

The objective of EMRIP is to bring rice millers together with smallholder rice farmers to revitalise

this critical sector through improvements to quality rice production techniques and improved milling practices.

The project recognises that the private and public sectors both have important roles to play.

The project works with progressive and socially committed millers with existing links to smallholder rice farmers.

Each participating miller will provide inputs, credit, training and extension to about 1,000 smallholder rice farmers and will pay a premium price for good quality paddy rice.

In return for their co-investment with small farmers, millers will receive project support to improve milling facilities and equipment.

The millers will also receive capacity building support from EMRIP to improve their business management skill s.

Improved milling efficiency and higher prices paid for good quality rice will provid e millers with the surplus needed to continue supporting farmers and pay premium prices after the project ends.

Government also has an important role to play in facilitating and supporting development of the rice sector

Lao farmers produced 3.26 million tonnes of rice in 2010, most of which was consumed within the country or exported along borders with neighbouring countries.

Source: Vientiane Times March 16, 2011

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