

PRiDe II NEWSLETTER **October 2020**

OUR RICE

OUR PRIDE



JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Programs

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provides various capacity building programs to benefit many Ugandans in the agricultural sector. Since the beginning of the PRiDe Project in 2011, a number of officers have benefited through the Knowledge Co-Creation Programs organized in Japan. Mr. Peter Kiirya, an Agricultural Officer under Bugiri District Local Government has recently completed seven months training course on, "**Improvement of Rice Cultivation**



Mr. Kiirya Peter giving his final presentation at JICA Tsukuba Centre on 9th October 2020

Techniques (for Extension Officers)". The training started in March 2020 and came to a safe conclusion in October. PRiDe Project really appreciates JICA Tsukuba's support under the tough condition. On 9th October, Mr. Kiirya presented his "Job Improvement Plan" as the final training programme at JICA Tsukuba Center, Japan in presence of PRiDe Project Experts through online platforms. "I have gained high motivation to engage in extension activities through linkage with research work and I plan to conduct rice experiments with WITA9 variety using the knowledge from the training" he explained. In the same way, PRiDe is looking forward to working with him in Uganda.

Project Implementation Meetings



PRiDe II Experts and the project management members during the 8th PMM held on 28th Oct 2020

Various meetings have been hold through online platforms like Zoom and SNS, between PRiDe II Project Experts and counterparts in Uganda to share progress of project activities. The 8th PRiDe Management Meeting (PMM) was held on 28th October 2020 and progress reports of research and extension activities were shared. Besides that, a number of issues

were discussed including the importation of duty-free rice from Tanzanian which is affecting small scale farmers and millers especially in Eastern Uganda. There is hope that the PRiDe Experts would return to Uganda by the next management meeting. In addition, the Project has been exploring opportunities to elevate collaboration with target ZARDIs amidst the pandemic situation. ZARDI focal persons have been engaging with project staff in both research and extension activities at research stations and Musomesa Field Schools. Based on this, meetings with each target ZARDI Director and focal persons will be organised for vigorous exchange of opinions regarding project activities.

A meeting between Abi ZARDI and PRiDe Experts was held on 30th October. The incoming Director of Research, Dr. John Walakira was introduced to the PRiDe II. The meeting has created a platform for exchanging opinions on future of rice promotion in West Nile region. The Project is planning to have meetings with other ZARDIs to share progress of the project activities and exchange opinions regarding collaborative works.



PRiDe II meeting with Abi ZARDI staff on 30th Oct 2020

Preliminary National Performance Trials (Pre-NPTs) in selected ZARDIs

Preliminary NPTs are on-going smoothly in the selected four sites (Doho irrigation scheme, Ngetta ZARDI, Ikulwe station of Buginyanya ZARDI and NaCRRI. In Doho, activities like transplanting and gap filling in the NPT field have been concluded. Transplanting has been done at the NPT fields in Ikulwe station, Ngetta ZARDI and NaCRRI.



Transplanting in the NPT field - Ngetta ZARDI

Rice Market Survey


Media reports (Daily Monitor) have circulated on the imported rice from Tanzania that is flooding the Ugandan market. It is also reported that this rice is exempted from duties and taxes making it cheaper compared to locally produced rice, as a result, squeezing small-scale rice farmers. Based on this background, PRiDe II and NaCRRI are implementing a study to understand the impact of the changes in the rice market on small-scale farmers. The investigation will oversee the current status at the farm gate and the transactions between farmers' markets, rice mills and brokers/local traders. The survey will cover Mayuge, Bugiri, Namutumba, Bugweri, Budaka, Butaleja, Kween and Sironko Districts and results will be shared with the persons concerned.

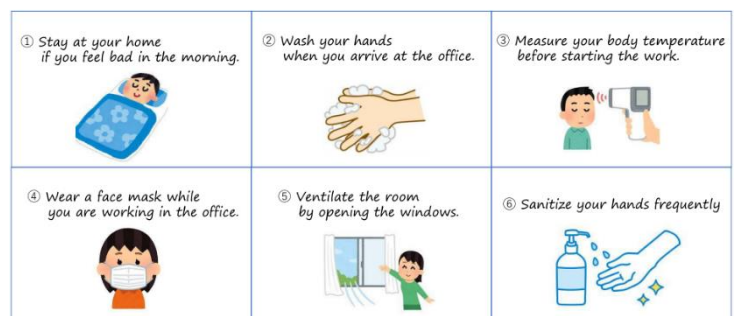
Musomesa Field School (MFS) Activities

PRiDe II Musomesa Field School (MFS) is giving an opportunity for farmers to learn rice farming techniques through hands-on practice at the demo sites. Farmers are expected to transfer the skills and knowledge acquired to their rice fields for higher rice yields and better-quality rice. In the lowland MFS demo sites, the importance of fertilizer use is being demonstrated to farmers and in the upland MFS demo sites, farmers are being introduced to small scale seed production to maintain the quality of rice seed. In addition, the Project implemented Monitoring and Evaluation activity in Agweng sub county in Lira District. MFS Graduates of season 2019B were evaluated to assess the impact of Rice Musomesa towards rice techniques and skills dissemination in the community.

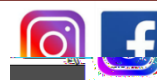


A rice farmer in Oromo village in Lira District excited about getting high yields from her rice field

Infection prevention measures for COVID-19 



PRiDe Project is following the regulations to prevent infection of the coronavirus.



PRiDe Uganda

