

NERICA Rice Promotion Project in Uganda

(Period of assignment: 4.4 months from February 2009 and 4.2 months from February 2010)

(Assignments: varietal selection/cultivation)

Background

In Uganda, NERICA rice variety is attracting rising attention from the viewpoint of agricultural development, especially for poverty reduction. The Vice president has taken the initiative to extend NERICA cultivation nationwide. Under these circumstances, JICA dispatched specialists for NERICA Rice Promotion Project in Uganda in June 2004 and officially started the extension of NERICA. This consisted of varietal selection trial along with other experiments and a training program for farmers. As a result, Uganda has become the most advanced producer country of NERICA in Sub-Saharan Africa. The area of NERICA cultivation increased from 1,500 ha in 2002 to 30,000 ha in 2007. However, rice is a new crop for Uganda, and there are only a few specialists, researchers and extension workers now. Because farmers cannot access the necessary information about rice cultivation, only a limited number of farmers cultivate paddy rice despite its great potential now.

Outline

JICA officially started the NERICA Rice Promotion Project on the request of Uganda. JICA implemented the Project from August 2008 to June 2011, and dispatched 2 long-term specialists (in rice cultivation/training and farm management). The Project aimed to improve the rice self-sufficiency in Uganda by increasing the production and productivity of NERICA through the building of human capacity regarding NERICA's research and cultivation and its dissemination.

The first target crop in the Project was NERICA varieties, and the second target crop was paddy rice cultivated by farmers aiming to effectively use lowland swamp. The specialist conducted NERICA varietal selection trials, some resistance/tolerance experiments, NERICA-paddy rice trial and seed rice production in farmers' fields. They examined NERICA cultivation techniques and trained counterparts (C/Ps) for improving their ability to carry out NERICA research.

Assignments

- Technical transfer of varietal selection trial, cultivation techniques and rice seed production techniques
- Survey of current cropping system and study of problems in the cropping system
- Making educational materials (English and Japanese edition) of experiment and research
- Conducting training program for C/Ps
- Following up after training

