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**VOICES FROM THE FIELD: EXPLORING THE PERCEIVED IMPACT OF THE
RICEBOOST INITIATIVE PACKAGE OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE LIVELIHOOD
AND FARMING PRACTICES OF RICE FARMERS**

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Abstract

The RiceBoost Initiative is a field-based technology demonstration platform that promotes improved rice production through certified inbred seeds, recommended crop management practices, mechanization, and other science-based technologies. This study assessed the perceived impact of the RiceBoost Initiative Package of Technology on rice farmers, focusing on technology acceptance, livelihood effects, and factors influencing adoption. A qualitative exploratory design was used involving farmer-cooperators and RiceBoost personnel from eight branch stations. Data were gathered through focus group discussions, key informant interviews, semi-structured interviews, and field observations and analyzed using thematic analysis. Findings revealed improved access to quality seeds and technologies, experiential learning, increased openness to innovation, strengthened stakeholder collaboration, and perceived improvements in productivity and income. However, delayed inputs and financial support, transportation and manpower limitations, environmental conditions, and coordination challenges constrained implementation.

Overall, the initiative was perceived as a platform for technology dissemination, farmer capability development, experiential learning, and stakeholder collaboration. The study recommends timely resource provision, stronger coordination, adaptive approaches, continued field-based learning, and regular monitoring of technology adoption and livelihood outcomes.

Key words: RiceBoost Initiative, technology adoption, rice farmers, technology demonstration, experiential learning