



Managing risk in sustainable intensification of cropping systems in the Ganges Delta Coastal zone

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The Ganges Delta coastal zone is a vulnerable region with widespread rural poverty. Researchers from Bangladesh, Indian and Australia are exploring options for intensification of cropping systems in this region by adding extra crops or enterprises to farms that mostly produce a single monsoon rice crop per year. The most promising option involves changing to early maturing rice varieties and sowing dry season crops earlier using stored residual soil water. I'll describe the research around developing the new double or triple cropping systems, and the new risks that need to be managed.

Richard Bell is Professor of Land Management at Murdoch University in Perth, Australia. He has been collaborating with researchers in Bangladesh since 2006 on a range of projects related to soil management, mechanization of seeding, Conservation Agriculture and cropping systems intensification. Twenty-nine PhD students have been involved in this work.

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