

ABSTRACT

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE RICE PRODUCTIVITY IN NEPAL

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Nepal is predominantly an agricultural country where two third of the population depend on agriculture. Rice is the major staple food in the country which contributes about 7% in the National GDP. The productivity of milled rice in Nepal is low as it hovers around 2 metric ton per hectare. Hence the domestic production of rice is not sufficient for growing population of the country. As a result, large amount of rice is imported from neighboring countries every year. On the other hand, in Korea, the productivity of rice is around 5 metric ton per hectare where it is also a staple food. Korean shifted from rice importing country in early 1970s to self-sufficient country in 1980s. Proper farm land management, farm mechanization, research and extension systems are vital for increasing productivity of rice. In Korea, appropriate land management, farm mechanization and agricultural R&D and extension policies on rice were adopted depending on the need of the country at various periods of agricultural development. Thus, this study aims to review and identify key problems in farm mechanization, farmland management and research and extension system in Nepal and recommend appropriate policies and programs based on Korean experience to enhance rice production and productivity. The study was conducted during KAPEX Academy 2017 organized by KREI and mainly based of desk reviews, expert consultation, study visits and lectures.

Key words: rice, productivity, farm mechanization, farmland management, research and extension system, policy