

OUR RICE,



OUR PRIDE

PRiDe II NEWSLETTER September 2020



Ms. Beatrice receiving a token of appreciation from the PRiDe II project

Greetings from the PRiDe II project. PRiDe II is thriving amidst the COVID-19 pandemic which has brought about the new normal like social distancing and wearing of masks in public places. Activities for the second rainy season in 2020 (2020B) are in progress such as Preliminary National Performance Trials, Musomesa Field School and Field experiments in ZARDIs.

On 18th September 2020, Ms. Beatrice Byarugaba, retired as the Director of Agricultural Extension Services and acting Director of Crop Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). Ms. Byarugaba was of great help and supported the PRiDe project and was an executive member of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC). She provided her advices to the Project and acknowledged the important role of PRiDe in training extension officers for promotion of rice development. She will greatly be missed by the PRiDe project.

PRiDe Activities in NaCRRI (Namulonge)

In the upland site, Namulonge, the field workers have done sowing in the seed multiplication field, and have been carrying out herbicide trials in the experiment field and planting some NERICA varieties. They had planned to sow seeds in 3.4ha field for seed multiplication, however, the area was reduced to 2.5ha in order for them to manage steadily under this circumstance. The NERICA 4 that will be harvested in the seed multiplication field will be given to farmers who participate in Musomesa Field School.



Sowing seeds in Upland site, Namulonge

In the lowland site, activities like banding in fertiliser trial filed, transplanting in long term fertility trial filed are in progress. The purpose of the fertiliser trials is to determine the appropriate types, amounts and combinations of fertiliser for the best yields in rice cultivation. Preliminary National Performance Trials (NPTs) are scheduled to start at the beginning of October in the lowland site.



Setting up separating sheets in Plot B-1 Fertiliser Trial in Lowland site, Namulonge

MFS Activities in selected ZARDs

PRiDe II is implementing rice cultivation training at selected MFS in cooperation with Agricultural Officers (AOs) and Zonal Subject Matter Specialists (ZSMS). With 2020B being a rainy season, heavy rains especially in Eastern Uganda have become a challenge such as flooding. Rice in some demonstration fields were covered with water, however, most of rice plants survived and MFS activities are ongoing with efforts of the MFS participants. In Budaka and Bugweri Districts, farmers are now learning about basal fertiliser application. MFS participants in Kitagwenda and Lira Districts are doing third weeding and top dressing.



Third weeding at MFS demo site – Lira



Farmers mixing fertiliser in MFS demo site - Bugweri after basal application

NPTs and Field Experiments

Preliminary National Performance trials are carried out by the Project in order to assess the performance of PRIDE lines in terms of agronomic traits in comparison with already released varieties. The PRIDE lines together with other released varieties are preliminary being tested at NaCRRI (Namulonge), Ikulwe station, Doho and Ngetta. In Ikulwe station, variety trial experiment is in process with the objective to obtain data on soil and adequacy of the varieties in the local area, and later use the data in training materials for farmers.



Left Photo: PRiDe staff (in blue) and field worker seeding for NPT in Ikulwe station



Right Photo: Seeded rice for NPT in Ikulwe station.

Radio Talk Show

The radio talk show in Eastern Uganda Baba FM has been concluded. The last session included PRiDe, NARO and ZARDI staff with a farmer as a live talk show where people called in to find out more about lowland rice cultivation and the Project. The second audio training is scheduled for the West Nile Region on Radio Pacis in Arua. The purpose of the audio training is to help farmers in the area understand improved upland rice cultivation techniques.



Live studio session on Baba radio (left to right: Tendo Moses - PRiDe staff, Solomon Kaboyo - NARO staff, Din Shariff - Bugweri AO and Waiswa Godfrey - Musomesa farmer)

