

REVERSE LINKAGE

DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

RICE PRODUCTION



FIELD NO	7
ACREAGE	24.59
VARIETY	GRDB12
SOWN	NOV. 22

IsDB 
البنك الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Development Bank



 **CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA (RECIPIENT)**

 **MALAYSIA (PROVIDER)**

ENHANCING THE STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF GUYANA'S RICE SECTOR

THE CHALLENGE

For several decades, rice farming has been one of the mainstays of Guyana's agricultural industry. It is the country's second major crop after sugar and a significant source of foreign exchange. However, as a rice exporting nation, Guyana faces challenges, such as the lack of rice varieties with higher yield potentials and higher values (for example, basmathi) ensuring product diversification and improved competitiveness.

Furthermore, infestations of weeds, pests, and diseases persist, resulting in sizeable rice yield losses. As such, Guyana's rice sector requires varieties able to withstand diseases (such as blast and sheath blight), and pests (such as the brown planthopper).

Furthermore, the lack of coordination between the Guyanese authorities and primary industry stakeholders prevents effective identification and development of new, commercially viable end products for the global market. This has a negative impact on the overall value of rice product exports from Guyana.

THE SUPPLY

The Mardi Consultancy and Service Sdn. Bhd. (MCSB) is a leader in agro-technology with an international reputation for R&D supporting agricultural and bio-based industries. It has helped Malaysia to become self-sufficient in several commodities.

With more than 35 years of expertise in rice production, MCSB has been able to release a number of rice varieties that are resistant to the rice blast fungus, and the brown planthopper pest. The Institute has produced a manual for rice cultivation and has developed a technology package for planting rice on problem soils and evaluating rice quality. Thus, MCSB's rice technology has helped Malaysia increase its rice yield to an average of 7 tons per hectare, with a maximum yield of 10 tons per hectare.

MCSB has established partnerships outside Malaysia and has in-depth international experience in implementing agricultural projects in other many countries.



10

TONS PER HECTARE MAXIMUM
RICE YIELD ACHIEVED
THROUGH USING MARDI
RICE TECHNOLOGY

3

NEW AREA-SPECIFIC
RICE VARIETIES ARE BEING
INTRODUCED, TOGETHER WITH
BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CERTIFIED
SEED PRODUCTION AND
DEVELOPING DOWNSTREAM
RICE-BASED
END-PRODUCTS

THE MATCHMAKING

The Government of Guyana requested the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to assist in identifying gaps in its rice sector, to enable its sustainable and competitive position in the domestic and global market, while benefitting from Malaysia's experience.

Malaysia has a comparative advantage in rice growing technologies and a field presence in Latin America through MARDI, a winner of the IsDB Prize for Science and Technology. MARDI is currently assisting Guyana's neighbor, Suriname (with a similar rice-planting environment), through an ongoing Reverse Linkage project. Thus, the IsDB connected MCSB with the Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB), the key stakeholder for the improvement of the rice sector in Guyana. The GRDB has a strategic primary role in the development of the rice sector by conducting both agricultural research and product development, as well as facilitating export trade.

The IsDB coordinated and funded a peer-to-peer consultation process to undertake detailed diagnosis of the current capacities of Guyana and to design customized solutions.

THE PROJECT

GOAL

The project aims to enhance the stability and sustainability of Guyana's rice sector.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Introducing and sharing the intellectual property of three new area-specific rice varieties to enable the country to produce specialized rice varieties for export.
- Building institutional capacity in certified seed production, breeding methodology and protocol, as well as establishing a certified seed production facility.
- Developing downstream rice-based end products to enhance the supply chain.
- Organizing a series of training-of-trainers for GRDB researchers in various fields of rice-based product development.



DURATION

Two years, from 2019 to 2021.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The project activities will be coordinated by a project management unit comprising representatives from GRDB, and one from MCSB, permanently stationed in Guyana for the duration of the project. A joint coordination committee, consisting of representatives of several stakeholders from Guyana, MCSB, and the IsDB will meet periodically to review progress.

THE WINS FOR ALL

For Guyana, the project will facilitate the necessary improvement in rice varieties, production methodologies, and end-product development. It will enhance the capacity of GRDB, which is the main institution responsible for the rice sector supply-chain in Guyana. It will also directly aid at least 1,500 farmers and indirectly 12,000 people to improve their income (derived from rice production).

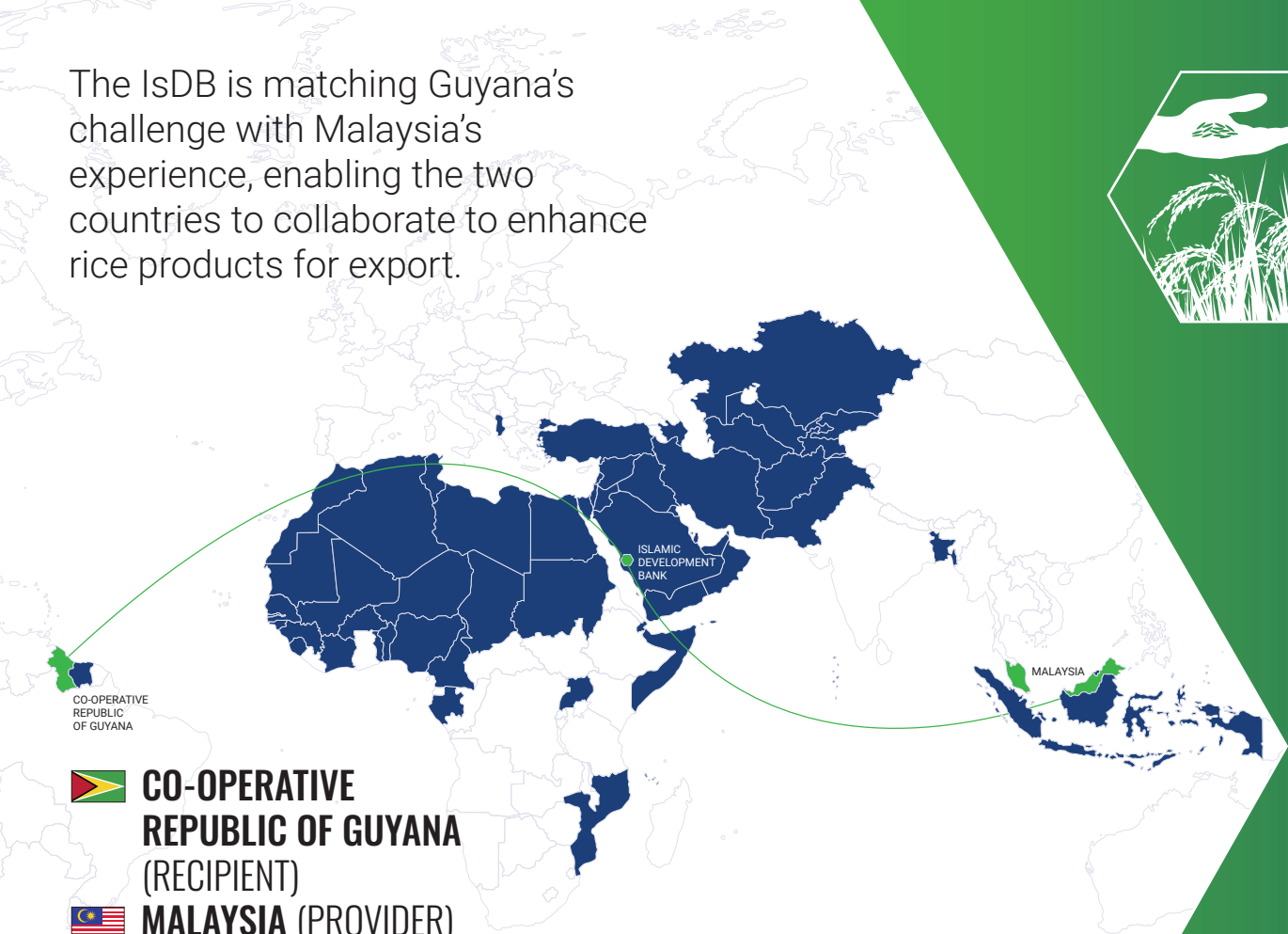
MARDI will be able to adapt and deploy its technologies overseas in diversified conditions. Furthermore, its increased dialogue with new experts will bring new perspectives and ideas. Ultimately, Malaysia will develop goodwill with both the public and private sectors in Guyana from this engagement, enabling access for its own private sector stakeholders to form potential joint ventures and strategic business partnerships. This will open up markets in South America and Asia Pacific, mutually benefiting all stakeholders involved in the long run.

From the IsDB's perspective, the project is an efficient and effective way of improving South-South cooperation among its member countries.

A photograph of a male scientist in a white lab coat and yellow gloves, working with a laboratory instrument. He is looking intently at the device, which has a blue base and a black top section. A laptop is visible in the foreground on the right. The background is a dark blue wall.

THE PROJECT WILL
DIRECTLY HELP AT LEAST
1,500
FARMERS AND INDIRECTLY
12,000
PEOPLE IN IMPROVING
THEIR INCOME

The IsDB is matching Guyana's challenge with Malaysia's experience, enabling the two countries to collaborate to enhance rice products for export.

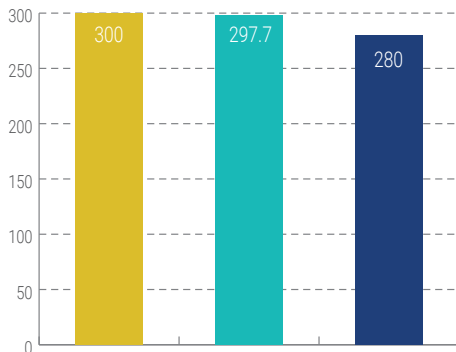


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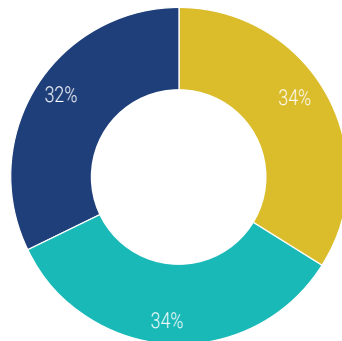


MALAYSIA (PROVIDER)

CONTRIBUTION (US\$ THOUSANDS)



PERCENTAGE (%)



■ GUYANA ■ MARDI/MCSB
■ THE IsDB

THE PROJECT
COMMENCES IN
2019
AND RUNS UNTIL
2021

It is at the center of the IsDB's mandate to promote cooperation among its member countries.

In 1981, the Makkah Declaration of the Third Islamic Conference Summit called the OIC member countries to strengthen collaboration, to utilize and foster their talents, skills and technological capacities. The Bank responded and launched its Technical Cooperation Program in 1983. This has then been scaled up via what we call Reverse Linkage.

The structured skills swap under Reverse Linkage helps the recipient country diagnose and analyze a problem while the provider country shares its proven knowledge and expertise to find a solution.

The idea that all partners have something to gain from cooperation lies at the heart of Reverse Linkage.

The learning process is reciprocal, knowledge transfer is in both directions, and benefits are mutual.

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