

Strengthening farmer's capability through FFS for sustainable rice production in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam

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ABSTRACT:

Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation (CBDC) and Strengthening Farmer-Agricultural Research and Extension System Partnership (FARES) implemented a period of 1995-2015 in the Mekong Delta. Participatory approach was used to encourage innovation and contribution from farmers in plant breeding, technology development and promoting local supportive policies for sustainable rice production system. The projects linked with Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Extension Agencies for implementation at each province. 338 local technicians and more 70,000 farmers participated in the FFS training programs on participatory plant breeding and farm-saved seed production system; 407 seed clubs were established with participation with 8,698 seed producers; good seeds supplied and met over 30% of total seed requirement in the Mekong Delta. Contribution of the farmer's seed supply system increased sustainably in averaged rice yield from 4-5-6 t/ha, 1995-2005-2014 respectively. Using good seeds in rice cultivation decreased production costs and improved household's income. Through FFS, farmers improved technical knowledge and skills in agricultural researches and seed selection; and "Seed club" has been a potential model "technology transfer unit" for capacity building and community development in the rural areas forward food security and climate change adaptation in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam.

Keywords: *FFS-Capacity building, participatory plant breeding, Seed club, CBDC- FARES, Mekong Delta*