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ARE FARMERS WILLING TO PAY FOR DROUGHT TOLERANT RICE? EVIDENCE FROM BIHAR AND OTHER POLICY RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR CEREAL FARMING SYSTEMS IN SOUTH ASIA

WEBINAR CHAT TRANSCRIPT

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PRESENTERS

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WEBINAR CHAT TRANSCRIPT

Anna Antwi: Hi

Mustafa KAN: hi

Richard Tinsley: Dick Tinsley, Colorado State

Mustafa KAN: Mustafa KAN, Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock (Turkey)

Kelly Juarez: Good morning, Kelly Juarez from the U.S. Department of State's Office of Ag, Biotech and Textile Trade

Anna Antwi: Anna from Ghana

Anna Antwi: Good afternoon from Ghana

Caitlin Herrington: Good morning, Caitlin Herrington from Opportunity International Knowledge Management Division (Chicago)

Richard Tinsley: please visit the website www.smallholderagriculture.com it has a couple pages devoted to issues related to today's topic

Steev Lynn: Hi everyone. Listening in from Brattleboro, Vermont, USA. Consultant in Ag & agribusiness issues.

Liz Caselli-Michael: Hey all, Liz Caselli-Michael from the Feed the Future Partnering for Innovation program

Liz Caselli-Michael: Thanks! Good to hear you!

Steven Londner: Good morning from sunny and chilly Oneonta, NY

Mica Jenkins: Good morning from Bozeman, MT!

Sankalp Bhosale: Sankalp Bhosale from Lao PDR

Richard Tinsley: here are the pages that should be of interest:

Richard Tinsley: <http://lamar.colostate.edu/~rtinsley/FinanciallyStalled.htm>
<http://lamar.colostate.edu/~rtinsley/VarietyImprovement.htm>
http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.echocommunity.org/resource/collection/F6FFA3BF-02EF-4FE3-B180-F391C063E31A/The_Crop_Genetic_Pump.pdf

Pete Shelton: Pete Shelton from IFPRI Communications Division joining remotely from Bend, Oregon

Doudou NDIAYE: Sahel Regional Technical Office / Regional Agriculture Specialist

Roy Parizat: Good morning!

Liz Caselli-Michael: In the meantime, does anyone have other good resources on farmer willingness to pay for tech?

Liz Caselli-Michael: We're always looking!

Pete Shelton: <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/leveling-friends>

Liz Caselli-Michael: Thanks Pete, great source

Mica Jenkins:

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/49447/2/Labarta%202009%20AAEA%20selected%20paper.pdf>

Pete Shelton: My pleasure, Liz. I'm trying to think of others, but my brain's still waking up (it is 6:30am here)

Liz Caselli-Michael: The second point is really interesting: having a first-generation adopter in a farmer's network increases the farmer's tech valuation by nearly 30 percent

John Russell: Good morning all. John Russell here, Principal @ EcoFoodSystems in Oregon

Mustafa KAN: is there any delay on the webinar?

Grace Kenney: Grace Kenney, ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks for joining, we're doing final sound check, we should get going shortly

USAID Agrilinks: THANK YOU all for your patience this morning

USAID Agrilinks: sorry folks

USAID Agrilinks: be right back

Mustafa KAN: I am so sorry I can't hear anything

USAID Agrilinks: we lost audio for one moment

Anna Antwi: The voice keep breaking - I can't hear please

Mustafa KAN: I can't still get any voice from webinar

USAID Agrilinks: hi Mustafa I will private message you to try and diagnose the problem

KDAD AV tech: The audio is cycling a bit as we have a speaker who vacillates between very quiet levels and loud ones

KDAD AV tech: So part what you're hearing is also somewhat what we're hearing in the actual room (though the web interface heightens the issue)

Richard Thomas: Richard Thomas from the United Nations University in Canada has joined

KDAD AV tech: For those having a tough time understanding this speaker, when we post the screencast from this event the audio will be much more intelligible

USAID Agrilinks: welcome Richard, thanks for joining us!

USAID Agrilinks: don't forget, if you've got questions for our speakers please type it into the chatbox

Liz Caselli-Michael: Regarding the 'feminization' of agriculture, how does that impact marketing of improved varieties/inputs? Are different features demanded? Does it impact willingness or ability to pay?

USAID Agrilinks: thanks for the Q Liz!

Richard Tinsley: the decline in rice acreage in drought years is the result of the need to integrate rice establishment with surges in the rains and limit establishment during lulls in rains

Richard Tinsley: what is the mechanism for drought tolerance, ability to withstand heat or better able to mine more water from soil?

Jim Tarrant: Jim Tarrant from IRG has joined.

USAID Agrilinks: Hi Richard, does this slide answer your question or are you still wondering about the mechanism?

USAID Agrilinks: Welcome, Jim!

Richard Tinsley: still wondering as the energy load will be the same and needs to be accounted for

Claire Pelley: Claire Pelley, Program Coordinator at One Media Player per Teacher

Zachary Baquet: Welcome, Claire!

USAID Agrilinks: This document will be available in the downloads box at the end of the webinar, as well

Jim Tarrant: I recently came back from Indonesia where I was evaluating a climate service, basically seasonal drought early warning system for irrigated rice cropping systems vulnerable to ENSO drought and El Nina floods combined with a "Climate Field School" to help farmers to understand how to use climate forecasts for their cropping calendars. Are the drought tolerant researchers looking at such adaptation measures in their research?

Steev Lynn: Did the researchers observe any correlation between farmers' access to cash markets and their willingness to purchase improved seed?

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks for the questions, Jim, Richard, and Steev. I'm saving them and will try to ask them at the end

Richard Tinsley: How much time are you allocating for crop establishment, and is it operationally feasible?
Usually the crop establishment is involuntarily extended well beyond the allocated often up to 8 weeks, cancels out Jim's climatic forecasting as they have to work straight through them

Loretta Byrnes: How valid is the research if it does not consider consumer preferences for certain grain types?

Mica Jenkins: Great question Loretta, I second that

Jim Tarrant: Irrigated rice systems require a high level of synchronicity in water management and seed cultivation. Rarely do individual farmers make individual choices as to seed type and other cultivation practices and timing. At least in my experience.

Kitty Cardwell: Has the chart changed? It isn't changing on the adobe connect

Zachary Baquet: What impact do the farmers' preferences have on the ability to scale seed varieties?

Richard Tinsley: please be careful and make certain risk aversion is not operational limitations:
<http://lamar.colostate.edu/~rtinsley/BasicPremise.htm>

Kitty Cardwell: Was risk aversion correlated with distance/access to market?

Richard Tinsley: I think a closer look will show that for crop establishment farmers are mandatory risk takers and their very survival and food security is dependent up this

Zachary Baquet: If you share via Twitter, please use #AgEvents!

Jim Tarrant: Yes, rice farming is very risky and not just seeds of course but whether you have large or small land holdings whether you are high up in the irrigation command area or are a tail-ender and whether other sources of income are relatively important or not.

Richard Tinsley: my concern with all seed is the financial capacity of host governments to undertake seed program that will provide only limited supply of seed relative to total demand

USAID Agrilinks: sorry everyone, an audience member is speaking off mic

Richard Tinsley: I think famers will have to rely on "market" seed for much of the foreseeable future and thus the need to get improved seed into remote areas for final multiplication and distribution,

Loretta Byrnes: This is interesting but it does no look at the effect of the existing level and quality of participation of both the private and public sectors in the rice seed system in these states. Is anyone conducting research on these factors and how they affect adoption?

Richard Tinsley: this means the need to concentrate on self-pollinated crops or composite varieties and idea behind the "genetic Pump":
http://c.ygcdn.com/sites/www.echocommunity.org/resource/collection/F6FFA3BF-02EF-4FE3-B180-F391C063E31A/The_Crop_Genetic_Pump.pdf

Richard Tinsley: very concerned with the situation in Nigeria where only one seed certification team for the entire state of Kano which I think leads to most certification being on the "honor/gratuity" system

Anna Antwi: the voice is still breaking

Jim Tarrant: In SE Asia, women have always been heavily involved in irrigated and rain fed rice cropping systems.

USAID Agrilinks: he is currently answering the question asked by Liz: Regarding the 'feminization' of agriculture, how does that impact marketing of improved varieties/inputs? Are different features demanded? Does it impact willingness or ability to pay?"

Zachary Baquet: Check out post on "Seeds and fertilizer for smallholder farmers: Why are policies and the private sector important?" <http://agrilinks.org/blog/seeds-and-fertilizer-smallholder-farmers-why-are-policies-and-private-sector-important>

Richard Tinsley: be careful of hired labor to make certain it is not robbing Peter to pay Paul, and the energy available to fuel labor that could be really limiting the work day to a diligent 3 or 4 hours per day: <http://lamar.colostate.edu/~rtinsley/CalorieEnergyBalance.htm>

USAID Agrilinks: thanks for your questions Loretta, would you mind restating where you're joining us from and your organization?

Elon Gilbert: How does the importance on non-farm income/migration factor into decisions on new ag tech such as DT rice?

Liz Caselli-Michael: Great info- thanks so much

Loretta Byrnes: I am calling from Seattle and I am with the BMGF

USAID Agrilinks: thanks!

Zachary Baquet: Please repeat for the online audience

USAID Agrilinks: she is asking if they knew what the seed was

Zachary Baquet: FYI, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and its partners released 44 new and improved rice varieties <http://irri.org/news/media-releases/44-new-rice-varieties-in-asia-and-africa>

Richard Tinsley: it might be of interest to note that in Colorado only about 30% of the wheat is planted to fresh certified seed each year with 70% retained seed.

Burton Swanson: When I was in India with the World Bank (1998-2005), I worked with women (poor areas including Bihar). I tried to get them organized into groups and then they would keep the funds in their markets, not take it back to their individual farmers. This had a major impact on rural women and they put much money into their own families, including getting girls into the schools.

Zachary Baquet: Check out picture from the in-person event <http://ow.ly/i/4IMjz>

Richard Tinsley: thank you

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks for your comments Burton, is there a question you'd like me to ask?

Steev Lynn: Sorry if I missed it during a sound drop-out, but did you ask them about correlation between access to cash markets and willingness to purchase improved seed?

Burton Swanson: I worked with nearly 15,000,000 farmers and it had much impact, especially in rural poor women farmers

USAID Agrilinks: no I have not yet. It was sort of related to the first question from the in-person audience, but if there is time I will ask it

Steev Lynn: OK thanks, I can't hear a lot of the live audience questions

Burton Swanson: We need to get public, private and NGOs involved in the small-scale farmers

USAID Agrilinks: Please take a moment to fill out the survey: <http://bit.ly/ASCfeb14>

Zachary Baquet: Check out interview with Dr. Shukri Ahmed of FAO on Index-Based Weather Insurance <http://agrilinks.org/blog/video-note-dr-shukri-ahmed-fao-index-based-weather-insurance>

USAID Agrilinks: Thanks for all of your questions - for those of you that didn't have answers I will try to follow up with the presenters for you

Zachary Baquet: Next Agrilinks supported webinar March 6: RFA release for Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Sustainable Intensification <http://agrilinks.org/blog/rfa-released-feed-future-innovation-lab-sustainable-intensification>

Sankalp Bhosale: thank you