

# PRiDe II NEWSLETTER November 2020

## OUR RICE



## OUR PRIDE

### Big Harvest at MFS demo-site motivates farmers in Lira District

As the second season (2020B) comes to an end, harvesting at Musomesa Field School (MFS) demo-sites is underway. Out of the four MFS sites established in 2020B, one upland site in Agweng sub county, Lira district was harvested on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020. About 10 bags of NERICA 4 (each 104kgs) were harvested from the half acre of upland field planted in Oromo village giving a yield of about 5t/ha. The high yield has brought satisfaction and high motivation among the farmers that participated in training at the Musomesa Field School. During the harvest, farmers were taught how to make and use a wooden

thresher alongside the motorised thresher.

The graduation ceremony followed the harvest training and thirty (30) farmers were awarded with certificates to conclude the season 2020B in Lira. The chairman of Oromo Farmers Group, Mr. Benson Oddo, thanked the JICA PRiDe Project for the support to the community. He assured that more farmers will adopt rice farming since it gives high yields and a better income than the other crops in their area such as soya bean.

At other MFS sites in Kitagwenda, Budaka and Bugweri, rice is still at full heading stage and growing well.



*Project staff, Mr. Tendo (second from the right) teaching farmers how to make a wooden thresher*



*Farmers with their certificates after graduation ceremony*

### Preliminary National Performance Trial (Pre-NPT)

Pre-NPT 2020B is on-going smoothly at the selected sites at Doho Irrigation scheme, Ngetta ZARDI, Ikulwe station - Buginyanya ZARDI and NaCRRRI. The fields are promising with beneficial experiment results for most of the varieties.

In Butaleja, Doho Irrigation scheme, weeding was done and corrugated plastic sheets were set up in the experiment field. This will assist in controlling rat damage, give desired irrigation to the experiment plots and also indirectly help in making an effect of fertiliser. Through periodic communication with the ZARDI staff, the Project is able to monitor the field condition in the other sites.



*Corrugated plastic iron sheets being set up in Doho NPT field*

## Survey on the Fertiliser use by rice farmers

The PRiDe II project is considering how rice farmers especially in lowland areas can adopt fertilizer use by developing the Fertilizer starter pack programme. A survey was conducted during the period of 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>/11/2020 in Eastern Uganda (Mayuge, Bugweri, Bugiri and Budaka districts), involving farmers trained under MFS and agro-chemical shops closest to the farmers. The survey focused mainly on the types and amounts of fertilizers used by rice farmers and also the possibility of collaborating with the PRiDe Project on the starter pack programme. According to the result of the PRiDe II baseline survey in May 2019, in Uganda, rice yield can be increased up to 5t/ha and 3t/ha for lowland and upland rice, respectively in farmers' field. This can be greatly achieved not only by improved techniques but also with appropriate input use.

The idea of developing a fertilizer starter pack was greatly welcomed by both farmers and agro-dealers and when implemented, it is expected to improve farmers' knowledge about fertilisers and their utilisation.



*PRiDe II team during the fertiliser start park survey in Mayuge with farmers and agro-chemical shop owners*

## Training of Farmers by Musomesa

A Rice Instructor "Musomesa" has important roles to perform after graduating the MFS, such as dissemination of rice cultivation techniques to other farmers within their community. Some of the Musomesa graduates of 2019B season in Arua and Koboko districts conducted Training of Farmers (TOF) with technical backstopping from the Agricultural Officers (AOs), ZARDI staff, and PRiDe project staff. A total of 104 farmers from several villages were trained and each farmer received 1kg of NERICA 4 seed to plant in the coming season.

Besides that, an officer from the Directorate of Agricultural Extension-MAAIF, Mr. Steven Magume oversaw the training and applauded the enthusiasm and knowledge of

trainers of the day. He also urged AOs to effectively utilize the MFS trained farmers to increase rice production in Uganda.



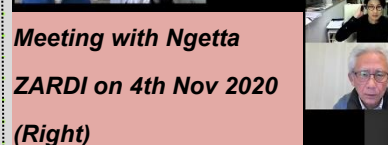
*Farmers practicing sowing with a planting fork*

## Collaborating with ZARDIs

At the beginning of November, PRiDe II held meetings with 4 ZARDIs (Buginyanya, Bulindi, Ngetta and Rwebitaba). JICA Experts shared progress of the project activities such as MFS activities and Preliminary NPTs with the Director of each ZARDI. ZARDIs focal persons to the project explained about activities in their institutes and shared tough issues in proceeding research activities. Once the project Experts return to Uganda, they will visit each ZARDI to discuss the collaborative work plan, clarify each role in the plan and also address some of the issues.



*Meeting with Bulindi ZARDI on 2nd Nov 2020 (Left)*



*Meeting with Ngetta ZARDI on 4th Nov 2020 (Right)*



*Meeting with Rwebitaba ZARDI on 10th Nov 2020 (Left)*

