



Filming activities for the farmer-to-farmer instruction videos on labor-saving weed management options

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The Africa Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-for-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government's Feed the Future initiative.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING will create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads an associated project on monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment.



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Itinerary

- Dar es Salaam – Ifakara: 4 September
- Ifakara – Morogoro: 5 September
- Morogoro – Moshi: 8 September
- Moshi – Dar es Salaam: 10 September

Introduction

As part of the USAID-funded quick-win project “Building local capacities in weed management for rice-based systems” we have planned to produce and disseminate two farmer instruction videos: one on a labor-saving device for resource-poor farmers (“rotary-hoe weeding in lowland rice”) and one on reducing risks for human health and the environment (“safe and efficient use of herbicides”) in five languages (English, French, Portuguese, Swahili and Dagbani, a local language spoken in Northern Ghana). The overall objective of the quick-win project is to enhance the capacities of local end-users (farmers) and private service providers on the use of labor-saving and efficiency-enhancing weed management technologies for rice-based systems.

In lowland rice production systems in Tanzania a quick-win can be obtained by minimizing the losses due to yield reducing factors. The number-one yield-reducer in such rice-based systems is weed competition. The options for resource-poor farmers to control weeds in rice production systems are limited. Through USAID funding we invest in building local capacities –knowledge and skills - in weed management by producing comprehensible farmer instruction videos on mechanical weed management, using a hand-operated rotary weeder, and on the safe and effective use of herbicides. The proposed technologies are labor-saving, effective and highly compatible and contribute to food security. Teaching farmers how to apply herbicides safely, effectively and at minimum rates, will improve food safety and reduce risks to human health and the environment.

Objectives

The objectives of the mission were to collect material for the production of two farmer-to-farmer workshops on labor-saving weed management in lowland rice. One video is on “rotary-hoe weeding in lowland rice” and the other is on “safe and efficient use of herbicides”. With the filming material we intended to show the diversity of weeder types and herbicides and to show how they should be used within the local context of a farmers’ field.

Filming

We have filmed one day in the rice irrigation schemes around Ifakara (Kisawasawa, Mkula and Mkasu Wards, Kilombero District, Morogoro Region), two days in Mkindo Irrigation Schemes (Hembeti Ward, Mvomero District, Morogoro Region) and two days in the Lower-Moshi Irrigation Scheme (Moshi District, Kilimanjaro Region). We tried to capture farmer views on weed management issues and we filmed farmer practices in land preparation, transplanting and weed management (see photos below).

We also filmed technical details of the weeders and the herbicide products as well as agro-chemical supply shops (Moshi), local blacksmiths working in their workshops (Mkindo) and a local market (Mbyuni market, Moshi) where rice is sold (see photos below).





Acknowledgements

We wish to thank the Directors of the Agricultural Research Institutes of Ifakara (KATRIN; Dr John Kibanda) and Dakawa (DARI; Dr Demitrai Nyambo), the Principal of the Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Center (KATC; Mr. Adam Pyuza), and the District Agricultural and Livestock Development Officers of Ifakara (Ms. Mary Kitua), Mvomero (Mr. George Mhina) and Moshi (Dr Estomih Masha), the Ward Agricultural Extension Officer of Dakawa (Ms. Aguster Mattembo), the Co-coordinator of the Lower-Moshi Irrigation Scheme (Mr. Makange Rodgers) and the extension officers of Ifakara (Mr. Omari Saidi, Mr. Apollinary Msofe and Mr. Kondrad Assenga) Hembeti Ward (Mr. Rashid Juma, Mr. Bakari Shaban), Dakawa (Mr. Rajun Kisavuli) and Moshi (Mr. Fredrick Mawolo), for allowing and facilitating us to film in their respective areas. We also like to thank, Mr. Dominiki Nkollo, Ms. Rukia Chapille, Mr. Shadrack Msemo, and Mr. Raphael Msilumbe of KATC for their facilitation and contributions. We sincerely thank all farmers who were willing to share their views on weed management with us and in particular the ones that were willing to express themselves in front of the camera (see Appendix 1). We also thank Dr Juma Mohamed Kayeke of Mikocheni Agricultural Research Institute (MARI) for his contributions to the script and the filming sessions in Kilombero and Mvomero, and Dr Marco Wopereis (AfricaRice), Dr David Johnson (IRRI), Mr Philip Idinoba (Aga Khan Foundation) and George Shundi (MATI-Igurusu) for their critical review and contributions to the script.

We thank USAID for funding the video production as part of the quick-win project “building local capacities in weed management in rice-based systems”, under the larger Africa RISING initiative, funded by USAID Feed the Future program.

Appendix 1 List of farmer participants

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kisawasawa Farmers group • Ms. Merina Luyanji • Mr. Selemani Saidi • Mr. Alphonsi Nampamba • Mr. Abdu Magambo • Ms. Selina Mpambalupi • Ms. Chande Mtunje • Mr. Betold Kazingoma • Ms. Christina Mahela • Ms. Veronica Liyula • Mr. Shabani Likuluti • Mr. Thabiti Lyambo • Mr. Mohamed Swale • Mr. Paulo Augusto 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mkasu Farmers Group • Ms. Emilia Mwingizi • Ms. Salima Kipeleka • Ms. Desderia Kamchele • Ms. Zamda Kondo • Mr. Joseph Masekesa • Mr. Nasoro Kuheka • Mr. Saidi Byabya • Mr. Khalphan Makeka • Mr. Bosco Liulika • Ms. Hawa Rehani • Ms. Ntimi Mwakinyuki • Mr. Ibrahim Mghonu • Mr. Justus Barashishwa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mkula Irrigation Scheme Group • Mr. Mohammed M. Dadi • Ms. Mwajuma Bakari • Ms. Sakina Njohole • Mr. Magere Chama • Ms. Gaiza Nafulisa • Mr. Abraham Malika • Mr. Antony Christopher • Ms. Fatuma Paskali • Mr. Tenende George • Ms. Zaina Kibwana • Ms. Rukia Ntimi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hembeti Farmers Group • Mr. Ezekiel Mafolwa • Ms. Magdalena Mwesongo • Ms. Hamisi Mtambo • Ms. Asha Sahela • Ms. Rehema Elisante • Ms. Tansiana Stanslaus • Mr. Zahoro Dege • Ms. Sikitu Rajabu • Mr. Titus Mchonde • Ms. Mwanarusi Fatuma • Ms. Hayawi Kubwalo • Mr. Abraham Issa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dakawa Farmers Group • Mr. Nassibu Katototo • Mr. Francis Mulokozi • Ms. Mwadawa Hamisi • Ms. Mariamu Manoti • Ms. Habiba Yussuff Dola • Ms. Sijali Jummane • Ms. Mariamu Hassani • Mr. Mwanaishe Yusufu • Ms. Zainabu Shabani • Ms. Mauwa Bakari • Ms. Evodusa Mlokozi • Ms. Fatuma Salma • Mr. Albert Mwangosi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moshi District, Lower Moshi Irrigation schemes • Ms. Cecillia Kilacha • Mr. Cisti Alloys Moshi • Mr. Julius Maro • Mr. Yurdi Chonjo • Mr. Paulo Raymond • Mr. Isihaka Mzimhiri • Ms. Beatuce Macha • Ms. Reda Robati – Rice Trader, Moshi • Mr. Roman J. Kimaro – Roan Agroveter, Moshi • Mr. Paulo Mbuyi – Rafiki Kilimo, Moshi