

SHORT COMMUNIQUE

IDENTIFYING LOCAL NAMES FOR ADOPTED IMPROVED RICE VARIETIES IN NIGERIA

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Over the years, a number of improved rice varieties developed by the National Cereals Research Institute (NCRI) have been introduced to the lowland rice local farmers for production. It was soon discovered that the improved varieties have been assigned local names. And this has led to the problem of differentiating the improved from the traditional varieties by the local names.

Surveys were therefore carried out in 1994 and 1995 in seven local government areas of Niger State to identify the local names for the adopted improved rice varieties. Rice samples were collected from the farmers and were identified in the breeding laboratory.

Such information is of importance to the rice Scientists and agricultural extension workers who may be interested in the local names of the improved rice varieties grown in some area of Niger State.

When farmers were asked to identify the improved varieties, most of them could not. Rice varieties that have been passed from one generation to another were called traditional varieties (See Table 1). At Ndaloke in Lavun local Government Area, which is less than one kilometre from research field, the farmers were able to identify the improved varieties by the FARO names. They gave the correct FARO names which is a number given to all released

improved rice varieties. FARO is an acronym for Federal Agricultural Research Oryza. Our survey released that farmers cultivated more of the improved varieties which have been given local names. The local names given to a variety is generally based on such factors as name of the first person who introduced it to the village, quality characteristics of the grain and village location. For example a rice variety called Ibrahim Tsadu (which was identified to be FARO 15 was introduced to the village by a man called Ibrahim Tsadu. "Pasatukunya" (break pot) variety in Fuka village is so called because of the variety's high-swelling capacity when cooked (Table 1).

The local names of variety vary from one location to another. For example FARO 9 is called Guiananakwo, Sossaci, Gbakobokun and Ladanci in Ebbo, Sossa, Essa and Batagidewo respectively (Table 1).

As such, a variety may have more than one local name. The local name of a variety may also vary within a village. In Sossa village FARO 18 was called Guiana and Soko wanyen.

The farmers' system of nomenclature introduces confusion in ascertaining the real identity of a variety.

It was also observed that most of the varieties which farmers called traditional varieties were indeed improved varieties released by NCRI. Some of these varieties were released in the 1960s and have been replaced by better ones

Table 1: The Meaning of Local Names Given to Improved Rice varieties in some villages in Niger State, Nigeria.

Improved Varieties FARO name	Local name	Meaning of local name	Village where collected
FARO 1	Toma		Batagidewo
FARO 6	Edochi		Kuchikieba
FARO 8	Asha	Person's name	Mashigi
"	Jankara	Red Stem	Adunu
"	Mas	-	Nwogi
FARO 9	Guianakwo		Ebbo
"	Sossaci	Comes from Sossa village	Sossa
"	Gbokobokun	White stem	Essa
"	Ladanci	Comes from ladan	Batagidewo
FARO 10	Nasaragi	Success	Sossa
"	Innagbanti	Mother of gbanti	-
FARO 11	Babakaro	Name of a person	Ndaloke
FARO 12	Tetengi		
FARO 12	Jankara	Red stem	Adunu
FARO 13	Tsumigi	Early maturing	Lapai
FARO 13	Larangba	Raises a lazy man	Lapai
FARO 15	Keto	-	Nassarawa
FARO 15	Larangba		
"	Keto		
"	Ibrahim	name of a person	Lapai
"	Tsadu		
FARO 15	Dampete	-	Ebbo
"	FARO 15	-	Ndaloke
FARO 17	Gbagusu	-	Fuka
"	Mai-hara	cooks like needle	Adunu
FARO 18	Anfani	useful	Zukuchi

Improved Varieties FARO name	Local name	Meaning of local name	Village where collected
FARO 18	Pasatukunya	breaks pot (due to swelling)	Fuka
"	Guiana		Sossa
"	Mambefuci	from Mambe	Mambe
"	Nasara	Success	Essa
FARO 18	Sokowunyeu	God owns us	Sossa
FARO 19	Lamiefu	from Lami	Sossa
FARO 19	Mambefuci	from Mambe	Mambe
"	Nasara	Success	Essa
FARO 20	Salamagi	-	Gbanga
FARO 21	Suruci		Kuchikieba
"	Yaba	Bomana	Ebbo
"	Kpakunigi	Strong	Batagidewo
"	Benjechi		Batagidewo
FARO 22			
FARO 23	Lamanbe	-	Nasarawa
"	Lamgbakiefo	Raises a lazy man	
FARO 29	BG90	Ndaloke	
"	Gbakodzuru	Red stem based	Gbanga
FARO 35	Agbagudu	dig a hole	Adunu
"	FARO 35	-	Ndaloke
"	Tsomigi	early morning	-
FARO 37	Ndakosaba	-	-
FARO 44	Sipi		

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