

OUR RICE,



OUR PRIDE

PRiDe II

NEWSLETTER

July 2020

- Message from PRiDe II -

We hope you are doing well and keeping healthy, although the world is in a very difficult situation because of COVID-19. Due to the global spread of COVID-19, all the JICA experts of the PRiDe II project have been temporarily evacuated and returned to Japan by early April of this year and the major project activities has been under the hands of Ugandan project staff through remote management by JICA experts in Japan.

Given the potential for the current situation to be protracted, we are

working in consultation with our project staff and counterparts to implement our activities to the fullest extent possible. We have been making efforts to proceed project activities with originality and ingenuity under this tough circumstance, therefore, we will keep you updated on our major activities vigorously through our newsletter.



Recording contents of the radio talk show

- Musomesa Field School (MFS) -

Even in this situation, PRiDe II and its counterpart institutions such as NaCRRRI have kept high motivation for research works and seed multiplication within facilities of research institutions.

In addition, the second season of 2020 (2020 B) is ongoing and 4 sites have been selected as Musomesa Field Schools (MFS); Budaka and Bugweri Districts for lowland sites and Kitagwenda and Lira Districts for upland sites. In fact, the Project was supposed to hold MFS activities at 27 sites in 2020, however, number of sites was shrunken due to harmful effect of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Having said that, within July, sensitization workshop to explain MFS activities and conduct poster training such as land selection for farmers will be implemented in all the 4 sites under leadership by each local government and Zonal Agricultural



MFS attendees who sanitize their hands (Kitagwenda)

Research and Development Institutes (ZARDIs).

- Radio Talk Show -

At the same time, PRiDe II is going to support rice farmers in other areas through audio trainings, where the project cannot reach. PRiDe II, MAAIF and NARO have come up with an initiative to hold rice talk shows on radio. The radio programme title is “Rice Talk” and farmers can listen to the talk show from Monday to Friday. The first programme will run on 87.7 Baba FM in Eastern Uganda and the Project is preparing talk show contents for other areas.

The radio programme aims to disseminate rice cultivation technologies developed by PRiDe Project in wider areas under this tough condition. Farmers can tune in to learn how to grow rice well easily and this will in turn create or improve rice cultivation awareness among both new and existing farmers in the regions.

- Research activities and Seed Production -

In the upland site of NaCRRI, 3.5 hectares of NERICA 4 rice was planted in March 2020, and the expected yield is about 1.5 tones. The yield will be low as weeding of the rice fields was not timely done due to the effects of COVID-19. In low land site, on the other hand, WITA 9 was planted in 4 plots (1,000 sq. meter each) and NERICA 6 was planted in 1 plot. Harvesting is going on in the upland site and it will continue until end of July. After harvesting, rice is taken to the screen house for winnowing, drying, measuring, cleaning and finally stocking. The rice seeds produced in NaCRRI and other research institutions will be stored carefully in NaCRRI store and later on distributed to the farmers who participate in MFS activities at the start of every season.



Poster for the radio talk show (BABA FM 87.7)



Harvesting NERICA 4 with a reaper in upland site of NaCRRI



Threshing harvested rice in upland site of NaCRRI



Winnowing threshed rice



PRiDe Uganda

