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LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

AGRO-PROCESSING, PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT
AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT SUPPORT PROJECT

SUCCESS STORY: HOW THE INTRODUCTION OF COLOUR SORTER AND MECHANICAL RICE DRYER FOR RICE PROCESSING INCREASED FARMERS' PRODUCTIVITY IN LAGOS STATE.

Value Chain: Rice

Stakeholders: Rice farmers, Rice processors,
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
(IITA), AfricaRice,

State: Lagos State

Target Audience: Rice processors, Rice
farmers, Investors,

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Executive Summary

This document captures the success story of a supported beneficiary and rice processor, Mrs. Oluwatoyin Oluwole of Rikky Store Limited (Arike Ofada Rice) from Alimosho Local Government in Lagos State.

Rice is a staple food in Nigeria and other countries in Sub-Sahara Africa. There are different varieties available based on the planting location / environment and taste. However, the Ofada variety is considered a delicacy and it is consumed by the teeming population of Lagos State.

The Ofada variety commands premium price amongst other varieties and it is usually consumed on special occasions. The major challenge of Ofada rice farming in Lagos State was how to scale up the processing method to increase the quality and quantity of milled Ofada rice. This includes mixture of different varieties during planting and presence of dirt, stone and other impurities in the milled Ofada rice. This has always been a major challenge militating against the general acceptance of the product.

To achieve near premium product, Mrs Oluwatoyin Oluwole had to sort coloured rice manually which was quite tedious and inadequate thereby making production very slow. She also had to sun dry after parboiling which reduces the quality of the Ofada rice and makes production especially during the raining season tedious and impossible. The lack of quality processing techniques and equipment such as parboiler, destoner, batch dryer and milling machine was a major contributor to the challenges.

However, the Lagos APPEALS Project collaborated with AfricaRice to develop a pure strain of Ofada rice seed. This was necessary to forestall the planting of adulterated seed, which could eventually results in bad harvest. The Project further trained and exposed processors to contemporary technologies in rice processing and also supported them with appropriate equipment.



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Context and Challenges

The major challenges Mrs Oluwole and other Ofada rice processors in Lagos State faced was inadequate method of paddy drying after parboiling as well as insufficient method of impurities picking after milling of the rice.

The practice of drying the paddy on the bare floor after parboiling was cumbersome, weather dependent, unhygienic and allow stones and sand to be packed with the parboiled rice after drying on the floor.

During rainy season when the weather is not favourable, it allows for mould to grow which affect the quality of the milled rice.

The identified contributor to the challenge was lack of quality processing techniques and equipment such as parboiler, destoner, dryer and milling machine.



Handpicking of Ofada Rice



Ofada Rice

Action, Steps and Solutions

The Lagos APPEALS Project in collaboration with AfricaRice and International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) developed Ofada rice pure strain, which enhanced genetic purity of Ofada rice through purification of the existing adulterated varieties.

This process was to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of Ofada rice, increase yield, potential and economic values of Ofada rice as well as to improve marketability and acceptability of Ofada rice in the State.



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Needs assessment was carried out to identify and highlight areas of required support amongst Ofada rice farmers and processors. The intervention area for processors includes, capacity building, input & asset acquisition.

The Project then supported Mrs Oluwole with a batch dryer and a rice colour sorting machine.



Spreading of Rice on a floor

Results

After the intervention, Mrs Oluwole was able to get uniform colour for her processed output and was able to dry her Ofada rice all year round. Using the mechanical rice dryer, she was able to dry 500kg of Ofada rice /10 hours as against 500kg / week before intervention

With the intervention of Rice colour sorter and batch dryer, Arike Ofada Rice Factory was able to have better Ofada rice quality, increased production, better sales and products that meet international standard.



A staff pouring rice into colour sorter while Mrs Oluwole looks on



Collection of colour sorted rice and sorting of impurities.



Packaged Arike Ofada Rice



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Lessons Learned

The successful intervention of rice colour sorter and batch dryer in Ofada Rice Processing as against manual sorting and sun drying by Lagos APPEALS project has enhanced farmers productivity and the intervention advantages cannot be over emphasised. This has presented several other lessons that benefited other rice farmers in the State. The key lessons learned are as follows;

- The improved method of processing the Ofada rice increases its market value and acceptability
- Ofada rice can meet International standard and compete favourably with other rice varieties
- The use of colour sorter saves time and makes it possible to meet customer's demands on time

Recommendations

- Rice processors should adopt the use of mechanical rice dryer to enhance drying all year round.
- Rice processors should totally avoid spreading of parboiled rice on bare floor to improve hygiene.
- Use of colour sorting machine is recommended to enhance better rice quality which will command right pricing and for ease of export drive.

Resources and Reference Materials

- Lagos State Agro-Processing, Productivity Enhancement and Livelihood Improvement Support (APPEALS) Project
- Mrs. Oluwatoyin Oluwole, a Rice processor from Alimosho Local Government, Lagos State.

FOR MORE ENQUIRIES CONTACT

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