

The rice varietal crop cafeteria is a display of 15-20 promising varieties in one large plot replicated along with their checks. Farmers, representatives of departments of agriculture, seed producers, public and private seed suppliers, distributors and researchers are invited to observe and assess comparative performance of those varieties.



Layout of varietal cafeteria

What are the benefits of organizing a VC ?

The VC provides a platform for assessing a large number of potential varieties against their checks in a single plot

The varieties are evaluated by different groups of stakeholders making the assessment more robust and comprehensive

The most suitable varieties with significant advantages over others, in a particular ecology can be selected and promoted in seed chain and extension activities

This can help create varietal awareness amongst input dealers and farmers, and create demand for new varieties.

This can influence planning of seed production by various agencies to meet demand



Women farmers participating in a varietal cafeteria event at Bargarh

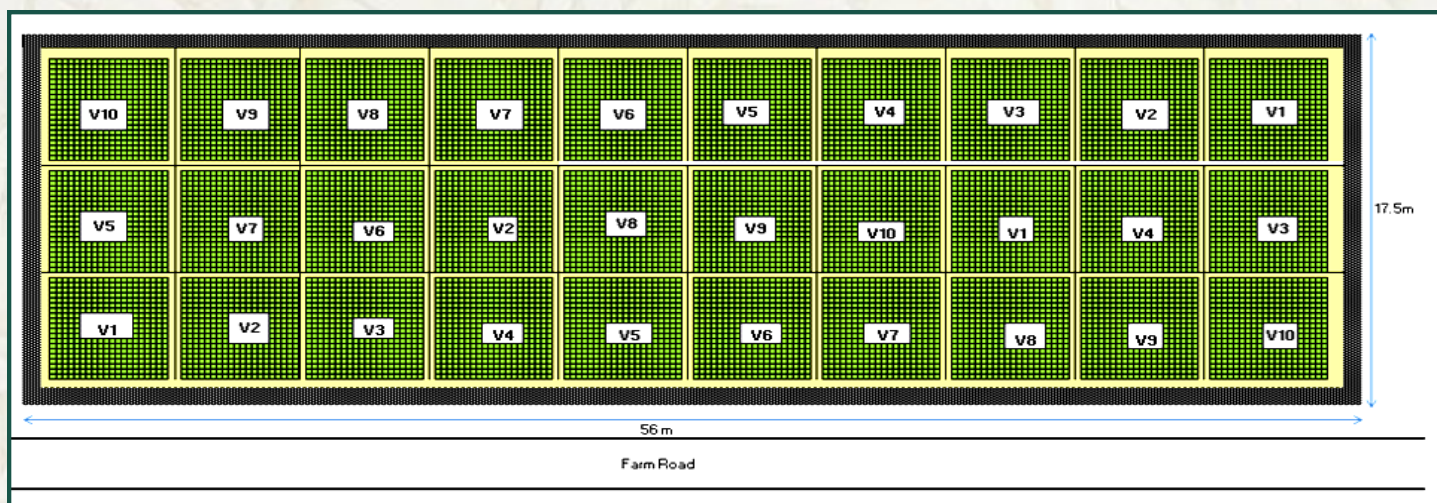
Basic layout features

Sl No	Parameters	Details
1	No. of varieties	15-20 including their popular checks (5-6). Number of varieties is subject to availability, but should not be less than 10
2	No. of replications of a variety	Ideally 3, can be 2 in a situation where area is a constraint
3	Spacing (cm)	20 x 25 cm
4	Row Length (m)	5
5	Width of the plot (m)	5
6	Space between two plots (m)	0.25
7	Total area per variety (Sq.m)	25 x 3 for three replications
8	Total trial area(approx.) (Sq.m)	1300-1800

Who can organize a VC ?

This is ideal for any organization/ agency striving to popularize and diffuse new crop varieties such as;

- Department of Agriculture
- Seed Corporation
- Public and private sector seed suppliers
- State Agriculture University (SAUs)
- Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs)
- Research Institutes
- NGOs
- Farmers' groups



A suggested layout for 10 varieties with three replications

How to organize a VC?

- ◆ Organize an inception and planning meeting with all relevant stakeholders like block agricultural officials, local seed dealers, NGOs.
- ◆ Select an accessible site with required area. The location should be such that women and men farmers have no difficult getting there
- ◆ Procure assured quality seeds of different varieties from reliable suppliers
- ◆ Tag the varieties in the nursery with accurate and relevant information
- ◆ Transplant correctly following a pre-designed layout
- ◆ All individual experimental plots need to have a display board with variety and sowing information



A farmer from varietal cafeteria, Kalahandi



A bird's eye view of a varietal cafeteria at Puri

- ◆ Follow standard management practices for weeding, pest control, nutrient management
- ◆ Organize a field day at crop maturity and invite all important stakeholders
- ◆ Facilitate evaluation process for each variety by different groups of stakeholders using a common varietal assessment tool including key parameters like expected yield, plant height, grain size, pest resistance, grain per panicle etc.
- ◆ Facilitate discussion, sharing of experience and views by participants and record them systematically
- ◆ Listed varieties suitable for the region are documented and communicated to relevant actors for inclusion in extension activities and seed chain

**For more information,
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