

OUR RICE,



OUR PRIDE

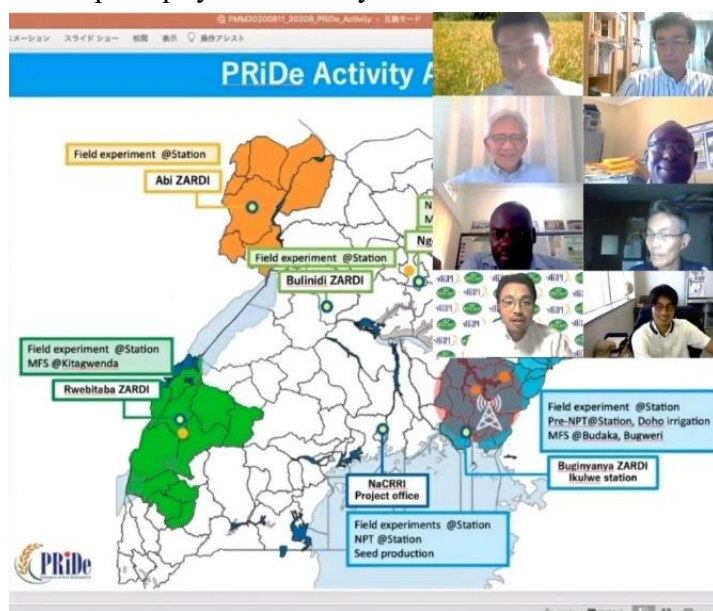
PRiDe II NEWSLETTER August 2020

PRiDe Management Meeting (PMM)

We are happy to inform you that project activities of PRiDe II are ongoing in some districts based on the Government Standard Operating Procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Persons concerned the Project polish ideas and use their ingenuity to move forward with the PDM as much as possible.

PRiDe II held its first ever PRiDe Management Meeting on Zoom connecting in Japan and Uganda since the outbreak of COVID-19. Both the Ugandan counterparts and the Japanese experts discussed how the project should proceed and manage the project activities effectively under COVID-19, and confirmed schedule of research work, seed production and Musomesa Field School (MFS). They also affirmed the importance of close communication through online meeting or SNS like WhatsApp to share updated

movements in Uganda and in Japan to handle any issues promptly and flexibly.



PMM members during a Zoom meeting on 11th August

Musomesa Field School (MFS)

The second season of 2020 (2020B) is now in progress since the end of July. Four sites were selected as MFS sites at the end of July, and will be used with objectives to train farmers for transferring improved rice cultivation techniques. The selected farmers will learn from the MFS demo sites about rice cultivation and as such apply the acquired knowledge to their own farms.

PRiDe II Ugandan project staffs in collaboration with Agricultural Officers and Zonal Subject Matter Specialists (ZSMS) have held group meetings (sensitization workshop) with the purpose of informing

the farmers about the MFS strategy/approach for extension of the project. They also discussed seasonal activities, i.e. planning of technical trainings, on-farm trial and evaluation activities. The first technical training aimed at training farmers for recommended sowing practices in upland sites (Kitagwenda and Lira Districts) and good Nursery bed making techniques in lowland sites (Bugweri and Budaka Districts). MFS of 2020B season will continue until the end of December. Participants of MFS activities put on masks or keep social distancing and sanitize their hands before the training to prevent the infection of the coronavirus.



Farmers learning to make planting lines using a Planting fork (Lira-Upland MFS demo site)



Farmers learning how to plan and record their seasonal activities (Bugweri - Lowland MFS demo site)

Radio Talk Shows

The radio talk show has been of good report from listeners and farmers are calling in inquiring about rice cultivation techniques. Farmers have asked meaningful questions so far, e.g., what herbicides they should apply and how to mix them, different rice diseases and how they can be tackled, what rice varieties are early maturing and suitable for their ecologies. The radio talk show has greatly benefitted rice farmers in Eastern Uganda. Plans are ongoing to have a live talk show in September where farmers will freely call in and interact with NaCRRI, ZARDI and District Local Government Officers on the show.



Project Staff Mr. Tendo (right edge) engaging farmers in one of the audio recording sessions

Research Activities

PRiDe II is conducting field experiments in selected Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institutes (ZARDIs) like Abi, Bulindi and Buginyanya Ikulwe station. This is to develop research capacity building of ZARDIs. In Abi ZARDI, for example, the field experiments are to find out the effect of number of weeding and soil fertility improvement on the yield and economical viability (cost benefits) in upland rice cultivation. This experiment is going to focus on soil fertility and weeding, and will help farmers' rice cultivation in terms of;

- (i) The optimum number of weeding in combination with soil fertility improvement that may result in high rice yields.
- (ii) The cost benefit of using combined good farming practices of soil fertility improvement for upland rice yields.

At Ikulwe station, the experiment is on variety trials

which are to find out suitable varieties that would grow well in the area. Other experiments in ZARDIs like in Bulindi expected to start in September.



Planting in field experiment in Abi ZARDI



PRiDe Uganda

