV) in the field.

The JOCVs will utilize what they learnt during the study visit when they return to their working places.

Mr. Tsuboi (left) explaining the importance of securing pure seeds in a farmer's field, Ziobwe



PRiDe Uganda

