

Farmers training and awareness workshop in Jonnalagadda village

As part of the ClimaRice II capacity building activities, a farmers training and awareness workshop on climate change and water management activities was conducted in Jonnalagadda village in Guntur rural, Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh.

Jonnalagadda is a ClimaRice II pilot village and is also adopted by the Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS) for extensive research and development. In all, 75 farmers attended the one day training workshop on climate change and water management on the 31st of August 2010.

Several scientists from RARS, including Dr. Gurava Reddy and Dr. Subba Rami Reddy, Agronomist focused on issues ranging from climate change impacts on agriculture and farm level adaptation measures (Direct seeded rice, critical stage irrigation, etc). Mr. Madhusudhan Reddy, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Guntur district, responded to farmers concerns about crop insurance schemes.

The CLIMA Farmer enrollment card was officially released by Mr. K. Pulla Reddy, Joint director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Guntur district. He handed over the first card to the farmers identified for the project and appreciated the initiatives being taken up through ClimaRice project.



Picture: Mr. Pulla Reddy, Joint Director of Agriculture, Guntur district, giving the CLIMA Farmer enrollment card to the farmers in Jonnalagadda Village

Dr. Bhavani Devi, Associate Professor, from the Agricultural University NGRAU and Dr. Ankaiah, Associate Director of Research, RARS were also present at the workshop and assured committed support to ClimaRice project. The workshop was organized by Dr. Krishna Reddy and Dr. Kadir Mohan from IWMI.

Farmers selected in the pilot village will be followed throughout the project. The RARS staff will be visiting the village on a regular basis to monitor the validation trials on farmers' fields. Scientific and capacity building support to farmers will be provided by the staff from RARS and IWMI. A plan of action listing various activities to be taken up in the village in the next two years will be jointly prepared and approved by end of October 2010.