AFRICA: BEAN ENTOMOLOGY

Activity 1. Bean IPM Promotion in eastern, central and southern Africa.

Rationale

The promotion of bean IPM strategies among bean farming communities in eastern and southern Africa had in the past three seasons focused mainly on the management of bean insect pests using both traditional and improved technologies. During the reporting period however, the dimension of the promotional activities was expanded through additional funding support to include the promotion and dissemination of products/outputs from other bean research projects. These include disease tolerant germplasm, improved high yielding pest tolerant varieties and soil fertility management technologies that have been generated from activities supported by different NARS programmes, ECABREN, CIAT, NGOs and other active partners.

Methodology: The participatory approach involving innovative farmers, farmer groups and locally active partners from the local government administration (policy makers, extension personnel, etc.), NGOs, community based organisations-CBOs (civil and religious), local schools and the private sector (market traders and input suppliers) continued to be adopted. Participating farmers, collaborators and partners at activity sites continued to play the major role in planning, implementation and evaluation of project activities with backstopping from the other stakeholders. Traditional and improved pest management technologies were promoted in pilot and satellite sites. Farmers were reached through the standard farmer field school (FFS) approach in the case of south western Uganda and parts of western Kenya, and the modified farmer field school approach (MFFS), i.e. farmer research group (FRG) approach as were the cases in parts of Kisii site in western Kenya, northern and southern Tanzania and central Malawi. Linkages with existing partners was maintained and strengthened. New farmers, farmer groups and partners joined in to support and participate in project activities. The MEDIEA Company Ltd produced a radio programme (Pilika Pilika) on agricultural production, i.e. crops (with focus on beans) and livestock in Kiswahili. The programme has been on air in 4 national radio stations (3 private, 1 public) in Tanzania from March 2004. Pilot studies in to document community behaviour in IPDM uptake have been initiated with a Masters degree student in Hai district site in northern Tanzania. More and new promotional materials were prepared and distributed to target village information centres and partners.

Findings/Observations

Project activities and IPDM awareness creation have spread to wider and new areas during the reporting period and more farmers have received the message **(Table 1)**. The participatory farmer research group approach, farmer meetings, field demonstrations combined with field days and exchange visits), promotional materials including farmer activity reports, village information centres, small seed packets, local farmer seed displays and exchanges, visits to farmer groups (by local administrators and policy makers, donor representatives, CIAT DG and other staff), radio, etc. are proving to be very effective tools in getting the message to the bean farming communities. Observations show that these tools work differently at different sites depending on the community culture and behaviour. No one tool seem to be self propelling at any of the active

sites. Participating and non participating farmers are happy with the approach of involvement in management of their own resources. Partners are willing to contribute to costs involved in farmer exchange visits when such activities are linked to areas of priority for their development goals in those particular communities.

The government policy makers in each of the participating countries (Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda) have declared a "YES" to the community group approach. Tanzania has gone ahead to declare the community group approach for its district focus new national planning policy in rural development and community empowerment for food security, poverty eradication and in addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In the uptake studies, 39 farmer groups (out of 77) in 27 villages (out of 54) in Hai district, northern Tanzania have been surveyed. Data processing is in progress. Project promotional materials have been on high demand by participating and non- participating partners. Postage on the CIAT website has led to demands from outside the continent, e.g. a recent request on the leaflet on "Cultivation of climbing beans" from Chile.

Table 1. Spread of bean IPDM project message in eastern, central and southern Africa as per June 2004.

Pilot Site	Satellite Sites	Number of Farmers Reached with at least 1 Technology	Estimated Number of Farmers aware of Bean IPDM Message
Malawi (Dedza)	Kasungu	500	> 1000
Tanzania - Southern (Mbeya and Mbozi)	Mbeya, Mbozi, Iringa, Njombe, Chunya,	7000	>10000
Tanzania - Northern (Hai, Lushoto, Arumeru)	Babati, Rombo, Moshi,	8800	>31000
Kenya (Kisii, Kabondo)	Homabay, Gucha, Marani, Rachuonyo, Vihiga, Hamisi, Kakamega	2500	>3000
Uganda	Kabale, Bushenyi, Kisoro, Iganga		
DR Congo	Katana, Kavumu, Mudaka		
Rwanda	Runyinya		

Discussion: The FFS and FRG members and participating partners were instrumental in training new farmers and helping in the formation of groups. For example, in south-western Uganda, the Kabamare FFS members trained 4 new groups including a polytechnic school community. The FFS group leader has trained several neighboring farmers, helped in setting up demonstrations for the five groups at his site and trained groups collaborating with other partners including NGOs. The whole concept is to use trained farmer groups to be trainers community members at their locations. These innovators were also the key players in spreading the word by mouth to neighbouring farmers and relatives and to the various visitors. Farmers were very happy learning together, sharing information, experiences and resources (e.g. seed, etc.). For example, Rombo district farmers invited by Shari village IPDM groups in Hai (~ 150 km away) for field day with a bean seed sharing event in March 2004, brought local bean seed for 6 different cultivars and in exchange they selected both improved (from bean programme) and local bean cultivar seed from Hai to experiment with in Rombo. In the same field day, visiting Babati

farmers collaborating with and sponsored by Farm Africa, also selected some of the bean seed for experimentation in their fields.

The tools used in disseminating bean and other crop and livestock production products among bean farming communities have helped the project reach farmers beyond expectation. The radio programme in Tanzania, has played a key role in sending the message across communities in the past six months because every bean growing community that we have interacted with have farmers asking questions pertaining to the programme captions. Some of the farmers have participated in the radio question time and won prizes that were contributed by the national bean research programme (improved bean seed packs) and the IPDM project (leaflets).

More farmers in Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda have accessed the improved high yielding and pest tolerant bean variety seeds (from the national programmes) and high yielding pest tolerant germplasm (from NARS, ECABREN and CIAT). Dissemination of improved pest tolerant bean varieties particularly focused on products generated in previous bean research projects in the southern highlands of Tanzania, Malawi and Uganda. Despite the unreliable weather conditions that prevailed in most areas in the region during the past bean production period, a number of farmers received the seed and some were able to harvest the grain.

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