

BENEFITS OF PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION FOR FARMERS

Dang Duc Ninh

Thai Binh Province - Vietnam

Agriculture production before 2006

- Poor crop variety structure
 - ✓ Food crops (rice, maize) are the main ones – the majority of which are imported varieties from China and IRRI (International Rice Research Institute)
 - ✓ Only few new varieties are put into production – only 7-10 varieties across the country
 - ✓ The quality of varieties put into production is not high due to deterioration and pests (VD-CR203 has been put into production for 20 years – because there has been no replacement)
- Lack of varieties which are resistant to pests & diseases, unfavorable conditions and varieties which are suitable for special regions (with drought, flood, saline conditions)
- Varieties for production developed by Institutes do not exist for long due to lack of attention after being introduced – Quality cannot be ensured
- Low productivity (4.5 – 4.7 ton/ha), pest and disease infection – not very high economic efficiency – low income.

Since we have plant variety protection

- Varieties are diversified in terms of quantity and species
 - ✓ Diversity: new varieties of food crops, vegetables, fruits, flowers, etc.
 - ✓ Diversified varieties within a species – Farmers have many choices: e.g. varieties that are resistant to pests and diseases/droughts/inundation, high quality varieties, specialized varieties for different purposes (making wine, noodles, rice cakes, etc.)
- New imported varieties (vegetables, flowers) with high quality: water melon, flavor melon, chilly, etc.

Benefits of Plant Variety Protection for farmers

- More choices of varieties suitable for each requirement
- Higher income per one unit of production area thanks to higher quality varieties with higher yield and resistance
- Participation in the value chains of enterprises providing seedlings: Rice/Herbal medicinal plants/OCOP...
- Opportunity to become breeder: I myself have more than 10 varieties registered for protection
- I have just submitted 4 applications for new rice varieties.