

ON-FARM RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN SEMI-ARID SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, SEMI-ARID FOOD GRAIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SAFGRAD) OAU/STRC COORDINATING OFFICE, OUADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO.

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CEREALS-LEGUME PRODUCTION INTEGRATED WITH SMALL RUMINANT PRODUCTION IN THE NORTH WEST ZONE OF NIGERIA

PROGRESS REPORT

SUBMITTED BY

INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY
ZARIA - NIGERIA

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INTRODUCTION

The cereal-legume rotation integrated with small ruminant production is a project aimed especially at providing farmers with basic food grains, improve soil fertility and promote livestock production through small ruminant fattening in order to enhance sustainability of the production system and farmer income.

Awareness creation among the stake holders - Extension and farmers were done through visits of the team members to the state Extension agencies and farms in early June.

Technologies Tested

Two technologies were tested; one for each state. In Katsina state - the technology consisted of millet in rotation with cowpea integrated with sheep/goats production (12-15 heads per household).

Variety of millet used - SOSAT 88
Variety of cowpea - IT96D 757-SR
Location of trial - Sudano-Sahelian region.

Villages:

Tsohon gida - 1 farmer - 2km from Katsina
Barhin - 3 farmers - 5-6km from Katsina
Sinkafi - 1 farmer - 10km from Katsina
Dutse safe - 7 farmers - 7km from Katsina

12 farmers.

Farm size - 50 x 50m - 0.25 ha
Date of planting - 3 - 13 July 2000
Weeding - 9th - 15 July 2000
Fertilization - 11th July.

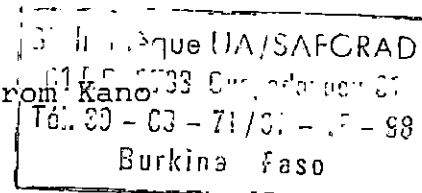
Kano State Technology is sorghum rotated with groundnut and integrated with sheep/goat production.

Crop variety: Sorghum - ICSV 111
Groundnut - Ex-Dakar

Location: Dawaciki - 5 farmers - 10km from
: Dambatta - 5 farmers

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Planting: 9th - 21 July 2000
Weeding: 24th July - 4th August 2000
Fertilization: August 10th - 15th 2000
Spraying: Done.



Soil sampling were done from individual farmer's plot and are being prepared for analysis.

Livestock component

All the farm households were told to keep a minimum of 12 sheep/goats for fattening. The veterinary and housing schedule as well as feeding regimes are yet to commence.

Problem of Implementation

1. The basic problem was the length of time taken to clear the cheque - The cheque was received and paid on May 26th and cleared only on September 8th 2000 - almost 3½ months. This seriously affected the take off and continuation of the work according to the proposal plan as the team had to resort to borrowing of money and buying on credit to execute the project.
2. Weather - There was delayed rains in the project areas at the beginning of the season as well as dry spell (drought) in late August/early September up to 10 days in some areas. This affected the crops especially sorghum.
3. Insect/Disease: - The dry spell caused insect attach (aphids) on cowpea and groundnut which somehow affected their establishment. They were controlled by spraying karate and insecticide.

Prospect and Impact

The farmers were very much interested in the technologies especially that feed implementation was part of them. The new crop rotations were early maturing and inspite of being planted late and the dry spell were able to perform well. The technologies therefore have good prospect of being adopted because of the positive impact they have on the food and livestock production as well as farmer's income.

The other component will be executed as planned.

Research Team

Dr. Ben Ahmed (Economist and Leader)
Prof. J.P Alawa (Animal Scientist)
Dr. Y. Amapu (Soil Scientist)
Dr. A. Lamido (Agronomist)
Dr. S.B. Tarfa (Extensionist).

Patners

Katsina State Agricultural Development Project
Kano State Agricultural and Rural Development Project

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Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA)

African Union Specialized Technical Office on Research and Development

2000-09

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