

BRIEFING III



TAAT CDTO TECHNICAL WEBINAR SERIES

Enhancing Commercialization of Africa's Agricultural Research Products Rice and Wheat Value chains

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Key Messages

1. The technical webinar series have demonstrated the important role of Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) stakeholders, to generate research themes that connect institutions and policies with producers, consumers and entrepreneurs
2. Mr. Joshua Jonathan's rice yield has increased by 56% since he joined the rice Innovation Platform (IP).
3. Tilamo Women Association in Ethiopia has managed to save approximately \$22,410.8 (ETB 811,273.24) from selling wheat seed and grain. The association plans to establish a bakery and flour mill in the future as well as purchase a tractor for farm operations.



 On September 16, 2020, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Africa Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), IITA, Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) and International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), convened the third TAAT CDTO technical webinar of a series of 6 webinars. These webinars are organized under the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) Program of the Feed Africa initiative funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

FARA is leading the Enabler Compact for Capacity Development and Technology Outreach (CDTO), complementing the commodity compacts by acting as a process facilitator in the delivery of proven technologies at scale. FARA has so far: a) Developed value chain specific tools that would help regular and contextual gap assessment. b) Carried out training of trainers (TOT) programs by training Innovation Platforms (IPs) facilitators. So far 450 practitioners have been trained so far and 1300 process facilitators have been mobilized to be trained. c) Strengthened the capacity development partnerships by strengthening the supra-national research institutions, private sector, value chain actors, women and youth platforms and civil societies. d) Supported the compacts through the development of outreach materials for the compacts in the form of modular outreach materials. As demonstrated by the compact beneficiaries during the webinar, the TAAT programme results are a clear indicator of the important role that AR4D stakeholders play in generating research themes that connect institutions and policies with producers, consumers and entrepreneurs.

How technologies in Rice Compact are being Scaled through Agribusiness

The third webinar attracted over 600 participants, 43% being youth. Dr. Ernest Asiedu, the TAAT Rice Compact Coordinator, hosted by Africa Rice Center, presented the following technologies being scaled; (1) Improved climate smart rice varieties and hybrids, (2) Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Rice Advice (3) ASI thresher (a postharvest technology) and (4) GEM rice parboiling system (a postharvest technology).

These are being scaled out in 8 focus countries and 10 spill-over countries in Africa. One Technology with a Potential towards Commercialization is the GEM par boiling for women and youth in Africa. Dr. Asiedu alluded that this technology removes all the hazards available in the paddy processing, thereby resulting in the production of clean milled grains with less or no breakages; the technology also reduces time and labour for cleaning.

Mr. Joshua Jonathan, who is a beneficiary of the rice compact from Nigeria, mentioned that he used to sell his paddy rice to middlemen before he joined the rice IP. As the current chairman of the Bukan Sidi Lafia IP in the Nasarawa State, he has learnt how to be innovative, to identify problems and look for the solutions. His yield has so far increased from 4.3 mt/ha to 6.7 mt/ha (56%), since he joined the IP. He also mentioned that within the IP, women do the parboiling to condition the paddy for milling and marketing, while the youth are engaged in seed production.



Showcasing Proven Technologies in Wheat Compact

Dr. Zewdie Bishaw, the TAAT Wheat Compact Interim Coordinator, hosted by International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), presented the heat tolerant improved wheat varieties which include 45 varieties across 7 countries, Kenya, Mali, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Sudan.

In his presentation on the heat tolerant improved wheat varieties, Dr. Bishaw noted that the benefits of these grains are, higher yield of 4-7 tons per ha and they are higher in nutritional (13-16% protein). So far, a total of 37 functional IPs have been established across seven target countries and 47 youth/women business groups have been formed having a total of 960 members, 30% women. These members have been trained and engaged in establishing innovative wheat agribusinesses.

An illustration of the benefits of the heat tolerant improved wheat varieties is highlighted in table 1.

Country	Base yield (kg)	New yield (kg)	Unit price \$ per kg	Cost \$ per ha	Total revenue (\$)	Additional revenue (\$)	% additional revenue
Ethiopia	2500	4800	0.56	315.6	2688	1268	47.17
Mali	3500	4500	0.5	775	2250	500	22.22
Sudan	1700	3600	0.69	935	2484	1311	52.78
Tanzania	1000	27000	0.45	100	1215	765	62.96
Zimbabwe	3100	4600	0.39	812	1794	585	32.61

Tilamo Women Association is an association that was established in 2016 and is based in Ethiopia. The association's core business is the production of wheat seed and grain. Tilamo Women Association has a membership of 49 women and a land size of 52.4 ha with an average productivity of 5.6 t/ha. Additionally, the association sells their grains to Wakene Four Mill and other buyers and seeds to South Seed Enterprise. So far, the company has managed to save approximately \$22,410.8 (ETB 811,273.24) from selling of wheat seed and grain. In future, the association plans to establish a bakery and flour mill as well as purchase a tractor for farm operations.

The webinar videos can be accessed through this link; <https://www.youtube.com/user/FARAAfrica>

To join the TAAT Capacity Development & Technologies Outreach Network, please register at https://dgroups.org/taat_cdto/join or send an email to babugri@faraafrica.org



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