

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 Celcius

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 multipliers 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!!

