

Challenges

Some of the challenges in carrying out adaptive research include:

- Farmer's failure to adhere to their roles and responsibilities e.g. land preparation, weeding participation in data collection etc.
- High demand of improved technologies by farmers which are insufficiently provided by our research team due to lack of staff, funds and at times transport.

Lessons Learnt

- Need to concentrate on a few sub-counties and/or districts to have impact
- There is need for involvement of all stakeholders in the production sector
- Farmers need to be linked to markets to enable them sell their produce
- Farmers' criteria for the selection of priority crop varieties was on the basis of high yields, early maturity, resistance to major pests and diseases and with good tastes compared to their local varieties

Way Forward/Recommendations

- Continuous sensitization of farmers through training of farmer research groups and radio talk shows to reach a wider audience.
- District Adaptive Research Support Teams (DARSTs) should be utilized for selection of sites and follow up of trials established with farmers
- Organise and Set up multiplication centres among farmer research groups.
- Need to link farmers to markets
- Need to sensitize farmers on value creation on their priority crops

For more details, Please contact;

Director, Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Bulindi, P.O. Box 101, Hoima, Uganda; Tel. +256465443276; Mob. +256782964358;
E-mail: bulindizardi@yahoo.com

Mr. Ronald Kakeeto, Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Bulindi P.O. Box 101, Hoima, Uganda; Tel. +256465443276; Mob. +256782854844; E-mail: Kakeetor@gmail.com

BULINDI ZONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



PARTICIPATORY ADAPTIVE RESEARCH IN THE LAKE ALBERT CRESCENT ZONE OF



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (MAAIF) UGANDA



Background

Participatory Adaptive research is an approach whereby farmers and scientists are involved in carrying out research together to test adaptability of specific technologies. In Bulindi ZARDI, it started way back in 2003 in the Districts of Masindi, Hoima and Kibaale. The crops included: Cassava (TME 14, NASE 10, TME 204), Maize (Longe 4 & Longe 5), Beans (NABE 4, Sugar 31/NABE 12C), Groundnuts (Serenut 1-4), Millet (SEREMI 1 & 3) and sweet potato

Currently, adaptive Research is being conducted in the Districts of Kibaale, Hoima, Buliisa and Masindi also called the Lake Albert Crescent zone. Priority crops being worked include cassava (MH97/2961 (NASE 13), MH97/4271 (NASE 14), Maize (Longe 4, Longe 5), Beans (NABE 14, NABE 15, NABE 17) and Rice (NARICA 4, 10, 1) among others.

Objectives

The main objective of participatory adaptive research with farmer's research groups is to identify location specific technologies as a way of disseminating NARO improved technologies in the Lake Albert Crescent zone of Uganda.

Methodology

In the participating communities, Farmer Research Groups (FRG) are selected from the districts of Lake Albert Crescent Zone. Participatory diagnosis (PD) or community assessment is done with the FRGs to set the agenda and stage for research and development activities.

Methodology

Major communal resources and perceptions of resources, production constraints, and major enterprises carried out and market opportunities are listed or mapped. The selected community is then guided to develop a vision for success of the community using the resources available and institutions operating with the community. And as part of action planning for improved food security and income generation, relevant technologies and other research interventions are suggested and agreed upon for implementation

In each sub-county, 3 farmer groups are selected to host the same commodities/technologies and these would serve as replicates. Data collection is planned according to the crop of interest and results of the analysis are shared with farmers to guide them on the commodity for value creation and marketing.

Achievements

- Cassava farmers have widely adopted improved cassava varieties (TME 14, MH97/2961)
- Improved Beans variety (NABE 4) has been adopted in Kibaale district and being produced widely for marketing by farmers
- Maize varieties (long 4 & 5) have been adopted and being produced by farmers.
- Rice (NERICA 4) has been widely adopted and being produced by farmers by farmers in the zone
- Over 1000 farmers have been trained in upland rice cultivation techniques



Plate 1: Bulindi ZARDI Research team establishing a rice trials on station (Bulindi)



Plate 2: Bulindi Research team and farmers from Pakanyiri subcounty laying out a cassava variety trial at a farmer's

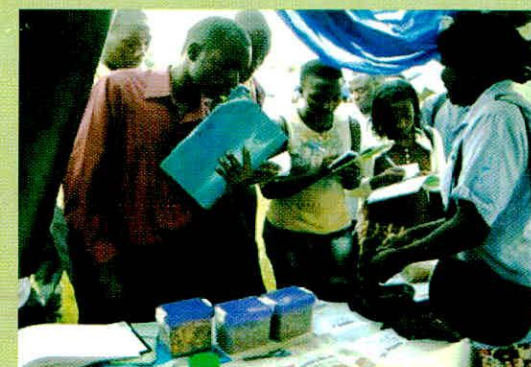


Plate 3: Demonstrating seed of priority improved crops for the zone during a science Expo organised National Council of Science and Technology at Boma grounds, Fort portal in 2012