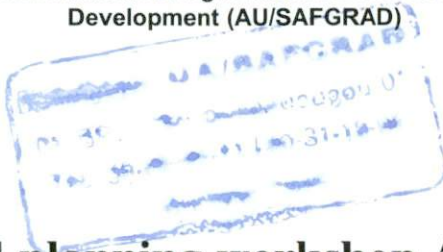




AFRICAN UNION
Semi-Arid Africa Agricultural Research and
Development (AU/SAFGRAD)



Review and planning workshop Africa Striga research and control program 17 - 18 march, 2008



Abidjan, COTE D'IVOIRE

About SAFGRAD

The Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development of the African Union (AU/SAFGRAD) was established in 1977 to advance agricultural research, development and natural resource management in the semi-arid ecology in more than 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. For more than three decades AU/SAFGRAD has mobilized scientific talents and resources of National Agricultural Research Systems and those of Inter-national Agricultural Research Centres (IARC's) to enhance food security and sustainable agricultural development in semi arid zones of Africa.

Today, as a specialized office within the department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, SAFGRAD effort are garnered toward the support in the implementation of African agricultural agenda as embodied in the CAADP, the Sirte Declaration with an emphasis on semi-arid zones. SAFGRAD has revitalized and broadened its programs to respond to the challenges of production increase, poverty alleviation, protection of the environment and mitigating the effect of climatic change.

SAFGRAD seeks to enhance livelihoods in the semi-arid areas through:

1. Facilitation of demand-driven research with the view to increasing production and pro-

ductivity of land and water. This includes the packaging and dissemination of more productive and environmentally friendly technology packages.

2. Facilitating access to production and financial services
3. Facilitate linkage of production to local and export markets as well as the transformation of produces into value added products.

The main thrusts of SAFGRAD's program are to:

- i. Enhance agricultural research and demand/access of research outputs of member states through capacity building;
- ii. Facilitate addressing agricultural policy issues through conferences, workshops, symposia and governmental contacts;
- iii. Facilitate the industrial transformation and utilization of food grains into value-added products;
- iv. Promote productive agriculture and environmental conservation through an integrated farming systems;
- v. Build the knowledge base on semi-arid agriculture in SSA through its publications, specialized seminars etc•

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PROGRAMME

CHAIRMAN : Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel

RAPPORTEURS : Mahama Ouedraogo
Charles The
Victor Adetimirin

08:30 - 09:00

OPENING SESSION

Welcome Remarks - AU/SAFGRAD Director

Opening Address - Dr. Yo Tiemoko, DG CNRA

09:30 - 09:50

Country Reports on Activities Carried out In 2007

09:50 -10:20

Reports of Monitoring Tour Carried out to Four Countries

Dr. Charles The

Dr. Victor Adetimirin

10:20 -10:30

DISCUSSION

REVIEW OF COUNTRY ACTIVITIES PROPOSED FOR 2008

10:30 -10:40

BURKINA FASO: **Omar Ouedraogo/Sanou Jacob**

10:40 -10:50

CAMEROON : **Charles The**

10:50 - 11:00

COTE D'IVOIRE: **Louise Akanvou**

11:00 - 11:10

GHANA : **Abdulai Mashark**

11:10 - 11:20

MALI : **N'tji Coulibaly**

11:20 - 11:30

NIGERIA : **Prof. S.T. Lagoke**

11:30 - 11:40

NIGERIA : **Dr. T.M. Kudi**

11:40 - 12:30

DISCUSSION

12:30 -13:00

Proposals From Countries Joining the Project in 2008

13:40

CLOSING

WELCOME ADDRESS

Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel, Director, AU/SAFGRAD



The Director of SAFGRAD, Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel, gave the welcome address. In his speech, he expressed appreciation to the Korean government for providing the necessary financial support for the implementation of the project which is being complemented by funding from the African Union through SAFGRAD. The objectives of SAFGRAD are to strengthen the capacity of African countries and to encourage multi-country initiatives.

Dr. Gabriel also drew attention to the objectives of the Striga project which are to (i) enhance food security and improve farm incomes by improving grain yield of maize under Striga as well as the productivity of African cropping systems, and (ii) build strategic alliances among various actors.

Dr. Gabriel also remarked that the project activities have, up till now, been execut-

ed in seven countries in West and Central Africa. He informed participants that project activities are to be extended to five other countries namely Botswana and Zambia in Southern Africa, Sudan Eastern Africa, and Niger and Togo in West Africa. The extension of activities to these countries would make the Striga project, one that is Africa-wide.

Participants were informed of the forthcoming conference on the Development of Rural Livelihoods in Semi-Arid Africa to be held between 29 and 30 April, 2008 in Addis Ababa.

Finally, the SAFGRAD Director reinstated the purpose of the Review and Planning Workshop which were to review the progress in the implementation of the project in 2007, draw out lessons for better control of Striga in Africa and to deliberate on the proposed activities planned for 2008.

OPENING ADDRESS

Dr. Yo Tiemoko, DG, CNRA, Cote d'Ivoire



Dr. Yo Tiemoko welcomed participants to Cote d'Ivoire on behalf of CNRA and the government of Cote d'Ivoire. He indicated in his speech that Africa's population will double in about 25 years. The increase, which would occur mostly in urban areas, would bring with it some challenges. He remarked that the theme of the workshop as well as the overall objective of the project were very apt because the prices of cereals crops have continued to increase in the international market due to increase in production constraints and the use of these crops for biofuel production. The use of cereals as raw materials has contributed

significantly to its high price. Dr. Tiemoko indicated that there is great opportunity to increase maize grain yield from the reported 1.0 t ha⁻¹ to at least 3 t ha⁻¹ if some of the production constraints are addressed. For this to happen, he advised that the meeting should not limit its attention to small-holder farmers but should also address issues affecting commercial farms which have the potential to significantly impact Africa's economy in a positive manner.

Dr. Tiemoko wished the participants very useful deliberations and declared the workshop open.

COUNTRY REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2007

The implementation of 2007 project activities by all participating countries was presented and the highlights are presented below for each country in the following section.



Workshop participants

CAMEROON

Dr. Charles THE, *Maize breeder*

The Cameroon programme covered 2 majors agro-ecological zones : Sudan Savanna and Northern Guinea Savanna. In 2007, this programme reached a total of 970 farmers with 7 differents activities. Out of the 15 vil-lages used for the demonstration, 9 were included for the first time.

In 2007, 37 farmers were involved in variety demonstration trials, 16 farmers in rotation demonstration trial, 605 farmers in diffusion trial while 25 farmers conducted on-farm seed multiplication of proven STR maize varieties and legumes crops. Finally 100 farmers were trained in collaboration with FAO. Two field days were organized and this involved the participation of 187 farmers.

Results obtained in 2007, indicated that improved STR maize outyielded the farmer's variety by 33% and 16% in the Sudan and Guinea Savannas, respectively. The farmers' maize supported

75% and 53% more emerged Striga in Sudan and Guinea savannas, respectively.

The on-farm community seed production involved 13 new farmers and 12 farmers already participating in the project, which produced 6.400 kg of seed of STR-maize. These farmers were encouraged to sell those as seed to other farmers.

Cowpea grain yield data and seed were difficult to obtain from farmers because of its use as food. The percentage yield improvement of STR maize over the local varieties could have been much more but for the fact that varieties regarded as local were actually improved, though not for resistance to striga. Finally Dr. Charles THE remarked that the cost of running on-farm trials is increasing due to higher costs of traveling occasioned by higher gasoline cost as well an increasing cost of fertilizer.



GHANA

Dr. Mashark Abdulai, *Plant breeding and genetics*

In Ghana, the on-farm demonstration trials were moved from the north-eastern to north-western part in an effort to increase the impact of the project. The general objectives of the programme in Ghana were: (i) to extend STR varieties to farmers through on-farm demonstration trials; (ii) to use an integrated strategy to control Striga on-farm; (iii) to demonstrate that Striga can be controlled if not eradicated.

The 2007 activities carried in Ghana included:

- ♦ On-farm demonstration of STR varieties
- ♦ Training of Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) frontline staff and participating farmers on Striga control technologies
- ♦ Seed production

- ♦ Outreach program; rural radiobroadcast and field days.

Two cropping systems (rotation and intercropping) with capability for Striga control were carried in Ghana in 2007. The trials were planted late because of the late establishment of the rains. This resulted in heavy birds and rodents damages on both maize and soybean plants. In this first year of the rotation, the superiority of STR maize (2.4 t ha⁻¹) over the local (1.8 t ha⁻¹) was apparent. The plot under soybean gave a soybean grain yield of 1.0 t ha⁻¹. The number of emerged Striga plants averaged 43,450 per hectare on the farmers' plots and only 2,000 per hectare on the STR-maize.

A total of 40 kg seed of each of the STR varieties was produced for the 2008 cropping season.



MALI

N'tji Coulibaly, Maize improvement

In Mali, yield potential of maize is higher than that of any other cereal. Its cultivation is mainly for consumption and as animal feed. In the past 10 years maize cultivation has served to sustain food security in Mali. It is cultivated on 600,000 ha which constitutes 40% of the area devoted to cereal production. Between 1990 and 1999, maize production in Mali increased by 13% compared to 2.0% and 1.8% for millet and sorghum, respectively. The major objectives of the project in Mali included were to (i) demonstrate on-farm the superior performance of two STR maize varieties (Across 94 TZL Comp5-w and EVDT97 STRC) for *Striga* control; ii) make available to farmers appropriate cultural techniques

for *Striga* control, and (iii) produce breeder seed.

The 2007 cropping season was characterized by lateness of the rains. *Striga hermonthica* infestation was generally low. Results obtained indicated the superiority of the improved tested maize variety over the local check. Three groups of on-farm environments were identified and 80% of the observed grain yield variability was explained for by two production situations related to farmers' ability to properly grow maize. The first group consisted of farmers who produced less than 2 t ha⁻¹, while the second group consisted of farmers that produced over 4 t ha⁻¹ of maize grain.



NIGERIA

Dr. T.M. Kudi, *Agricultural Economist*

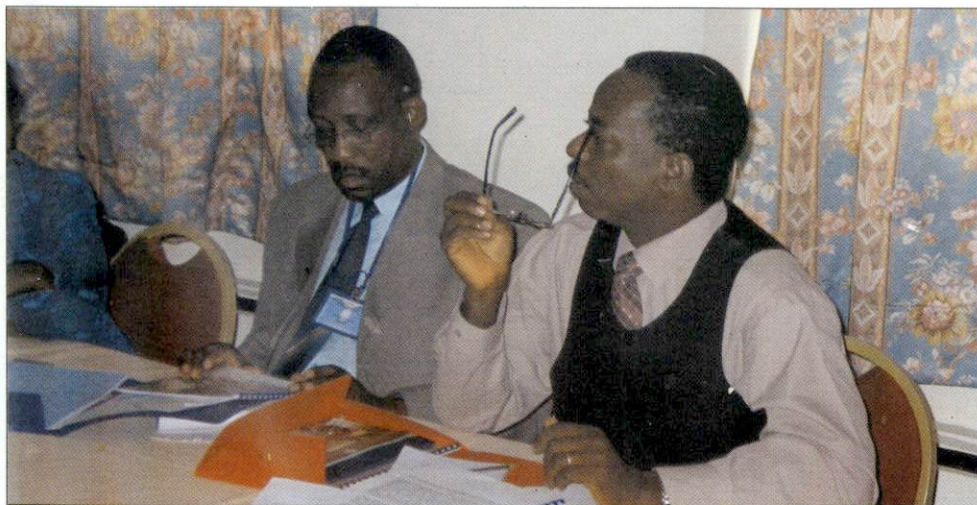
Southern Guinea and Sudan savanna

For trials in the southern Guinea and Sudan Savanna conducted by Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, the major activities included: (i) demonstration trials involving legume rotation with STR maize varieties, (ii) the evaluation of early and extra-early Striga tolerant maize for Striga control in the Sudan Savanna, (iii) socio-economic analysis of demonstrated technology and (iv) on-station seed production.

In 2007, 27 on-farm demonstration trials were carried out in three locations

viz Gwarzo in the Sudan Savanna, and Dutse-Gaiya and Mallaum in the southern Guinea Savanna. Maize variety Across 97 TZL Comp1-W was planted in rotation with either soybean TGX 1448-2E or cowpea cultivar IT93k 452-1.

Considerable variation in grain yield was observed among the locations. The improved STR maize out-yielded the farmer's local check by 71% in Dutse-Gaiya, 107% in Gwarzo and 262 in Mallagum. Striga plants emerged on the farmers' varieties were higher than those observed on STR-maize.



The cost and return analysis showed that labour and fertilizers inputs accounted for greater part of the total variable costs incurred in both varieties. The gross margin analysis of the two agro-ecological zones (SGS and SS) showed that it is profitable to cultivate Striga tolerant maize than farmer's variety. These results indicated that

intensification and expansion of production of STR-maize has the potential to reduce and or control the Striga menace in the zone. The study also indicates that Striga tolerant variety generated more returns to farmers than farmer's variety. No field day was conducted due to the demise of Dr Kureh.

Moist savanna

Prof. S.T.O. Lagoke

(Presented by Dr. Victor Adetimirin), Plant breeding

Two activities were carried out viz. on-farm rotation trials involving STR maize with groundnut and cassava; diffusion of STR maize.

Many farmers have indicated preference for sole crop of maize and groundnut rather than intercrop as a means of reducing *Striga* problem through trap cropping. They attributed the preference to the fact that monoculture would reduce interspecific competition and allow crops to express their full potential as well as reduce vertebrate pest problem, especially in the wetter savanna.

Groundnut var. RMP 91 was used as an effective trap crop for Striga management in maize. In addition, short duration cassava was integrated into the

rotation system. The low moisture-requiring cassava grows during the season and is usually harvested just before the commencement of the wet season. The rotation trials being reported started in 2006 with three plots.

Yield of improved STR maize following groundnut and cassava gave higher maize grain yield than the plots continuously cultivated to STR maize, which in turn gave higher grain yield than plots under the farmers' maize. Number of emerged Striga was in the reverse order, showing the effectiveness of the rotation involving groundnut in Striga management. Technical and socio-economic benefits were therefore derived from the inclusion of rotation of groundnut and cassava.

BURKINA FASO

Dr. Jacob Sanou and Dr. Oumar Ouedraogo

The report for Burkina Faso was presented by Ntji Coulibaly (due to the absence of any of the two scientists in charge of the project in Burkina Faso).

The season was characterized by the late establishment of the rains (mid-July) and by its sudden stoppage in September.

Activities carried out included :

- The improvement of elite varieties tolerant to Striga.
- The introduction and evaluation of Striga-tolerant varieties in Striga-infested areas.
- Technology transfer and training of farmers which included varietal demonstration and use of appropriate agronomic practices to control Striga.
- Seed production of STR maize.

The improvement of elite varieties tolerant of Striga and already in use by farmers (Espoir, Obatanpa), consisted in evaluating S₁ Families for their tolerance to drought. Selected families will be evaluated in 2008 using artificial Striga infestation.

The STR varieties yielded between 3.15 and 5.13 t ha⁻¹ in Striga free plots but performed poorly under Striga hermonthica.

Acr 94 TZE Comp5-Y, Across 94 TZE Comp5-W and Wari were the best varieties demonstrated.

Trials conducted in the Eastern part of Burkina Faso had low Striga infestation and also had very poor yield due to drought.

The seed multiplication exercise yielded 600 kg of Acr.94TZE Comp5-W, and 725 kg of Acr 94TZE Comp5-Y.



COMMENTS ON COUNTRY REPORTS

Some comments were made and questions raised after the presentation of the 2007 country reports, by participating country.



GENERAL COMMENTS

Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel :

The methodology used by participating country should be described technologies being promoted should be attractive. Consequently, there may be need to always include profitability studies.

Each country should indicate when monitoring tour is best, especially now that the project is being extended to cover Eastern and Southern Africa.

Funds for 2008 trials will be released as soon as annual reports for 2007 are submitted and MOU signed by respective countries.

Participating countries should produce enough seed for diffusion, to increase the impact of the project; limited quantity of produced seed like the 40 kg reported in Ghana cannot generate impact.

Ms. Louise Akanvou :

In countries where the project has been implemented for many years, impact assessment study should be initiated by 2009.

Country-specific comments

Mali:

Report should include, grain yield tables, number of emerged Striga plants and host damages rating.

Nigeria:

Is socio economy survey necessary every year ? What about impact assessment.

REPORTS OF MONITORING TOURS CARRIED OUT IN FOUR COUNTRIES

Charles The and Victor Adetimirin

Monitoring tours were carried out to in Benin, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana. Dr. Adetimirin visited Burkina Faso from 24 to 27 October, 2007 to assess the trials conducted by Dr. Jacob Sanou and Oumar Ouedraogo of INERA. The visit involved trips to Fada N'gourma (Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo also visited Fada N'gourma with Dr. Adetimirin) and Lena. In Fada N'gourma, the striga control technology demonstrated was implemented on one farm per village but with between 7 and 10 farmers having the opportunity of repeated visits to the farms implementing the control technologies for the purpose of comparing the demonstrated technology with crop performance on their farms. During the monitoring tour Dr. Adetimirin met with farmers engaged in the production of seeds of K VX 61-1 and K VX 396-4-5-2D on 0.25 ha per farmer. The visiting team interacted with 21 participating farmers who made themselves available for feedback on the demonstrated technology. In Lena, located 55 km from Bobo-Dioulasso, four types of activities were observed by Dr. Adetimirin and these are variety demonstration, on-farm rotation, seed production of STR maize and cowpea, and training of farmers.

Dr. Adetimirin visited Mali from 29 to 31 October 2007. To kick-start the tour, Drs Adetimirin and Mr. N'tji Coulibaly met with Dr. Guindo, the Regional Director of l'institute D'economie Rural (IER). The locations visited had variety trials, intercropping trials and

seed multiplication. Other details of this trip can be found in the monitoring tour report.

Benin and Ghana were visited by Dr. Charles The from 26 September 2007 to 8 October 2007. In Benin, Dr. Gualbert Gbehounou presented the following field activities: one farm owned by Mr. Madougou – a former participant in the farmers' field school, soybean variety Jupiter seed multiplication plot and another seed multiplication plot of Across 94 TZE Comp 5-W, a farmers' field school consisting of 19 women and 2 men, and a trial comparing direct-seeded and transplanted sorghum. In Ghana, Dr. Abdulai provided information that trials in northern Ghana were already harvested as at the time of the visit. However, a 30 x 20 m seed multiplication plot of four varieties was visited. Visit was also done to a maize demonstration plot with four varieties viz. IWD-STR, Dodji, Suwan-1 SR and GH120 DYF.



PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2008

BOTSWANA :

Dr. Chui James

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To conduct a research-farmer participatory identification Striga-tolerant sorghum variety and cultural practices that would control Striga and enhance the farmers' income.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- On-farm verification of promising sorghum varieties for their resistance to Striga.
- Determination of the effect of various cultural practices on the control of Striga.
- Field days, farm visits, publication of results in Daily Newspapers and video-filming of field activities.

ACTIVITIES TO BE CONDUCTED

Two major activities are to be undertaken :

- On-farm verification trials to evaluate introduced Striga-tolerant sorghum varieties and cultural practices.
- Communications and outreach activities are to include:
 - Field days
 - Farm visits
 - Publishing of results

CAMEROON:

Dr. Charles The

- Two agro-ecological zones are to be covered: Sudan Savanna and Northern Guinea Savanna.
- Target of 1 000 Farmers to be reached in 14 villages.
- Two training sessions to be conducted in collaboration with FAO (About 110 people to be trained).
- On-farm and on-station activities to cover :
 - 30 farmers for variety demonstration trials
 - 20 farmers for rotation trials
 - 600 farmers to be reached by varietal diffusion
 - 2 field days to be organized
 - 30 farmers to be involved in community seed production.
- Survey to monitor farmers' perception of demonstrated technologies.
- On-station breeder seed maintenance of 4 to 5 STR varieties.

COTE D'IVOIRE :

Dr. Louise Akanvou

OBJECTIVE

- To update the map of the distribution of different Striga species in Cote d'Ivoire.
- To develop and promote efficient integrated and cheap Striga control measures.

2008 ACTIVITIES

- Mapping of Striga-infested zones to provide the following information:
 - Zones infested
 - Striga species
 - Cultivated area infested
 - Striga damage on cultivated crop.
 - Production of seeds of STR maize and leguminous trap crops.

GHANA :

Mashark Abdulai

OBJECTIVE

- To extend STR varieties to farmers through on-farm demonstration.
- To use integrated method to manage Striga.
- Create awareness that Striga can be controlled if not eradicated.

ACTIVITIES TO BE CONDUCTED

- On-Farm demonstration trials of

STR maize varieties in two districts (STK and Gushegu), 20 locations per district

- Intercropping maize/soybean
- Maize/soybean rotation.
- Capacity building of stakeholders (MoFa frontline staff and participating farmers), on how to control Striga
- Farmers' day with the participation of invited stakeholders, politicians and the media.
- Seed production (on-station and community seed production)
- Researcher-farmer participatory data collection
- Report writing

MALI :

N'tji Coulibaly

- On-farm demonstration of two STR maize varieties for their tolerance of *Striga hermonthica* in collaboration with extension services, this will include 10 farmers' fields located by roadside
- Two farmers' field days
- Seed multiplication (Fasokaba and Comptoir 2000) in collaboration with emerging private seed company, two farmers' cooperative and/or individual farmers on an area totaling 4 ha.
- Dissemination activities through

technical bulletins, radio and television programmes.

TIME TABLE

- **April 2008:**
Meeting with technical services agencies and farmers
- **May 2008:**
Selection of villages and farmers
- **June 2008:**
Implementation of demonstration trials
- **July 2008:**
Planting of seed multiplication plots
- **July-September 2008:**
Data collection and radio/television campaign
- **December 2008:**
Data analysis and report writing
- **February 2009:**
Submission of annual report.

NIGER :

Ms. Fatouma Seyni

OBJECTIVE

- To determine maize cultivation areas infested with *Striga hermonthica* and to estimate Striga incidence
- Strengthen national capacity to run farmers' field school on Striga control
- Control Striga using host plant resistance and use of trap cropping

ACTIVITIES TO BE CONDUCTED

- On-farm evaluation of existing maize cultivars (5 varieties, 2 locations) for their tolerance of Striga
- On-farm demonstration of the effectiveness of cowpea as a trap crop for controlling Striga in millet and maize.
- Training of trainers (Farmers' field school)
- Survey on geographical distribution of Striga.

NIGERIA :

Dr. Thomas M. Kudi

- Training staff on Striga management, practices, data collection and reporting
- Training of field extension staff and farmers on seed multiplication
- Pre-season sensitization of project farmers at all sites
- Establishment of on-farm demonstration and seed multiplication early May to July 2008
- On station seed multiplication: June /July 2008
- On-farm training of farmers on Striga biology and control
- Monitoring visits : August 2008
- Farmers Field days
- Socio-economic survey
- Harvesting and data analysis: Oct-Nov. 2008
- Report writing and submission : Dec. 2008.

SUDAN :**Dr. Abdalla Mohamed**

- ♦ To develop and release elite Striga-tolerant/resistant varieties with sustainable and environment friendly production packages:
- To reduce Striga seed reserve in the soil and improve soil fertility through intercropping with suitable legumes.
- Pyramiding of resistance/tolerance genes for durable resistance.

Activities to be carried

- Testing of a large collection of the developed/introduced STR maize.
- Intercropping using cowpea and desmodium, and the use of micro-doses of nitrogenous fertilizers.
- In 2009, four demonstration plots will be conducted in rural areas.
- Community-based seed production of STR maize and trap crops.
- Field days, printing of flyers, publication of results and use of the electronic media for mobilization.

TOGO :**Ms. Hadyatou Dantsey-Barry****GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

- To increase food production in Striga-infested zones using integrated Striga control measures in order to ensure food security and sustainable development

Specific Objectives

- To promote integrated Striga control measures involving rotation and intercropping cereals with leguminous trap crops
- To produce certified seeds of cowpea, soybean and groundnuts tolerant of *Striga gesnerioides*
- To produce flyers on the biology of *Striga hermonthica* and its integrated control

ACTIVITIES TO BE CONDUCTED

- ♦ Rotation and intercropping maize with legumes
- 50 trials in 10 villages
- 3 STR-maize varieties, 1 sorghum (SOR- VATO), 3 soybean and 3 cotton varieties
- ♦ Certified Seed Production
- 1 ha per crop at Sotouboua station
- 3 soybean varieties, 3 groundnut varieties.
- ♦ Production of flyers

ZAMBIA:

Dr. Bowas Nkhuwa

OBJECTIVE

- To determine the extent of spread and distribution of Striga in Zambia.
- To determine the extent of damage on various crops.
- To determine the control measures currently used in endemic areas.
- To identify farmers to take part in the control activities.

ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED

- Desktop secondary data analysis.
- Preparation and administration of questionnaire in selected district and data analysis.
- Additional activities to include on-farm trials including:
 - ♦ Rotation trials with 3 treatments: (i) farmers' practices, (ii) Striga- tolerant improved maize with NPK fertilizer, and (iii) Striga-tolerant improved maize intercropped with a N-fixing legume trap crop.

WORK PLAN FOR 2008/2009

The following work plan was adopted for the year 2008/2009:

1. Implementation of country projects; June 2008-December 2008.
2. Submission of project request to Korean Government: 31 August 2008
3. Monitoring tour: Mid September to October 2008 (when Striga emergence and attack are apparent in most countries).
4. Submission of country yearly reports (including photographs and other illustrations) to SAFGRAD Coordination Office: 15 January 2009.
5. Submission of project annual report and monitoring tour report to the Korean Embassy: 31 January 2009
6. Review and Planning Meeting: First week of February 2009.
7. Submission of financial justification to SAFGRAD: 31 March 2009.

MAJOR DECISIONS OF THE REVIEW AND PLANNING MEETING

The major observations and decisions made at the Review and Planning Meeting are as follows:

- A suitable reporting format needs to be developed and used to track progress vis-à-vis proposed activities, as well as facilitate comparability of activities among countries and facilitate compilation of annual project report. SAFGRAD proposed a reporting format consistent with AUC's reporting template. Participants agreed to use the format in preparing their implementation report starting from 2008.

Action : SAFGRAD will make available this reporting format to collaborating scientists.

- Noting that the project has been active in some countries since 1999, it was proposed to conduct impact assessment for those countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Benin, Nigeria).

Action : SAFGRAD will prepare to undertake the impact assessment as part of the activities in 2009.

- Noting that many of the countries have reported some training-related activities in 2007 and have also proposed to undertake some training for 2008, it was proposed that the training guideline developed by SAFGRAD and

discussed during the June 2007 consultative workshop could be used as training material.

Action : SAFGRAD will make available copies of the training guide to participating countries upon request.

- Concerns were raised with respect to sustainability of the project beyond its life time (ensuring supply of inputs, seeds, etc.), and it was agreed upon that the only way to make the technology uptake sustainable is to ensure that it is beneficial and profitable to end-users; hence dissemination strategies needs to address this critical area.

- With respect to the institutionalization of the project (ensuring country ownership), a draft MOU was presented, discussed and subsequently adopted for use.

Action : SAFGRAD will prepare the final version and send to collaborating NARIs for signature.

Participating scientists should ensure that the MOU is signed by the head of the respective NARI and is subsequently sent to SAFGRAD for counterpart signature and timely release of funds.

• Having taken note of the reporting format agreed upon, the need to develop and use a project proposal format that will easily relate with the reporting format was recognized. A draft format for preparing project work-plan was proposed and subsequently agreed to. The project proposal format needs to capture all activities and tasks (related to trials, seed multiplication, dissemination, training, monitoring, reporting) as well as clearly identify expected results and respective indicators.

Action: SAFGRAD will finalize the project proposal format and send to participating scientists. The latter must ensure that their project proposal is prepared following the project proposal format.

• Noting the difficulties faced with respect to ensuring continuity of the project as demonstrated by the difficulty encountered securing funds for project execution in a few years and after ascertaining the results that have been achieved, it is proposed that a multi-year project proposal be put together and submitted to development partners to seek financial support.

Action: SAFGRAD will develop the project proposal for 2009-2014.

• From the monitoring tour report as well as from the annual report submitted, it was observed that some countries did not satisfactorily implement the project.

Action: SAFGRAD will take appropriate action.

• Publications – For timely and appropriate reporting as well as publishing the findings of their research in credible journals. SAFGRAD is considering the provision of honorarium to enhance quality of output of the project.

The proposal from Zambia needs to be revised so that project activities (trials, seed multiplication, training, dissemination, etc.) are captured. The time between now and the planting season in November should be sufficient to make the necessary preparations. The team should have members with some experience in Striga research.

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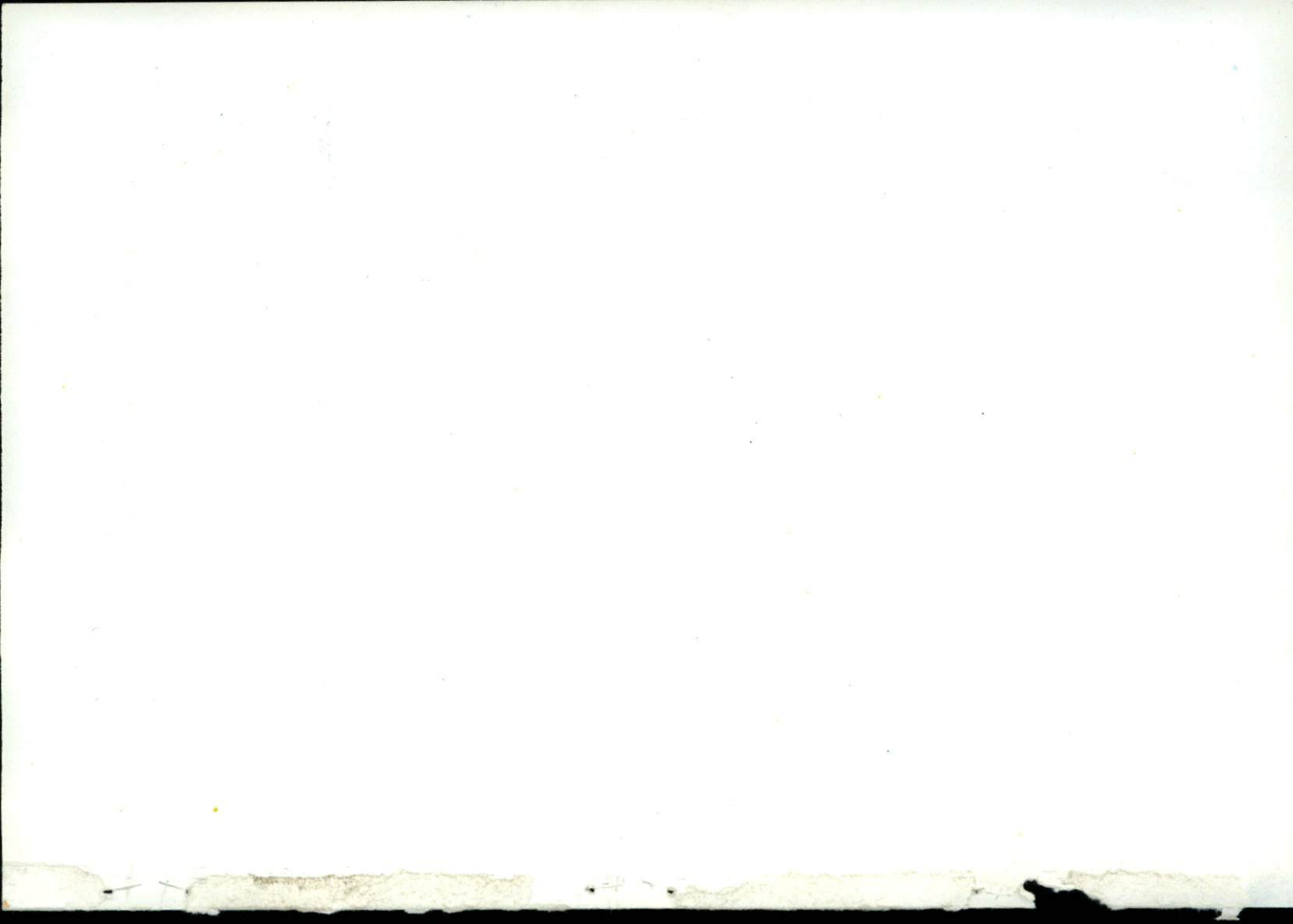
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