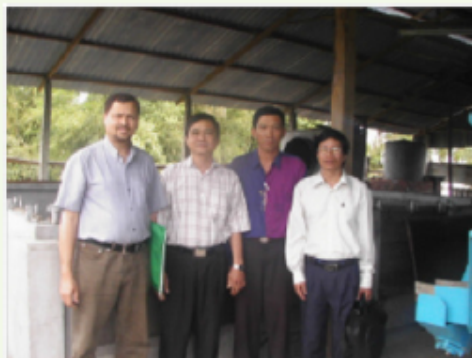


IMPROVING RICE QUALITY IN VIETNAM

Scientists from Australia and Vietnam have worked together to improve the quality and value of rice grown in Vietnam.

Prof. Bhesh Bhandari (Coordinator Australia) and Prof. Shu Fukai from UQ and Associate Professor Vinh Truong (Coordinator, Vietnam) from Nong Lam University completed a project on investigation of rice kernel cracking and its control in the field and during post-harvest processes in the Mekong Delta River of Vietnam.

Reduced whole rice grain yield, due to



Prof. Bhesh Bhandari (first right), Associate Prof. Vinh Truong (first left) with farmers cooperative representative.

cracking, is one of the major issues that directly reduce income and availability of staple food to the farmers.

The cracking or partial fissuring of rice kernels occurs in the paddy field due to incorrect harvesting time/practice, improper post-harvest drying conditions and inappropriate milling operations.

"This project aimed to improve the quality and value of the rice, through an integrated approach that encompasses farmers, millers, service providers and extension workers and education institution," said Professor Bhandari.

During this project, implementation period drying and harvesting facilities were established in four model village cooperatives.

"Around 2300 farmers and 300 extension workers participated in the training program," said Prof. Bhandari

"We hope this will have real impact on these communities in the future."

The Nong Lam University staff members obtained training at UQ and a well-equipped rice drying and quality testing facility was established at Nong Lam University.

The research was funded under the Collaboration for Agriculture & Rural Development (CARD) program (AusAid funded).



Demonstration of an 8 ton-reversible air-flow flat bed dryer in Giong Rieng district, Kien Giang province during a training session.