

The NARO/DFID Client-oriented Agricultural Research and Dissemination (COARD) Project

One of NARO's projects at SAARI is the NARO/DFID Client-Oriented Agricultural Research & Dissemination (COARD) Project. NARO is using this project to increase stakeholder participation in all stages of its activities. Any organization involved in agricultural research or dissemination can propose projects to the COARD agricultural technology funds. A fund management committee decides which projects should be funded. To increase the voice of civil society in the project, the committee consists of five NARO staff (three research managers, two Agricultural Research & Development Centre Managers), one MUK representative, nine representatives of other institutions and two technical advisers (Box 2). The committee follows a set of transparent development and quality criteria when selecting proposals - evaluation procedures and criteria are published in Information Packs available to all applicants.

Box 2. Fund Management Committee	
Appointed Members	Elected Members
Director, SAARI.....(1)	
Head, Project Support Unit.....(1)	
Director, Monitoring, Evaluation and Planning Unit, NARO.....(1)	
ARDC Manager, Teso & Lango.....(2)	Public Extension, Teso & Lango.....(2)
Makerere University.....(1)	NGOs, Teso & Lango.....(2)
NAADS.....(1)	Farmer Groups, Teso & Lango.....(2)
Project Technical Advisers (2)	Private Sector, Teso & Lango.....(2)
Total: 9	Total: 8

The process is highly competitive - 522 project applications have been received so far, of which twenty seven have been selected for funding. All of the successful projects are participatory in nature, with farmers involved in project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and dissemination; and all demonstrate partnerships between various combinations of NARO, NGOs, CBOs, MUK and public extension. The lead organisations of the 27 projects are shown in Box 3, and research/dissemination themes are shown in Box 4.

Box 3. Lead Organizations of successful project applications

Lead organization	No.
SAARI - led projects	8
Other NARO institutes	7
GOs	3
NGOs	9
Total	27

Box 4. Research and dissemination topics covered by the 27 projects selected for funding

- Participatory development of :
 - Improved soil fertility and conservation technologies;
 - Integrated pest management for cowpeas, sorghum, sweet potatoes and groundnuts;
 - Use of natural pesticides
 - Coffee production technologies;
 - Improved poultry health management (NCD);
 - Improved information materials and training procedures for cowpea storage, animal traction, fishfarming;
 - Propagation of indigenous tree species;
 - Improved marketing;
 - Improved impact assessments.
- Participatory plant breeding of pigeonpea, cowpea and green grams.
- Multiplication and Dissemination with farmers of:
 - Improved chickens, goat, pigs, groundnuts, sweet potatoes, pigeonpea, cassava;
 - Integrated pest management practices for groundnuts & cowpeas;
 - Integration of tsetse control with farming activities;
 - Improved processing and/or storage practices for cassava, sweet potato, hides & skins;
 - Agroforestry technologies

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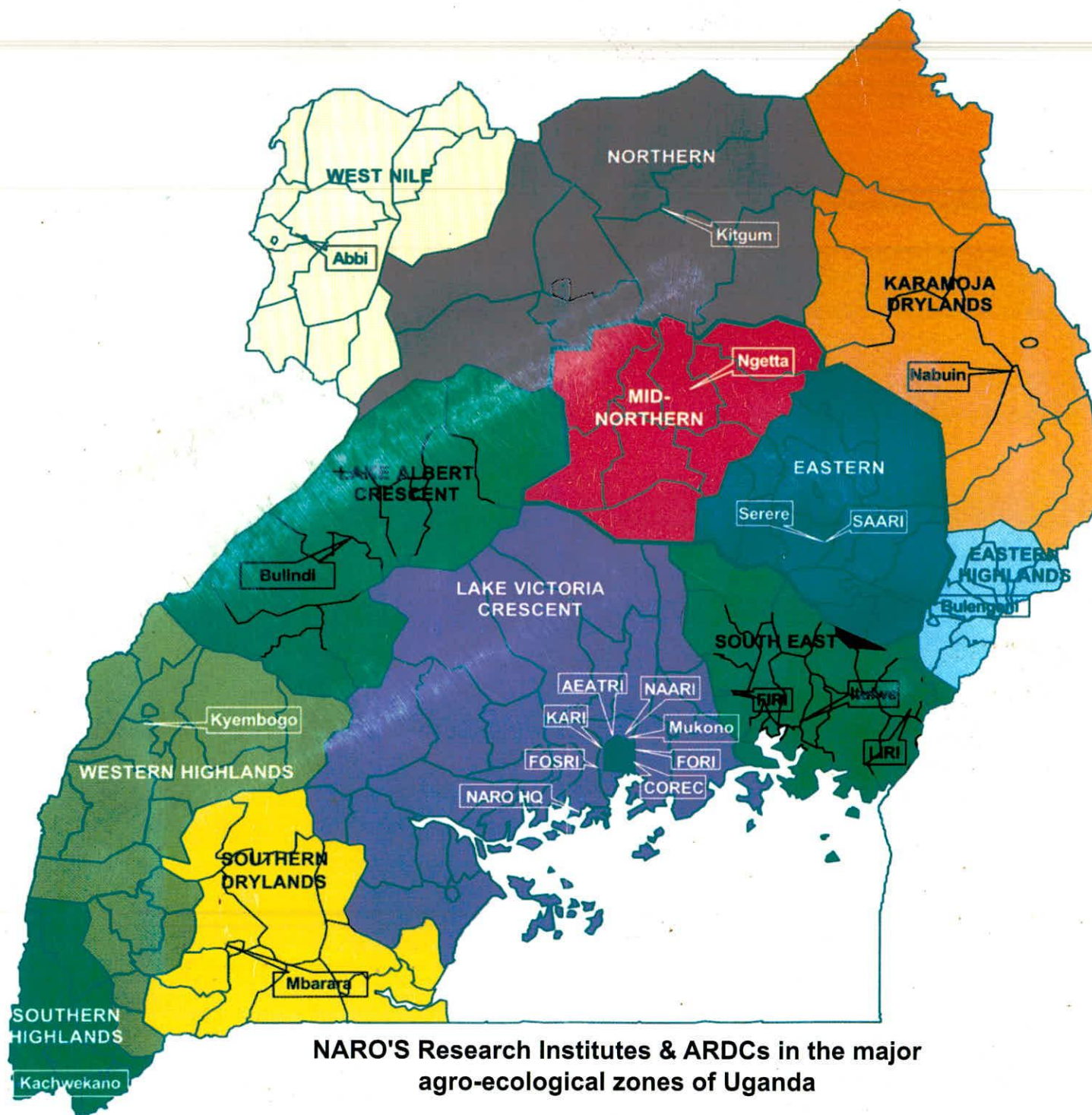
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THE SERERE AGRICULTURAL AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SAARI)

The Serere Agricultural and animal Production Research Institute (SAARI) is one of the 9 Research Institutes of the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO). SAARI's mandate is to undertake research in crops and livestock production for semi-arid production systems which stretch from Tororo-Busia, up to West-Nile comprising five Agro-ecological zones (see map). SAARI shares its campus with the Serere Agricultural Research & Dissemination Centre (ARDC), which undertakes fine-tuning, multiplication and dissemination of agricultural technologies.

SAARI contributes directly to the development of its cradle, the Soroti District, by availing technologies developed in participation with farmers, as shown in Box 1.



NARO'S Research Institutes & ARDCs in the major agro-ecological zones of Uganda

Box 1. Technologies developed at SAARI for farmers in Soroti and nationwide.

Cotton

Varieties BPA 2000 and BPA 2002 with G O T of 40%, desired by ginners and high fiber quality for spinners and lint exporters, resistant to pests and diseases.

Groundnuts

Short duration varieties, resistant to rosette, preferred seed colour and confectionary qualities, oil content up to 48%: Igola 1, Serenut 1R, Serenut 2, Serenut 3R, Serenut 4T

Sim-sim

White seeded varieties: Sesim1, Sesim2 - 44 and 42% oil content respectively.

Sunflower

Varieites Sunfola, Record and Kulos - tolerant to diseases, 36 - 47% oil content.

Pigeon peas

Medium & early duration varieties Sepi 1 (4-5 months), Sepi 2 - (3½ months).

Cow peas

Variety Secow 1, Tan (85 - 90 days) and Secow 2, white (70 - 85 days).

Millet

Early maturity varieties for both food and brewing: Pese 1 (100 days) Seremi 1, (90 days), Seremi 2 (85-90 days), Seremi 3 (85-90 days).

Sorghum

Sekedo - Early maturing (100 days) for both food and brew; white-seeded Epuripur for brewing

Cattle breeds

Sahiwal x Zebu cross breeds for better draught power, Boran x Zebu cross bred bulls for more meat production - mature fast to 250 - 280 kg by 2 years.

Goat breeds

Boer x Teso & Boer x Mubende cross-breeds, Elite Indigenous Mubende goats-grow fast and reach 32 - 41 kg in 2 years.

Chicken breeds

Bovans brown x local chicken cross-breeds: Mature in 6 months to a weight of 2.5-3.5 kg and lay twice as many eggs as local hens

Improved pasture seeds:

Many farmers in Soroti district have used improved pasture seed developed at SAARI

Animal Traction Technology

Trained oxen; Ox-Plough, Ox-weeder, Seeders, Farm transport carts and harnessing gear.