

Completing the Better Rice Initiative Asia Project, Promoting Better Rice, Better Life



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“In 2016, Indonesia stopped importing rice from other countries. One of the driving factors is the BRIA programme aimed at improving the livelihoods of farmers. Agricultural technology promoted by BRIA can increase harvest by up to 40% and reduce production costs by 20%. Hopefully in 2017, we will be able to take on the role of rice exporter,” Mrs. Sri Kuntarsih, Director of Financing Facilities and Crop Insurance, Directorate General of Agricultural Infrastructure and Facilities, Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture, said enthusiastically.

“Salt water seed selection and fungicide seed treatment taught through BRIA Farmer Field School to obtain healthy seeds is definitely a new experience for me. I did not realise that without a selection process and treatment, my own seeds might be infected with diseases. And the diseases can be passed on to the seedlings and the crop. I am confident that this harvest will be better than the last growing season,” said Suhadi, 49, of Sukajadi village.

“By visiting this BRIA project site, I have a great opportunity to directly observe farmers’ activities in the field. I believe that capacity development is key to improving agricultural production and farmers’ livelihoods and to achieving food security too,” noted Mrs. Traudel Koehler, BMZ representative, during a visit to Deli Serdang district in North Sumatra province to observe the BRIA programme and public-private collaboration.

“The adult learning methodology from the BRIA training has helped me a lot. I learned how to present complicated content in a way that older farmers can understand and apply easily. The modules – farming as a business, climate change and crop insurance – were new and very useful to me. In my trainings with farmers in the field, I could already apply this knowledge. It will help my farmers to save on expenses, better adapt to climate change and increase their incomes,” revealed 32-year-old Delfin Capioso Jr., a municipal agricultural extension worker, who assists Santa Barbara’s farmers in their field activities.

“After joining the SRP standard programme, I applied the knowledge received from BRIA and the Thai Rice Department experts during the training to my rice field, and noticed the difference. Previously, I faced problems with productivity and disease outbreaks, and lacked knowledge about the proper use of fertilisers. After attending the training, I am now able to apply fertilisers optimally, based on soil testing; productivity has improved significantly as a result. In spite of the current low international rice prices, I could sell my rice to the miller at a higher price than other farmers. In the future, I foresee the benefit of joining the SRP programme and am willing to invite other farmers to participate in the programme,” said Mrs. Lumpai Na-ngam, a member of Bua Ngam CRC, in Det Udom district, Ubon Ratchathani province, Thailand.

“I will apply the knowledge and training methods in BRIA farmer training in my district and other farmer training by AES in the future to gain more farmer participation and focus on encouraging farmers to exchange and discuss with their peers,” Ms. Nguyen Thuy Tien from the Agricultural Extension Station (AES) of Go Quao district, Kien Giang province revealed happily.

“BRIA helps stabilise supplies for export. We signed contracts to buy 1,200 tons of rice in the 2015 and 2016 seasons covering a rice-growing area of 200 ha. The project got farmers to change their approaches. Farmers use certified quality seeds. We are assured of higher quality rice,” noted Mr. Ho Vinh Tan, Deputy Director, Hoang Long Joint Stock Company.

