Volume 2, Issue July. 08 - Dec. 2010

MUKONO ZONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPEMENT INSTITUTE

MUZARDI News Letter



Inside This Issue:

Pages

1. Editorial message..... 1
2. MUZARDI holds an Annual Review and planning workshop..... 2
3. Strategic planning workshop.....3
4. FS and LA technology impact by Mukono ZARDI.....4
5. MUZARDI partners with JICA on Nerica rice.....6
6. MUZARDI information Resource centre.....7
7. MUZARDI staff win AWARD awards.....8
8. End of year outing by Mukono ZARDI staff 9
9. Tahiti the wonder lime.....10
10. Pictorial of technical staff.....12
11. Why Demonstrate Research Findings?.....14
12. NARO Ntawo FC, a team to Reckon with.....15
13. Dr. Moses Mwesigwa's story of training in Egypt 16
14. Wedding bells 18

Editorial team:

- Mr. Peter Lusembo (Editor in chief)
- Dr. Beatrice Akello (Editor)
- Maria Nampeera & Barbara Kyampeire (Sub editors)

For More Information Contact: The Director - Mukono ZARDI
P.O. Box 164 Mukono - Uganda, Tel: +256 - 414 - 290 232, Fax: +256-414- 290 235
Email: mknardc@africaonline.co.ug

Editorial message

We are happy to bring you our second edition of the MUZARDI newsletter. We share with you what we have done with the support of the partners in the zone. We have made great strides in adjusting to the reforms in the research system geared towards meeting the needs of our clients appropriately.

We have built more solid partnerships and our stakeholders have been very instrumental in shaping our research and development agenda.

During the course of the year, we have had new staff appointed and promoted and MUZARDI has a formidable team to address the old and new agricultural challenges in the Lake Victoria Crescent Agro-ecological Zone. At MUZARDI we also believe that strong family relationships help us serve better.

In this issue we feature members of staff who walked down the isle in 2008-09.

Vision:

Improved livelihoods of the farming communities in the Lake Victoria Crescent Agro-ecological Zone.

Mission:

To develop, adapt and effectively disseminate appropriate agricultural technologies in the Lake Victoria Crescent Agro-ecological Zone.

Message from the Director



Mr. Lusembo Peter
Director Mukono ZARDI

When farmers, officials from NAADS, Makerere University and sister NARO institutes, met with Mukono ZARDI staff during the process of developing a Zonal Agricultural Research and Development agenda for its Mid-term Plan, emphasis was placed enhancement of technology adoption and income generating activities. This was to be achieved through constant interaction among the various stakeholders to review plans, implementation processes and methods of disseminating R&D results.

In order to focus well and work towards improving the welfare of stakeholders, especially farmers, we worked on a Strategic Plan whereby various stakeholders agreed on the Institute vision as "Improved Livelihood of the Farming Communities in the Lake Victoria Crescent Agro-ecological Zone'. In order to focus better towards achieving the desired future vision, a mission statement was also agreed upon and is To Develop, Adapt and Effectively Disseminate Appropriate Agricultural Research Technologies in the

Lake Victoria Crescent Agro-ecological Zone.

At MUZARDI, we strongly believe that in order to make significant contributions to improving farmers' livelihoods there is great need to appreciate their attitudes, perceptions and needs. It is also important that all stakeholders work together as 'partners in development'. Mukono ZARDI staff realized this after exposure to Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) and Participatory Market Chain Approach (PMCA) concepts. Value chain development is an important concept for poverty reduction. It embraces the complete agricultural system from planning, production, marketing and consumption. Rural farmers can then shift from subsistence vocations to more commercial ones by integrating themselves into sustainable markets.

The above scenario presents itself with an ever increasing demand for knowledge which the MUZARDI Information Resource Centre tries to fill. The Centre has in store digital information, reports and promotional material of agricultural activities the institute has been involved in.

Publication of this issue of our Newsletter is also one of the ways the Institute tries to avail information to our esteemed stakeholders. I wish you a pleasant reading

Annual Review and planning workshop

Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and development Institute held its review and planning workshop on 11th July 2008. The workshop was aimed at informing the different stakeholders in the zone about the Institute's activities in the zone and also to plan for future work. The workshop had 71 participants, including MUZARDI management committee members, officials from districts in the zone, NAADS, Makerere University, sister NARO institutes and Mukono ZARDI staff.

During the workshop, ongoing projects were reviewed, fine tuned and recommended for further funding. In addition, gaps for further research and development were identified and challenges faced by staff and stakeholders were shared. Stakeholders contributed freely and offered useful advice to the Institute that was expected to result into better outputs in the coming financial year.

In his closing remarks, Hon Dr. Serunjogi (M.P Kiboga) who represented the chairperson of the Parliamentary Agricultural sectoral committee Hon. Olive Woneka appreciated the idea of the annual review and planning workshop which brings different stakeholders together to share ideas. He noted that the workshop had been very interactive for both the stakeholders and MUZARDI. He requested Mukono ZARDI to use the challenges pointed out to identify opportunities to forge the way forward. He further called on participants to encourage farmers to access and utilize the prosperity for all funds to set up income generating activities. He also called on government to include NARO in the "Prosperity for all funds" in order to enhance technology adoption among communities.

He advised Researchers to build the capacity of extension staff so as to enable them write proposals that would help enhance technology adoption. He further called on participants to contribute to policy briefs and identify policy gaps that would lead to the development of agricultural policy bills.



Participants listen attentively during the Annual Review workshop. (extreme left is Hon. Dr. L.K Serunjogi)

MUZARDI develops a Strategic Plan

In 2009, MUZARDI undertook the process of developing its strategic plan. This was initiated in a workshop organized in August 2009 and attended by 61 participants drawn from MUZARDI Management Committee members, farmers, NAADS coordinators, NGO representatives, District production officers, Agricultural officers and D.A.Os.



MUZARDI Stakeholders in the process of developing a strategic plan.

During the workshop, MUZARDI developed a vision that states. "Improved livelihood of the farming communities in the Lake Victoria Crescent Agro-ecological Zone." MUZARDI will realize this vision through stakeholder engagement. The Institute also hopes to invest in being a centre of excellency in research and development in the Lake Victoria Crescent Zone. To realize this vision, MUZARDI's mission is: "To develop, adapt and effectively disseminate appropriate agricultural research technologies in the Lake Victoria Crescent Agro-ecological Zone."

In pursuance of its vision and mission, five challenges of strategic nature will be addressed i.e. a) attracting, strengthening and retaining quality human resources, b) sustainable mobilization and efficient utilization of financial resources, c) effective response to clients' agricultural demands, d) developing and maintaining adequate infrastructure and physical facilities and e) engendering MUZARDI's research for development agenda.

These strategic challenges form the basis of the strategic objectives that are to be pursued in the next five years.

With the support of the Management Committee, MUZARDI hopes to govern and manage its strategic plan. The Technical Committee of the Institute is to meet regularly to plan and review implementation of activities of the Institute and to monitor and evaluate projects that are conducted by staff.

The Report Writing Committee composed of three eminent scientists is to be responsible for compiling monthly and other reports and ensure that Institute staff and relevant stakeholders are informed about the progress towards implementing the plan.

In order to achieve the stated vision and mission, MUZARDI is to strive to achieve its core values of

a) accountability and transparency,
b) Teamwork,
c) Commitment to work,
d) Participation,
e) Result –orientation
f) Equity.

In a participatory manner, the strategic plan is to be achieved in consideration of critical success factors like availability of adequate funds and their timely release, stakeholder involvement, adherence to work plans, effective dissemination of research outputs and sharing of information and working in a conducive environment

Understanding peoples' needs: the road to technology adoption

Did you realize that attitude, knowledge and skills play a significant role in changing peoples' livelihoods? Mukono ZARDI staff realized this after their exposure to Integrated Agricultural Research for Development learning cycle and Participatory Market Chain Approach (PMCA) concepts.

The trainings appreciated the importance of multi-stakeholder platforms, attitudes, perspectives, knowledge and actions of different stakeholders. The trainings also enabled teams to learn together and focus at different areas of development i.e. social, economical and environmental.

In this new way of doing business (NWDB) project implementation is holistic where implementers and beneficiaries are more involved and interested.

The process of understanding peoples' needs and demands in the LVCAZ

In 2008-09, two case study tracking activities were done in Luwero and Masaka districts. The objectives of the activities were to; i) understand the interaction between crops, livestock and other natural resources how they influenced livelihoods, ii) understand the acceptability of technology options, their market demands and impact on the environment. Areas of study were selected in a participatory manner with the farmers, local leaders, extension workers and district local authorities. Four sub-counties were selected from each district basing on the major agricultural activities in a particular location.

They were selected according to sub systems namely crop dominant, cattle dominant, fish dominant and peri-urban systems. In Luwero Makulubita, Wobulenzi Town council, Kamira and Zirobwe represented the sub-systems while Kyanamukaka, Mukungwe, Bukulula and Lwengo were selected in Masaka districts. Mukono ZARDI provided a facilitation role to ensure that farmers understood their problems and sought practical solutions in their own context. Altogether, 124 farmers participated in this farmer-extension-research network.

At the beginning, Mukono ZARDI held informal meetings and formal individual interviews with farmers to obtain generic information on existing sources of livelihoods, how they managed and exploited challenges and possible solutions. These meetings were useful in increasing interaction between farmers, extension and researchers. All parties understood and appreciated their role in increasing farmers' access and adoption of improved technologies.

They were also used to provide feedback from research to farmers and vice versa; a gap which was pointed out strongly by the farmers and other service providers. Mukono ZARDI scored highly on feedback meetings during which farmers were able to know and understand what they were doing or otherwise. This information helped them improve their agricultural activities. For example, Haji Amisi Kajubi, a farmer in Wobulenzi Town council, Luwero district established a banana plantation as a model farm using the knowledge and skills acquired from Mukono ZARDI.

Farmers' in Masaka, i.e. fishermen at Ddimo fishing site, in Kyanamukaaka sub-county acquired coffee seedlings and banana suckers. This was to prepare them for income during the time when they would not be able to go out fishing due to old age.



A research Officer Interviewing a Farmer during a Livelihood Study

Researchers were able to identify research needs according to farmers' demands. Such needs were accessibility to improved technologies, knowledge and skills in agricultural production and marketing as well as the need to keep farm records. Farmers pointed out better ways of carrying out those needs like demonstration research trials, farm visits, training and follow-up visits.

A total of 31 demonstration trials of improved varieties of beans, maize, cassava, banana, coffee and improved cocks were established and replicated in Masaka and Luwero districts. Information on crop management and different varieties was given to farmers by Mukono ZARDI in collaboration with NAADS officials. This was one of the ways of promoting and increasing farmers' awareness of NARO technologies. Periodical participatory monitoring enabled farmers and researchers to determine performance of these technologies.

Farmers were able to identify which varieties perform better in their localities. One of the major results from periodical monitoring of these households was writing and maintaining records of their income and expenditure. Farmers appreciated that this exercise helped

them to know their cash inflows and cash outflows; they were in position to plan their farm activities better and determine whether farm activities were profitable or not.

As Mukono ZARDI we realized that we can only make a contribution to improving farmers' livelihoods by appreciating their attitudes, perception and needs and work together as "PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT". What do you think?

MUZARDI Partners with JICA on NERICA Rice

Rice production has increased rapidly during the past few years within the Lake Victoria Crescent Agro-ecological Zone. This is mainly because farmers reap higher returns from the crop compared to other foods like bananas, cassava and sweet potato. Production has been boosted by the increased demand for rice within the country which can be attributed to the changing eating habits of people. Even then, the amount of rice consumed in Uganda (estimated at 162,000 metric tonnes in 2007) is still higher than that which is produced (102,000 metric tonnes). MUZARDI and JICA have formed a partnership to meet the ever increasing demands for rice by developing and promoting sustainable rice production technologies.

JICA began collaborating with MUZARDI on the NERICA Rice Promotion Project (NRPP) in September 2008. This project, which runs from September 2008 to August 2011, is one of the three under JICA's Rice promotion programme in Uganda. The overall goal of this programme is to see that rice is produced adequately for self sufficiency and farmers' incomes are enhanced through the increased production and productivity of rice in Uganda. The purpose of the NRPP in particular is to improve NERICA rice production both in quantity and quality within its project area, Uganda.

One of the key outputs of the NRPP is enhanced research and extension capacity of NERICA (upland and lowland) research systems in NaCRRI and all ZARDI's. The capacity of NARO ZARDI scientists in rice research has consequently been enhanced through trainings which have been conducted periodically since the projects' inception. A team of 4 staff members from MUZARDI attended 4 trainings that were held between December 2008 and June 2009. The trainings covered various topics including upland rice cultivation, seed multiplication, post harvest handling, establishment of NERICA demonstrations/trials, experimental design and statistical analysis, rainfall and temperature data processing and pest and disease control in rice. The trainings were conducted by JICA rice experts at NaCRRI, Namulonge.

Besides capacity building through training, other activities were carried out by MUZARDI under the NRPP (September 2008 to June 2009) with technical support from JICA. These activities are linked to both research and training and they include a NERICA rice demonstration, a weeding effect trial on NERICA rice and seed multiplication of NERICA varieties 1, 4 and 10. Activities that are yet to be done through this collaboration include rice condition surveys, farmer trainings and other trials. Through the on-station and on-farm activities that are part of the NRPP, the Institute plans to promote NERICA rice among farmers, students and other clients within the Lake Victoria Crescent Agro-ecological Zone.



JICA team and MUZARDI staff Inspect one of the NERICA rice trial sites at the Institute

Bridging the Information gap through the Zonal Information Resource Centre (IRC)

Mukono ZARDI realized that the world today is an "information society" and there is an ever- increasing demand for information in all aspects of human activity. The right to information has become a basic condition for human and social development.

In order to facilitate knowledge exchange and bring information nearer to the clients in the zone, the Institute set up a Zonal Resource Centre (ZRC). This Resource Centre serves the Lake Victoria Crescent zone but is also open to research and development actors, students and farmers from other zones.



The resource centre at MUZARDI

The ZRC has a total number of 54 video recordings of most of the Institute activities and the communities where MUZARDI has done work. Information has been stored on CDs, DVD and printed tailored reports, which are all available on request. A number of stakeholders have benefited from viewing these videotapes that include Banana bacterial wilt disease and management, and Farmers' Indigenous Technical Knowledge, among others.

Those who enjoy photographs can also treat themselves to wonderful photographs of our various activities that include memories of our numerous visitors. For those who prefer reading printed text, we have various reading materials that include books on various subjects like health plus agricultural Research and Development. We also have a total number of 693 Newsletters, 622 fliers, pamphlets and 5 posters. These information materials consist of Institute work and Research Technological innovations, a collection of 550 scientific articles published in Uganda Journal of Agricultural Science (UJAS) and 921articles from CTA. You can also enjoy the daily stories in the National Newspapers that are placed in the ZRC ranging from the years 2001-2010

Farming communities today are facing a multitude of constraints that reduce crop productivity. In spite of successful agricultural technologies and innovations, majority of the farmers are not getting upper-bound yields due to several reasons. One of the reasons is that expert/scientific advice regarding crop and animal production is not reaching farming communities in a timely period. Farmers need timely expert advice to make them more productive and competitive. Please do not remain uninformed, come and utilize the resources at the Resource Centre at Mukono ZARDI.

Three MUZARDI Scientists win Prestigious AWARD Fellowship

Three women scientists at MUZARDI scooped the prestigious African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Fellowship in 2009. Dr. Beatrice Akello Omonuk and Dr. Ruth Kabanyoro were among 15 African women selected from the post-doctoral category while Ms Sarah Mutonyi was selected from 24 in the post Bachelors category.

They were among 60 ladies selected from a pool of some 500 ladies competing from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia and Uganda. The AWARD Fellowship covering a two-year period offers a package to fast track the careers of African women scientists so as to increase the scientist's contribution in the fight against hunger and poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. The package includes provision of training and resources designed to strengthen science and leadership skills, enhance visibility and networking and opportunities for sharing knowledge to inspire the next generation of women scientists.

A key component of the fellowship is mentoring of the Fellows by more Senior scientists. Dr. B. Akello is being mentored by Dr. Emily Twinamasiko –Director,Research Coordination, NARO while Dr. Ruth Kabanyoro is under the mentorship of Dr. Theresa Sengooba – regional coordinator Biosafety program of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). Ms Sarah Mutonyi's mentor is Dr. Goretti Nabanoga- Dean Faculty of Forestry & Nature Conservation in Makerere University.



Dr. Beatrice Akello Omonuk



Dr. Ruth Kabanyoro



Ms. Sarah Mutonyi

End of Year outing by Mukono ZARDI staff at Ssese Gate way beach

In March 2009, MUZARDI staff enjoyed yet another day out at Ssese Gate way beach Entebbe. The day was graced by the Chairman Management committee, Dr. Kimuli Vincent and his wife, the Institute Director and staff. This day was characterized by socialization among different categories of Institute top management and other staff members. In previous years the Institute had organized similar functions at the Institute for socialization purposes as well as rewarding the best performers of the year with prizes.

This time, the day consisted of giving birthday presents to staff for the period of January to March 2009 and bidding farewell to Ms. Saori Nagai, a Japanese Volunteer, who had served at the Institute in the Horticulture section for the previous two years. During her stay, Ms. Nagai introduced and shared with staff knowledge on Japanese vegetables as well as indigenous herbal species (management and disease control).

This important information could be utilized by Mukono ZARDI staff and the clients in the zone to improve on their health as well as cure diseases i.e. "Chamomile tea promotes gastric secretions and improves appetite, while an infusion can be used as an internal antiseptic"(Report by Saori Nagai). In appreciation of her work, she was presented with a gift by the Chairman Management Committee, Dr. Kimuli.
The following staff members also received birthday presents; Ahmed Jemba, Kasozi, Milly Namirembe, Immaculate Mugisa, Maria Nampeera, Winfred Nakyagaba, Damalie Magala and Deborah Irotu.

The Master of Ceremony, Dr. Moses Mwesigwa, passed a vote of thanks to the Institute Director, Mr. Peter Lusembo for organizing such a good outing for staff to socialize and have fun after the year's work. He also appreciated the Chairman Management Committee, Dr. Vincent Kimuli for sparing time to come and share in the joy of the staff.

After the awarding of presents, the staff were treated to refreshments and a delicious snack of fish and chips. In the afternoon they enjoyed playing games like football and volleyball as they listened to music.



Staff enjoying themselves at Ssese gate way beach

Fruits: Tahiti the wonder Lime

If there should be a single tree you need to plant right away, it must be Tahiti Lime. Tahiti lime is a fruit tree in the citrus family that has attracted visitors coming to Mukono ZARDI, because of its attractive appearance. Many Ugandans are aware of oranges, tangerines and lemon among the citrus, but not this beautiful fruit.

Tahiti lime is sometimes called 'Bears lime' or 'Persian lime' and is a small fruit tree reaching a height of 20ft (5m) under optimum condition with a round canopy hanging to the ground. Although its exact origin is unknown, it is assumed to have appeared as a home plant in California USA about 1875 and is believed to have originated from seeds of citrus fruits imported from Tahiti to San Francisco sometime after 1850. It has dark green and oval leaves that persist for 3 years on the tree. Flowers are white fragrant and are born in clusters of 5 to 10 on new shoots. The fruit is medium dark green at maturity and becomes yellowish before dropping off the tree. When grown pure, the fruit is seedless with a high acid content of 5-6% and juice volume content of 45-55%.

Some plants may show the first flowers (blooming) in less than a year but often most of them abort because the tree is not strong enough to support the numerous fruits produced. However, most trees bloom in less than 2 years and continue fruiting all the year round with heavy peaks around the months of April-Aug. Yields per fruit range from 108 to 304 fruits per plant per bloom.

Because of its relatively high acidic content the fruits have been found to have several advantages like; prevention and cure of colds, cough and flue. At the same time, because of its juice volume content if mixed with other fruits like passion fruits; it gives juice a wonderful flavor and aroma.

According to Mrs. Robinah Gafabusa the officer in charge of Horticulture, seedlings are produced by grafting scions of Tahiti lime on rough lemon plants. At the MUZARDI, usually over 90% of successful grafts are achieved. The Institute has an orchard for production of scions, fruits as well for study purposes.

Since 2003, the Institute has supplied these seedlings to interested farmers who have given wonderful testimonies and here are some of their testimonies;

- **The seedlings are easy to plant, since they** don't need a special garden and can be grown in the compounds or in any space around the homes.
- **My children have been taking Tahiti lime** most of the time and now they rarely suffer from flue. If they happen to get flue and immediately take it they don't suffer much.
- **Tahiti lime produces continuous fruits under** good management.
- **It matures and produces fruits in a short** period of 1 -2 years
- **Tahiti Lime does not require intensive** labour
- **"I have found a hotel that needs the fruits** for garnishing their food" one farmer said.
- **"It is a dwarf fruit tree that makes the** compound beautiful" another said.

Soils and site selection

Like any citrus tree, Lime trees are well adapted to soils with good internal and surface drainage. Growth on heavy clays or poorly- drained soils will be reduced and problematic, as they do not tolerate flooding. For optimum growth and productivity, sunny conditions are necessary.

Propagation

Either T-budding or inverted T- budding onto a lemon (sour orange) rootstock has been used at the Institute and usually is preferred as the best means of propagation. This method of propagation gives resistance to phytophthora root and foot rot diseases.

Planting and establishing

Planting should be done at the beginning of the rainy season at the spacing of 20ft X 20ft (please use metric units). Holes should be 2ft wide and 2ft deep. The topsoil is mixed with manure and ½ kg of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) for root establishment. While mulching is practiced by most farmers, it is not usually recommended for lime (citrus in general) because it increases the possibility of the trees contracting foot rot disease.

In case it is done, it should be applied at least a foot away from the trunk. Please, get seedlings of the wonder lime from Mukono ZARDI.



A nursery attendant at the Institute admires Tahiti fruits

In our previous edition, we published a pictorial of the senior staff at MUZARDI. In this edition we are publishing; the Technical and support staff at MUZARDI



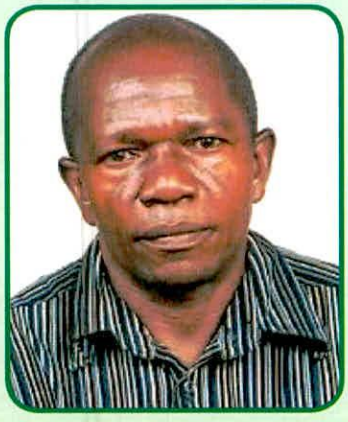
Robinah Gafabusa, Technician Horticulture



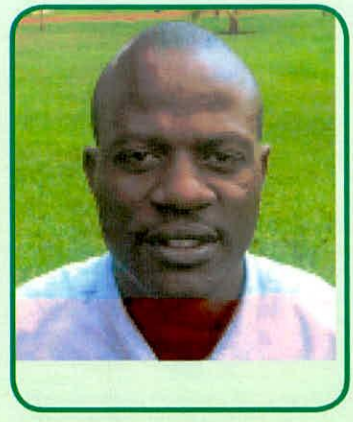
George Kituuka, Crop Technician



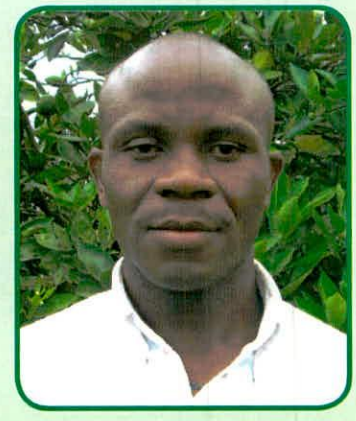
Godfrey Biso, Technician Perennial crops



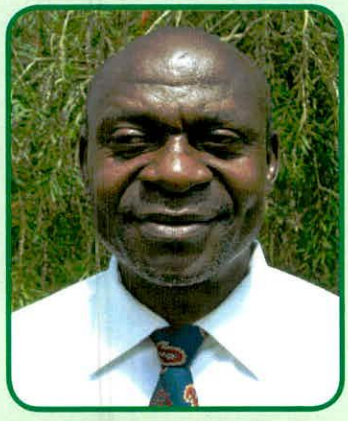
Grace Bazanya, Technician Agro forestry



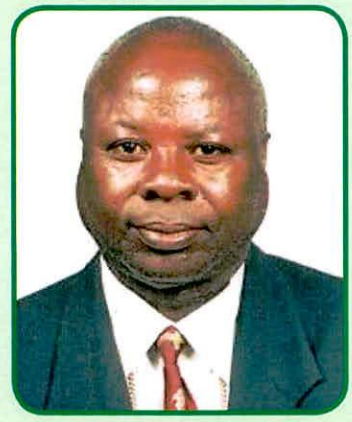
Richard Lumu, Technician Livestock



Robert Lukabwe, Technician Livestock



Moses Sentongo, Technician Mechanization



Sam Nsibambi, Technician Mechanization



Berna Nalwanga, Store keeper



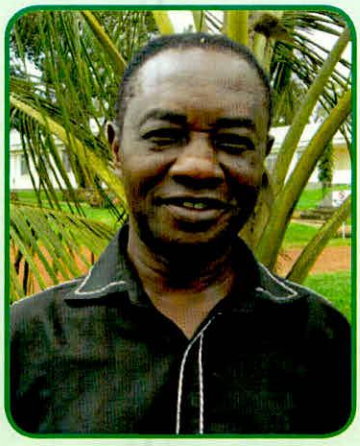
Stella Kabiri
Crop Entomologist



Robert Mutyaba
Systems Administrator



Tina Ntege
Ag. Ass. Human Resource



John Kabonge,
Warden



Teo Namirimu
Project staff



Milly K. Namirembe
Office attendant



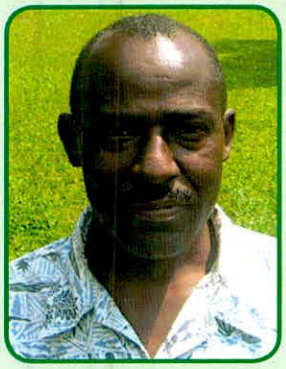
Teddy Balungi
Office attendant



Fatuma Baluka
Office attendant



Ahmed Jemba
Driver



Francis Kasamba
Driver

Why Demonstrate Research Findings?



Sprinkler/overhead irrigation at MUZARDI

How will they know unless someone tells them, and how can they demand unless they are knowledgeable.

I was recently stunned by a farmer's experience. He narrated that while visiting in the UK, he saw for the first time irrigation on small farm holdings. He was impressed but thought this was a class ahead since he had not seen it anywhere in Uganda. His next visit was in Kenya where he discovered farmers using drip irrigation on their farms. This was close but still not in Uganda.

When this farmer returned home in Lugazi town along the Kampala Jinja High way, he discussed with friends about his new interest in irrigated agriculture and where he had seen it. He simply wished a Ugandan would be able to make such installations. Knowing NARO as a research Institution, a colleague suggested he visited any near-by Institution just in case.

The first stop over was at NARO Mukono ZARDI and right there, about 200m from the main entry, lay the hunted- for-treasure. This farmer requested for a technical person to take him through the pros and cons of the technology. About two weeks later the farmer requested that this technical person visits his field in Najjembe to advise him on the possibility of installation and financial implications. Amazingly, he did not remember what type of micro irrigation he had seen at MUZARDI. "In Kenya," he recalled, "there is no wastage of agricultural water, the irrigation system simply emits water where it is needed." In this he was referring to the drip system which is also under demonstration at MUZARDI. When this was pointed out he admitted that he was overjoyed to see the technology in Uganda.



Drip irrigation

The only challenge of the proposed installation was now money. This farmer told the writer how he had been frustrated by some money-lending organizations for quite some time. This potential commercial farmer reported that his original loan request was slashed to half and has not accessed it yet. So this is a gap that government needs to devise means in order to facilitate such farmers.

There are many more technologies under demonstration at MUZARDI for interested parties that could easily be appreciated and adopted. Farmers through their groups could organize trips to NARO Institutes to enhance demand driven research.

NARO Ntawo FC, a team to reckon

NARO Ntawo FC, a team to reckon with Soccer has been identified as one of the ways that NARO, as an organization, can better be recognized to serve its social cooperate responsibility. Mukono ZARDI has therefore facilitated the establishment of NARO Ntawo Football Club since 2005.

The main objectives of the Institute support to the team is to advertise the Institute's image and activities to the communities of Mukono and beyond. It is also to develop the football talent in the young generation in the community and NARO staff and to strengthen the Institute relationship with the neighboring community and other development partners in the sports arena.

With the Institute support, the team was registered with Mukono District Football Association (MDFA) which has enabled it to participate in the National football League at the level of second division clubs under FUFA zone 13 which covers Kayunga and Mukono districts.

Over a period, the Institute has developed a team of young men of 18-25 years with good potential in the sport that can be considered at National level.

The achievements of the team so far include: its registration to MDFA, where it is ranked among the second division clubs and the top five teams in Mukono district. The team is famous for its highest degree of discipline for three consecutive seasons 2005/2006, 2006/07 and 2007/08.



Members of NARO Ntawo Football club

Between 2004 -2008 NARO Ntawo Football club has had a good number of its players being identified for both under 17 youth tournament as well as the inter school Post primary football tournament in Mukono district sub zone of FUFA zone 13. In the previous season, the team qualified and participated in the Buganda super mini zonal league that was held at Bukalasa College in Luwero district and reached the quarter final stage. With the above achievements, the sky is the limit for the team which is already performing very well in the 1st and 2nd round season of 2010.

Dr. Moses Mwesigwa's story: Studying Animal Production and Health in Egypt

If you thought the land of the Pharaohs (Egypt) was all about sand dunes and melting temperatures; you are mistaken. Let me bring you highlights about the 11 weeks course (October 1st, 2007 to December 15th, 2007) I attended in The Arab Republic of Egypt; at the Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture (EICA).

Our class had 56 (fifty six) participants from Africa, Asia, Latin America, China, Balkans and the Caribbean. Each participant was required to speak at least one of the following languages- English, Spanish, Arabic or French. The course included Study Trips and Farm Study Tours and Practical Trainings: El Arabia Co. For Animal Production, Camel and Sheep Farming, International Livestock Management Training Centre (ILMTC).



Dr.Moses Mwesigwa seated 3rd right infront of the Egyptian pyramids

Objectives

The course was intended to update participants about the knowledge of animal production and health. Each of the participants was also required to make a report regarding the status quo of animal production in the home country.

Farming in Egypt

Egypt has a total population of 76 million (2007), of which 80% live along the green belt of the River Nile basin and the Nile delta (which is just 10%) of the country, which is 7 times the size of Uganda. Farming is only possible by Irrigation, and the Egyptian Government, through its Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation has dug 45sq. km irrigation canals throughout the country to enable farmers irrigate their crops-mainly cereals and annual crops.

Among the animals kept are cows, domestic buffallos and camels, sheep, goats, poultry and pigs (12% of the populations are not Muslims).However, Buffalo and camel meat is the commonest in the market preferably from young animals of about 6 months. This type of meat is called ballad. When you ever go there do not miss unleavened bread sand-wiched with meat called 'shawalima'.

Egypt is so dry that in one governorate called Al Fayoum, we found a 42 year old man who told us that he reads in books something called rainfall but he has never seen it.

Life in Egypt

Life in Misr (as the natives spell and call their country) is interesting and adventurous.

The only language spoken in Egypt, just like all other North African countries and the Middle East is Arabic. Mosques are everywhere, and at prayer time sounds of call for prayer cover the entire Governorate of Mohhandesin in the heart of the second largest capital city in Africa – Cairo, where I resided most of the time. Traffic in Egypt is very fast and people drive.

To say that people smoke a lot is an understatement, almost every body above teenage age smokes. And this is reflected in

the high incidences of lung cancers.

All along I thought Asalam aleikum was a reserved greeting for Muslims, but I was surprised when I went to a Christian church (mainly Greek Orthodox) and every body, including the priest greeted the congregation that 'Asalam aleikum'. I later learnt that it is simply a salutation meaning "peace be with you". Tours and travel is one of the biggest income generating activities in Egypt due to the many ancient political, religious and archeological sites in the country.

Some of the wonders in Egypt include:-

1. The great pyramids at Giza and Sakkara built in 6000BC.
2. The Valley of the Kings at Luxor, where 62 Pharaohs were buried- the last and youngest 19 year old Pharaoh (Tutankhamen) was buried here 3500 BC.
3. The great Citadel built in 6400BC.
4. The home of baby Jesus at the time when Herod wanted to kill him.
5. The great temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel in South Egypt.
6. The biggest man made lake in the world Lake Nasser.
7. Climbing Mt. Sinai and many others.

From this course I learnt to explain to our farmers to appreciate the excellent climate Uganda has, which can be used to sustainably grow crops for this country to serve as the food basket of Africa.

Appointments and Promotions

Appointments and Promotions The period of July 08-June 09 saw a number of staff being appointed and others recommended for promotions.

Ms. Kyampeire Barbara appointed (Librarian/ information officer)

Ms. Stella Kabiri was appointed Crop Scientist (Entomologist),

Mr. George Kituuka was appointed Technician

Mrs. Deborah Irotu Mwebya was promoted from Finance Officer to Senior Finance Officer

Ms. Cecilia Abasereti was promoted from Assistant Auditor to Auditor

Mrs. Gafabusa Robinah promoted from Technician to Senior Technician.

Departures

Mr.Umar Kombo Crop Entomologist left the institute

Obituary



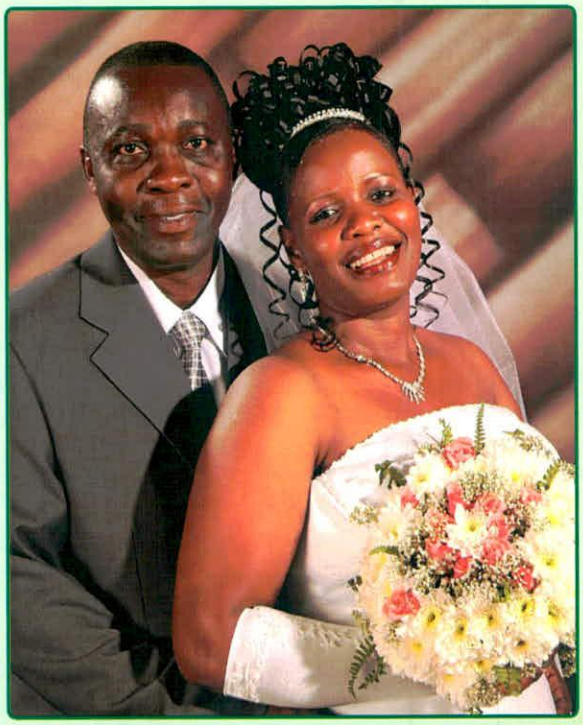
Ms Anna Maria Kiwooma (R.I.P) member of Mukono ZARDI Management Committee **passed on, on the night of 4th August 2008**

Wedding bells at Mukono ZARDI

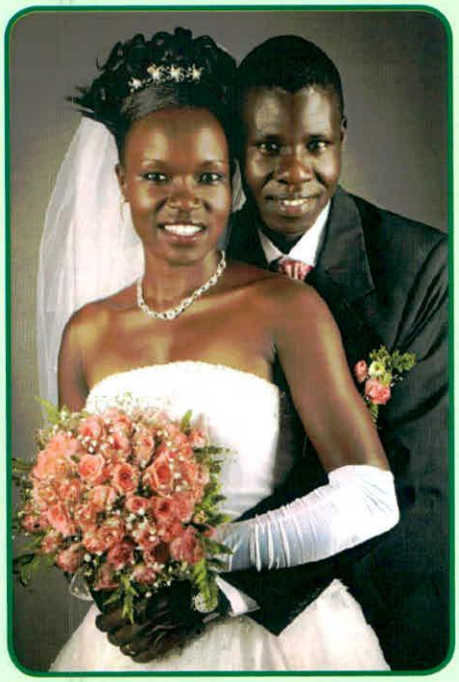
The years 2008-09 brought smiles to the Institute with four ladies walking down the aisle. The following are the pictures of the respective couples.



Mr. &Mrs Joseph and Beatrice Omonuk



Mr & Mrs. Joseph and Winfred Sserwanga



Mr& Mrs Geoffrey and Immaculate Ojara



Mr. & Mrs. Francis and Losira Sanya

MUZARDI

P.O. Box 164 Mukono - Uganda, Tel: +256 - 414 - 290 232, Fax: +256-414- 290 235
Email: mknardc@africaonline.co.ug