

PRiDe II NEWSLETTER December 2020

OUR RICE



OUR PRIDE

Happy New Year !! Greetings from the PRiDe II Project ! We are happy to announce that the PRiDe experts have returned to Uganda. PRiDe II managed project activities from April to middle of December 2020 under the remote instructions by the experts and close cooperation with counterparts such as MAAIF, NARO and Local Governments. PRiDe II would like to wish everyone a happy new year !

Achievements of MFS 2020B Season



PRiDe staff - left (Mr. Anguzu), center (Mr. Bayega) and ZARDI Researcher collecting samples to determine yield from on farm trial in Budaka

The second season of 2020 (2020B) has come to an end. Despite the effects of COVID – 19 pandemic in Uganda, activities of the Musomesa Field Schools (MFS) were carried out successfully and the rice at the mother demo—sites has been harvested except Bugweri District. Farmers who graduated from the MFS have adopted the improved rice cultivation techniques on their farms and are expected to transfer the knowledge to other farmers in the areas. Total graduates at each MFS are; Kitagwenda—28 farmers, Lira—30 farmers, Budaka—12 farmers and 12 farmers are expected to graduate in Bugweri in January 2021. Graduate farmers are now practising line planting with other

cultivation techniques such as several weeding works and securing unmixed seed for a better yield in the next season. In Budaka, PRiDe II staff conducted a yield survey and the expected harvest is about 4t/ha. During the MFS graduation ceremony at the end of December, farmers thanked JICA and PRiDe II for equipping them with the appropriate skills for rice cultivation. They agreed that utilization of the knowledge they learned during the MFS training will increase the productivity and improve quality of rice.



Farmers in Kitagwenda threshing rice with a motorized thresher

Agriculture Officer in Bugweri (Mr. Sharif) carrying harvested rice



Farmers in Kitagwenda threshing rice using a wooden thresher

Monitoring Farmers' Fields & Seed Management

Seed production and management on farmers' fields are key activities under the MFS. PRiDe II with Buginyanya ZARDI staff carried out this training in Bugweri to share knowledge on how to purify seed for the next season. They also monitored several farmers' fields to observe application of improved cultivation techniques which farmers learned during MFS activities, such as line planting, weeding, fertilizer application. Farmers who implement most of the techniques graduate as Rice Musomesa.



Farmers participating in demarcation of seed production plot on MFS demo site

Pre - National Performance Trials (NPT)

The PRiDe II project staff are working closely with the ZARDI staff to ensure that Pre-NPTs in the selected sites are progressing steadily. In the Pre-NPT field at Namulonge, the rice is at the booting stage and other sites; Ikulwe, Doho and Ngetta, at the heading stage and fertilizer has been applied. All sites are carrying out regular weeding to ensure that the Pre-NPT fields yield beneficial experiment results.



A field worker weeding in the Pre-NPT field—NaCRRI, Namulonge

Field Experiments

In Uganda, soil infertility is one of the causes of low yield in lowland rice fields. Actually, enough knowledge of the effective specific major nutrients and their respective optimum rates has not been obtained.

A lot of smallholder farmers in Uganda do not have sufficient chances to learn how to manage Nitrogen efficiently and how to respond variability in soils.

In NaCRRI, Namulonge, PRiDe II is carrying out field experiments to determine the effect of nitrogen fertilization in rice field. Results of this kind of experiment will be compiled and shared with farmers through training to increase their rice production and yield. At the same time, such data is equally useful for rice researchers in NARO to make research papers.



Research Assistant, Mr. Bayega Emmanuel (left) harvesting rice samples from the field experiment

PRiDe II Radio Talk Show

PRiDe has been airing a Rice Audio Training in “Lugbar” language on Radio Pacis (90.9FM and 94.5FM) for the West Nile region (Abi ZARDI).

Farmers in the region have widely tuned in, are learning more about rice cultivation and giving feedback through a project established mobile contact. They are thankful to PRiDe II project for reaching out to them through a radio programme amidst the COVID—19 pandemic, especially participants at the MFS demo sites.

As a conclusion to the seasons' audio training, a live talk show will be held on Tuesday, 19th January 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. The programme will be majorly represented by Abi ZARDI staff, Agricultural Officer (Koboko) and a rice Musomesa. They will interact with listeners and answer questions in regards to rice cultivation and PRiDe Project activities.