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Field day for bean IPDM farmer groups at Shari village in Hai district, Tanzania



March 2004



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Farmer group activity reports for the DFID
Crop Protection Programme (CPP) Bean IPM
Promotion Project in eastern and southern
Africa

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For distribution to Village Information Centres
(VICs) in bean growing areas in eastern,
central and southern Africa



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Introduction

Farmer field days were ranked high by farmers and other stakeholders as one of the major pathway for disseminating agricultural information and knowledge among rural communities, policy makers and service providers.

Shari village field day was successfully organised and implemented by bean IPDM participating farmer groups, village extension officer (VEO) and Hai District Agriculture and Livestock Development Office (DALDO) in partnership with the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

Objective

To increase integrated pest and disease management (IPDM) awareness at village community level and among policy makers and the service providers through farmer field

meetings at learning plots and facilitate cross village, district and regional visits between farmer groups to exchange information and share experiences, and to encourage farmer- to- farmer technology dissemination.

Participants

Participants included farmer groups from nearby participating villages, non-participating farmers from within and outside the field day area, church leaders, primary school teachers and students, visitors from other districts (6 farmers and DALDO's office representative from Rombo district in Kilimanjaro region, Farm Africa- an NGO and 6 representative farmers from Babati district in Manyara region, government and political party leaders at different levels in Hai district (village, ward, division and district), Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI) that is based at Lyamungo Research Institute in Hai

district and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) based at Selian Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) in Arusha. The Hai district policy makers included the District Commissioner (DC), District Executive Director (DED) and District Agriculture and Livestock Development Officer (DALDO). The field day was attended by 195 participants (105 men, 90 women) including school children (20 girls, 15 boys).

Activities

1. Bean IPDM farmer group

Upendo utafiti (research) group was founded in 2002 by 12 farmers (10 women and 2 men) and now it has more than 30 members (25 women and 5 men). Within the group there are farmers who are also members of coffee and vegetable pest and disease management (IPDM) groups. In 2002 the bean IPDM group experimented with 3 bean

genotypes, cow urine, kerosene, planting dates and appropriate spacing. In 2003 they experimented with 12 bean genotypes including bush and climbing types, maize, botanicals as organic fertilizers and sources of insecticides, inorganic fertilizer- NPK, planting date, kerosene, appropriate spacings and wood ash. In this past



season
(2003/2004
short rains)
the group
experimented
with local



climbing bean cultivar
obtained from nearby
Kyeeri village, bush
beans and botanicals as
pesticides. Although the
performance of both
climbing and bush beans
was not good, farmers

were encouraged by the yield per unit area of the climbing bean cultivar compared to bush beans. The group also displayed and explained the use of different botanicals as sources of pesticides and fertilizers. The traditional pesticides that were used and displayed included cow urine (Mkojo wa ng'ombe in Kiswahili), *Vernonia* spp. (locally called Ihuhu in Kimachame), *Tithonia* spp. (Alizeti pori in Kiswahili) and *Tephrosia* spp. (Utupa in Kiswahili). The group has already established a village information centre (VIC) and a set of promotional materials was issued by the project to the group.

2. Vegetable production IPDM farmer group

Farmers at Shari village used to rely on coffee as the source of income, but the recent low coffee prices and increases in input prices have discouraged them from attending coffee bushes. Some of the farmers have abandoned their coffee

trees and concentrated their efforts on vegetable and livestock production . During the field day the group had established a tomato field of 0.5ha and



farmers explained to participants the improved technologies that they use to increase tomato production.

These technologies include improved high yielding and pest tolerant varieties e.g.



Tengeru97, spacings, soil fertility improvement using animal/farmyard manure, judicious use of pesticides and proper staking using synthetic strings on wires supported by poles. The staking technology was adopted from USA through TV and has reduced the use of normal wood stakes

and it substantially contributes to environmental conservation. Farmers were convinced by the yield performance of the crop and advised their fellow farmers to adopt improved technologies to increase production while conserving natural resources.

3. Coffee IPDM farmer group

Coffee is a historical crop to all villages on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. All developments that are now seen in Kilimanjaro region have roots in the coffee economy. Production of coffee has decreased in recent years because of the decline in world market prices, increases in input prices and incidences of insect pests and diseases. Some farmers however, still believe that coffee will remain to be a cash crop and they are searching for improved technologies to revive Productivity. Shari coffee farmers have established a coffee tree nursery where they are

raising coffee seedlings that are resistant to common diseases. During the field day the nursery had 7 improved coffee variety seedlings resistant to coffee berry diseases (CBD) and



leaf rust obtained from the Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI). Participants had an opportunity

to visit a coffee field owned and managed by one of a group member. The farmer uses integrated nutrient and pest management (INM and IPDM)



strategies to improve coffee production. He uses animal/farmyard manure to

improve soil fertility and apply pesticides judiciously (botanical and/or industrial pesticides

to control pests and diseases. Pesticides are applied after thorough scouting, pruning, weeding and old bark scrapping to expose insect pest damage and reduce disease infections. These practices have enabled the farmer to reduce the number of sprays from 5 to 3 per season.

The farmer explained to the group that a well managed coffee field intercropped with bananas enhances banana production. The two crops are traditionally grown together due to land shortage. According to the farmer, increased coffee and banana production contributes to poverty alleviation. The group displayed different botanical pesticides used to control coffee pests and diseases and improved equipment for pulping coffee berries and drying the beans.

4. Livestock production farmer group

The group is involved in raising chicken using improved technologies. They keep local chicken in

improved structures and raise them on feed mixtures that have all the essential nutrients for growth and egg development. Each farmer keeps dairy cows and have organised milk collection that is sold to small traders in nearby Moshi and Bomang'ombe towns.

5. Bean seed distribution to participating farmers

Participating farmers had an opportunity to receive small packets (10 – 20 seeds per packet) of elite climbing bean genotype seeds. A number of 189 and 6 farmers from Hai and Rombo districts respectively received seeds from CIAT (R- 129, R- 143 and R- 179), National Bean Programme (G1106) and DALDO's office (a local cultivar from Kyeeri village purchased by DALDO Hai and packed in small packets of 20 seeds) for planting in their home gardens. Farmers from Rombo district also came with small quantities of seed of 5 local bush bean cultivars that are commonly grown in

their district and which they wanted to share with other farmers.



6. Discussion

Hai District Commissioner and Executive Director

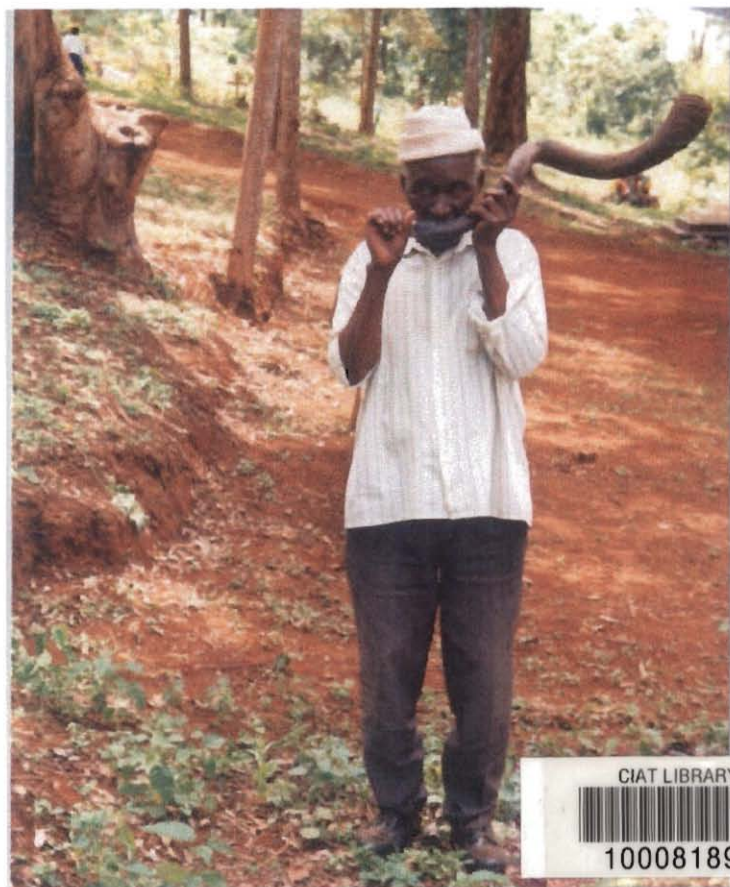
The District Commissioner (DC) and Executive Director (DED) were the guests of honour for the occasion and they were impressed by farmers' effort in organising and conducting the field day. They encouraged farmers to continue working in groups and collaborating with researchers and extension service providers at all levels to improve agricultural production and agro-ecosystem management in

sustainable manner, and ultimately to improve rural livelihoods. The 2 policy makers promised to support and contribute to any farmer field day if they are invited to do so. All participants applauded this positive move by their district top leaders.



7. Entertainment

The women of Utafiti bean IPDM farmer group choir presented several songs which carried messages about increasing bean production using traditional and improved agricultural technologies. Hosting farmers prepared delicious traditional bean dishes and each participant enjoyed the meals



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