



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands



# REACH FOR RESULTS

## Kibimba Rice Limited to Become Uganda's Largest Quality Rice Seed Producer

**A**long the Jinja-Tororo Highway, vast expanses of rice fields wave golden in the sun, as the time for harvest approaches. These fields are part of the Kibimba Limited Rice Estate and are expected to yield up to 130 metric tons (mt) of WITA 9 variety quality rice seed produced by Kibimba Limited, with support from International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)'s Resilient and Efficient Agribusiness Chains in Uganda (REACH-Uganda) Project.

In May 2019, the IFDC REACH-Uganda project, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture (MAAIF), National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), and Kibimba Limited embarked on a mission to resolve the supply bottleneck of quality rice seed for smallholder farmers and major rice players alike. This initiative was spearheaded by the REACH-Uganda project in an effort to counter some of the major challenges affecting rice producers and eventually develop linkages to establish resilient rice value chains in Uganda.

The lack of sufficient quality rice seed means that smallholder farmers and rice producing companies have to rely on saved grains as seed for rice production. Relying on saved seed significantly reduces yield quality and overall productivity, and also exposes the rice crop to recurring pests and diseases, further affecting production. In addition, whereas there is a high demand for lowland rice in Uganda and neighboring countries, there are fewer farmers and rice producers farming lowland rice, due to the limited supply of quality lowland rice seed on the market. They are in turn forced to farm upland rice, which attracts a much lower price on the market and therefore is not as productive.

The aim of this intervention is to ensure that smallholder farmers and large rice producers are supplied with



and have access to large quantities of certified quality rice seed in order to increase their production and productivity. Specifically, this initiative focuses on WITA 9 rice seed variety, which produces highly marketable lowland rice, to further increase the productivity of farmers and producers.

This is why it is important for a large market player, like Kibimba Limited, to become a certified producer of quality rice seed. Not only does Kibimba possess the necessary skills and equipment to undertake this massive task (with highly mechanized facility and a highly organized and operational irrigation system), but the entire estate comprises approximately 4,000 hectares of prime land - more than enough to produce sufficient quantities of quality rice seed, while still continuing rice production activities.

It is on this basis that in August 2019, Kibimba Limited planted 1.3 mt of WITA 9 lowland quality rice Foundation Seed from the NARO on 130 acres of land,



with the aim of producing up to 130 mt of certified lowland quality rice seed.

During the planting and weeding activities, Kibimba provided employment for over 100 laborers, who ensured that the rice seed was planted and managed according to the required standards to ensure the best outcome.

As the rice seed matured, Kibimba Limited established 10 demonstration plots to create awareness of the availability of seed and benefits of the quality rice seed in production. During the periodic visits to these demonstration sites hosted by community rice farmers, participants observe, engage, and adopt the skills and practices that best ensure high quality productivity using the WITA 9 rice variety. REACH-Uganda has recruited four Field Extension Workers (FEWs) that, after extensive training, are not only mobilizing and engaging smallholder farmers, encouraging them to purchase the certified rice seed for higher productivity, but are

also equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to ensure that they turn a profit from their farming investment.

Kibimba Limited, as a rice processor and distributor in Uganda and neighboring countries, not only supplies quality rice seed to farmers, but it also provides a market for farmers' paddy by buying their lowland rice at competitive prices and processing it to meet the high demand in the market - a further incentive for the farmers to purchase the improved seed, as they have a sure market for their increased yields.

Harvest of the rice seed is currently ongoing, and by February 2020, it will be made available for purchase, just in time for the first planting season of 2020. It is expected that in the near future, an efficient and sustainable seed business will have been established to support lowland rice production and move the rice industry in Uganda closer to resilience and self-sufficiency.

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