

Project Summary

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| Title | Participatory management of <i>Striga</i> in cereal-based cropping systems in eastern Uganda |
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| Purpose | The main objective of this study is to obtain information on farmers' perceptions of the <i>Striga</i> problem and to identify and develop sustainable control methods adaptable to local farming conditions. |
| Project Summary | The parasitic weed, <i>Striga hermonthica</i> , infects cereal crops often causing 30-100% crop losses on farmers' fields. Past research developed several effective <i>Striga</i> control strategies, which have not been adopted by farmers, partly because each technology was promoted in isolation without taking into account the socio-economic factors that would affect their adoption. Studies done at International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) have demonstrated that agricultural development can be achieved through a process in which farmers participate in the testing and adoption process of the new technologies. This project proposes an innovative approach that will involve obtaining information on farmers' perceptions of the <i>Striga</i> problem, their challenges and opportunities prior to participatory development and dissemination of sustainable <i>Striga</i> management technology package adaptable to local farming conditions in Eastern Uganda. This study will use a participatory research and extension approach (PREA) to diagnose the extent of the <i>Striga</i> problem in some of the major <i>Striga</i> -infested areas. The studies will be conducted in the districts of Iganga/Bugiri/Namutumba, Tororo/Pallisa and Soroti) in Eastern Uganda, because of heavy <i>Striga</i> infestation levels. This project is expected to provide vital information for policy makers, researchers and extension agents in respect to the magnitude of the <i>Striga</i> problem and available coping methods. Furthermore, involvement of farmers in the evaluation of technologies will lead to high adoption rates and hence increasing cereal crop production. Overall, the project will benefit the major cereal crop growers, particularly the small scale farmers including women for increased |

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| | food security, nutrition and household income generation. Furthermore, two Ugandans will be trained to enhance capacity to conduct research on <i>Striga</i> or any other similar problems. |
| Country and Specific Location(s) | Uganda |
| Participating Institutions | Makerere University, National Crops Resources Research Institute, Namulonge |
| Start Date | September 2009 |
| End date | October 2011 |
| Amount of Funding | USD 59,850 |

