Rice Production in Rwanda

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Background-Basic Facts

• Rwanda is located in eastern central Africa
• Total territory : 26338 km2.
• Arable land is :1385000 ha.
• Actual cultivated land is:825000 ha.
• Elevation : 900 m - 4500 m above sea level.
• Population now is more than 9.5 million, density(360 people / km2),
• Annual birth growth rate is 2.9 %.
• Majority of people (90%) lives in rural areas
• Rice is cultivated in Rwanda from late 1950’s
• In 2008, rice were grown on 12000 ha, the production were 66000 T of paddy
Basic fact (cont’d)

- Since the 1980s, Rwanda has been unable to meet its domestic food needs from national production.
- Especially important has been the growth of rice imports to satisfy demand for this convenience food the consumption of which has grown rapidly, especially in urban areas.
- Production of rice has been given high priority by Government, especially in the valley bottom marshlands, where it presents a unique opportunity (potential yield over 7 T/Ha) for each of two crops per year,
- Furthermore, with rice prices having risen substantially on international markets during the past two years, rice has become for most farmers a valuable cash crop.
Background-Related Policies

- Improving productivity up to the projected national average of 7tons/ha of paddy rice.
- Extension of the cultivable area up to 66.904 ha of marshlands.
- Construction and/or maintenance of the water supply systems, to allow two growing seasons/year.
- Ensure handling and processing infrastructure to minimise post-harvest losses and to maximize harvest in quantity and quality.
Rice production map
Priority agro-ecologies

• Rwanda produce low land irrigated rice (99.9%)
• Rice crop in Rwanda is grown in developed flood valleys or in the marshland
• The elevation of the rice cultivation area in Rwanda vary between 900m and 1400 m
• The temperature vary between 19-29 degree Celicius
Priority Sub-sector

• **Seed**
  - Seed system in Rwanda is governed by the seed law and related regulations.
  - ISAR produce Breeder seeds
  - RADA produce Foundation seed
  - Private multiplies produce certified seeds
  - **Remark**: Many farmers use their own seeds

• **Marshland development and Water management**
  - The marshland development is mainly made by the government
  - Water management is under farmers organization (Cooperatives)
List of development partners for rice (related intervention)

- Rural Sector Support Project for (RSSP) for marshland development,
- Projet d’Appui au Developement Agricole de Bugasera (PADAB),
- Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture in Rwanda (PAPSTA)
- Agro-Action-Allemande (AAA) Project
Thank you!!