AGROFORESTRY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR RESEARCH IN WEST NILE AGRO-ECOLOGICAL ZONE (WNAEZ)

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Background Information

- Abi ZARDI offices are located in Arua district. The institute serves the entire WNAEZ comprising seven districts (Nebbi, Arua, Maracha/Terego, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo and Adjumani).
- Mandate of Abi ZARDI; Conduct applied and adaptive agricultural research and facilitate dissemination of appropriate technologies in WNAEZ.
- Goal: Improve the West Nile farming systems for poverty eradication and food security while sustaining the natural resource base.

Back ground cont'd

- The high altitude sub zone, is above 800m above sea level, it covers Nyapea and Paidah in Nebbi district, Arivu and Logiri in Arua District.
- Mid altitude sub zone, is between 700-800m above sea level, it covers all the districts in the region
- The low altitude sub zone, is below 700m above sea level, this covers the areas along the Nile basin

State of agroforestry practices in WAEZ

- A base line survey carried out on agroforestry practices in the WNAEZ in May 2008 showed that the state of agroforestry in the region is still low, much as many people in the region practice agroforestry, they do it without the formal knowledge. This therefore calls for more work to be done in the area of research and extension.

Agroforestry practices in the WAEZ

- The most common agroforestry practice in WNAEZ is trees scattered in the crop land. This practice is carried out in all the three sub zones, though it is most common in the mid and low altitude areas.
- Practices like fodder banks, are found mostly at low altitude and contour establishment at high altitude sub zones
- Other practices in all the sub zones include, woodlots, boundary planting, live fences and wind breaks

Agroforestry challenges in the WNAEZ

- Pests and diseases
- Lack of seedlings
- Stray animals
- Inadequate knowledge,
- Small land holdings.
- Draught.
- In adequate market for agroforestry products

Research opportunities

- There is need to document indigenous knowledge of farmers on trees and tree crop interactions in the WNAEZ
- There is need to set up adaptive trials for the various agroforestry technologies deemed fit for the problems in the various sub zones to assess farmers response to the technologies.

Research opportunities cont'd

- There is need to develop an agroforestry technology with farmers to cub the problem of stray animals in the West Nile region.
- There is the problem of mango fruit flies in the region. Research is needed in development of mango lines that are resistant to the fruit flies

Research opportunities cont'd

- Need to carry out research on domestication, propagation and interaction of some indigenous tree species treasured by the people of west Nile, especially *Vatex doniana, Balanyte egyptiaca, Vitellaria paradoxum* and *Tamarinda indica* with crops.
- There is need to carry out market survey for agroforestry products in the WNAEZ.

Conclusion

- The biggest problem facing agroforestry in WNAEZ in particular and Uganda in general still remains the long time taken by trees to mature. This therefore calls for all the agroforestry scientists to venture into research that can lead to reduction in the maturity period of the trees and improvement of the fruit attributes of the treasured indigenous tree species.

THE END

Thank you for listening.