FOOD & BUSINESS APPLIED RESEARCH FUND

Enhancing Rice-Greengram productivity in Northern Uganda (ERIGNU)

Consortium Members

Dorothy Okello, WOUGNET - Project Cordinator

Amuriat Z. Goretti, WOUGNET - Gender Expert and Researcher

Bernard Obaa, Makerere University - Researcher

Drake P. Marimba, Makerere University- Researcher

Robert Amayo, NARO - Researcher

Jimmy Lamo, NARO -Researcher

Apollo Muyinza, SNV- Researcher

Ruth Kawadiny, NARO - Researcher

Moses Owiny, WOUGNET - Project Administrator

Lillian Mercy Apio, WOUGNET - Field Extension Officer

Impact activities and preliminary results

To date the project held a multi-stakeholder inception workshop attended by district leaders, local area leaders, media people, among others; held three review and planning meetings; conducted a baseline survey in the project area where 600 households were interviewed; identified and trained 15 farmer groups to engaged in the project; conducted participatory variety selection exercise where farmers selected three rice and two greengram varieties for seed production; established seed-increase gardens with the 15 farmer groups for greengram; developed and set up project website; developed some animations and other knowledge products for information sharing; and 10 women groups were trained in agribusiness.

Project description

Project aim

The aim of the project is to contribute to alleviation of hunger and malnutrition, and increase incomes of smallholder farmers in Northern Uganda.

Project objectives

The project seeks to identify and understand factors at farm level that influence partial and total adoption of Rice-Greengram cropping; increase farmers' access to quality seeds of greengram and rice; increase on-farm yields of Rice and greengram in the target region; increase agricultural information access through establishment of ICT-enabled knowledge-sharing framework; and empower women and youth groups in project area to make household and economic decisions.

Project method

The project will conduct survey studies during its implementation starting with Baseline study to identify the factors that could influence rice-greengram cropping system and later assess their impact on adoption of tested technologies through midterm and end of project evaluation studies. The project seeks to establish a farmer-centred community seed production and delivery system that involves identification and training of farmer groups, participatory variety selection (PVS) and establishment of seed centers managed by group members. The project will also evaluate introduction of greengram in rice system as intercrop and rotational crop. To increase access to information, the project will develop and set up ICT-ENABLED knowledge sharing framework for the community through the use of low-cost smartphones and information Centre. Women groups will be identified and their capacity built through life and business skills training so as to empower them to make decisions in their households.

Project anticipated impact

The project anticipates to directly build the capacity of at least 1,500 small-holder farmers to produce quality Rice and Greengram seeds, to increase farmland productivity of rice farmers, to enhance household incomes of farmers in the project area, and to improve nutrition among women and youth. Increased access to agricultural information through the use of ICT-enabled knowledge sharing framework resulting increased production and marketing. We would like to see to it that women in the project area are economically empowered to make decision in their families.

Opportunities and challenges

An opportunity is the increased adoption of use of agricultural technologies amongst farmers.

A challenge is the dependence on rain fed agriculture.