

Project Summary

Title	Enhancement of Passion Fruit Productivity in Uganda: Identification and development of a management package for aphid vectors and associated viral diseases
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Purpose	The goal of this project is to contribute towards improved productivity of passion fruit farming in Uganda by bridging key knowledge gaps in epidemiology and developing techniques for viral disease management.
Project Summary	Manipulation of cropping environments through intercropping with non-susceptible crops and mulching has been successful in reducing the rate of vector increase and damage. Most of these recommendations for management of vectors and viral diseases are, however, based on a range of crops, but not much is reported specifically for management of viral diseases in passion fruit. Moreover, the aphids observed do not colonize passion fruit and therefore some of the management methods used for other crops may neither be applicable, nor cost-effective. There is, therefore, a need to evaluate the efficiency of management practices that can be easily practiced and are also adaptable by small-scale and commercial farmers and to local growing conditions. In this project an integrated, eco-friendly management package will be developed for passion fruit viral diseases that target the vector(s) and virus (es). The package

	<p>is meant to benefit small-scale and commercial farmers in Uganda who currently have no reliable management techniques and depend primarily on susceptible varieties. The focus is on biological and cultural practices that have been found effective in other crops. This project builds on on-going research and development activities at Makerere University (Mak), the National Agricultural Research Organization and research systems within the East African region. It will run for 2 years and 2 MSc. students will be trained. Outputs from this project will contribute knowledge towards integrated management of viral diseases in passion fruit within the East African region, which is largely affected. Collaboration with scientists working on similar issues will enhance networking for passion fruit research and development. In addition, working within farming systems will facilitate development of relevant and reliable technologies that will be acceptable to farmers and so enhance their uptake.</p>
Country and Specific Location(s)	Districts within the Central (Mukono and Masaka), Eastern (Sironko and Mbale) and Western (Kasese and Bushenyi), Uganda
Participating Institutions	Makerere University National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI)
Start Date	September, 2012
End date	August, 2014
Amount of Funding	US\$ 60,340

