

Blue Land Concept Note

Title: Information about Rice in Blue Land

Background:

Blue Land's economy is heavily dependent on rice. As the gap between the production deficit and the demand for rice widens, rice-growing represents one of the biggest challenges for Blue Land. Two types of rice-growing systems exist: upland rice (rainfed farming), which represents 80% of the total area under rice, and lowland rice (irrigation farming).

Improved varieties of rice have been developed by the national agricultural research center (NARC), but information about these varieties is not available to poor farmers. Farmers may also prefer to plant their traditional varieties but no one has talked to farmers directly about their experiences.

This project aims to strengthen the existing information sharing about rice in Blue Land. A linkage with rural radio stations in Blue Land is proposed to find out more about farmers' rice cultivation, their traditional knowledge of rice varieties and their reactions to the new varieties.

2. Objectives

- development of information and communication methods (including radio)

3. Expected outputs

- Improved, rice-cropping systems.
- Improved grain quality demanded by the market.
- Improved household food security
- New approaches to involving farmers in agricultural information sharing through radio

4. Description of work to be done

Activities

- Identify available rice varieties by talking to local extension worker and possibly visiting NARC.
- Write a radio program about rice and its importance to the national economy and household food security
- Arrange for extension worker and broadcaster to meet with farmers to discuss their rice cultivation and ways to improve productivity and sustain soil fertility.
- Hold a farmer field day in five communities and invite NARC scientists to visit with farmers; tape interviews in the field with farmers and scientists
- Follow up radio program – visit the communities again and invite farmers to ask further questions to send to scientists and extension workers; broadcast their replies to farmers
- Ask farmers to suggest new topics for future farm radio programs (Phase 2 of project)

Locations

- Various areas of Blue Land

6. Human resources, materials and financial resources (in '000 Blue Land Shillings)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Personnel	60	60	80	200

Training	NA	NA	NA	
Operating	50	100	50	200
Equipment				
Travel	50	50	50	100
Vehicle maintenance	60	60	60	120
Consumable	50	50	50	100
Contingency (33.3%)	100			100
Total	370	320	290	820

7. Work plan

2005: Start of project:

- Identify farmers' traditional varieties and rice-cropping systems;
- Meet extension workers to discuss improving rice grain quality.

2006:

- Farmer field days; tape programs

2007:

- Follow up farmer field days.

NOTE:

This is an example of a BAD concept note. There are at least 10 mistakes made in this concept note. Can you spot them?

What mistakes have you often made in writing concept notes?