



Strengthening Innovation and Technology Dissemination for Sustainable Development in Cereals, Cocoa and Coffee Value Chains in Western and Eastern Africa (SATIFFS)

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**Biannual Project Progress Report for Uganda for the Period of
January – June 2015**

Prepared by:

Dr. Martine Nyeko, OUC; Dr. Grace Okiror, OUA

**Gulu University
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**UNIVERSITÀ
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Background

This report covers the activity of the SATIFFS Project at Gulu University in Uganda for the period of January to June 2015, and it is the third in the series. It also is a follow up on the Third Steering Committee Meeting held via Skype on Friday, 19 June 2015. According to the project documents, the following are some of the activities that should be implemented during this period:

- ✓ Selection of trainees for TOTs accomplished (by month 12);
- ✓ Three TOTs- 225 hours (one TOT of 75 hours for each ACP partner) delivered (by month 21);
- ✓ Training to support the ATs activities program ready (by month 20);
- ✓ Selection of trainees for Training to support the ATs accomplished (by month 21);
- ✓ field trials organized and concluded in each ACP partner (by month 24);

During this project implementation period, the following activities were accomplished.

1. Procurement of training equipment
2. Training of Trainers in mycotoxin analysis
3. Selection of students to investigate prevalence of aflatoxins in the target districts of Gulu, Amuru and Nwoya along the maize and rice value chains.

Accomplishments

Procurement of training equipment

The procurement of training equipment was twofold: purchase of office equipment, and purchase of field equipment. As reported in the previous report, the purchase of the following office equipment was completed, and the equipment is now under use.

1. Two laptop computers and accessories
2. Two video projectors

In addition, approval was received from the Projection Coordination Unit at UNIMOL to purchase initial field equipment for field trials as identified in the baseline report.

1. Seven ox-drawn rice planters
2. Seven ox-drawn rice weeders

These pieces of equipment were ordered and are under construction. The distribution for these will be as follows. Two sets for each target district (Gulu, Amuru and Nwoya) and one set for performance analysis at the CITED at UGU. For each district, two model farmers in rice with oxen will be given a set of planter and weeder. These model farmers will be trained in the use and maintenance of the equipment as well as provide sites for field trials for the equipment. When proven successful, these model farms will subsequently serve as farm field schools for training other farmers in the district for the use. It is expected that the equipment will be ready for field trials by the end of June.

Training of trainers (TOT) in mycotoxins analysis

A vital component of the CITED is ability to monitor quality of maize and rice in conformity to existing national and international standards. Both at national and international level, the prevalence of mycotoxins (especially aflatoxins) in grains is of serious public health concern. In order protect consumers, limits for these substances have been set at all levels of production and distribution of grains. However, testing centres are few and backlogged due to high demand for their services by grain producers and distributors. To mitigate this situation, SATIFFS have provided an ELISA Kit reader and initial set of kits for the CITED at UGU. Training of trainers in the determination of aflatoxin levels using these equipment was conducted in April, and facilitated by Prof. Gianluigi Mauriello and Annacharia from the University of Naples Federico II. 16 persons from the University participated and these included teaching staff, laboratory technicians as well as both undergraduate and graduate students, and training lasted one day with hands-on practice. The list of these participants is attached.



Participants received hands-on training



Some of the participants inside the CITED laboratory at UGU



A group photo of participants with the facilitators

As part of the institutional contribution to the SATIFFS Project, Gulu University provided laboratory space for CITED activities, provided human resource (staff and students) and facilitated this training by supporting the trainers, provision of some materials and refreshments for the team. In addition, Gulu University has signed a memorandum of understanding with Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), a national agency charged with the mandate of developing, regulating and even enforcing compliance to existing standards. This MOU paves way for certification of the CITED laboratory to provide aflatoxin analysis to the general public with credibility. Further training in National standards for TOTs will be undertaken by UNBS in the coming months as step towards certification. A copy of this MOU is also attached.

Identification of students for research

Following the training in mycotoxin analysis, a number of students expressed interest in pursuing this field for research. One PhD student will be using the CITED facilities for part of his research in sweet potato diseases. However, a masters student has been approved to conducted a study entitled “Assessment of aflatoxin contamination along the groundnut, maize and rice value chains: a case study of Acholi sub- region” under the SATIFFS Project. Groundnuts was included by the faculty administration because of its importance in food security. It is estimated that at least two publications in peer-reviewed journals will be delivered from this study under the co-supervision of the SATIFFS Project members. It is also estimated that it will require 12 kits of 48 determinations to adequately complete the study.

Challenges

Generally, the SATIFFS Project is making progress in Uganda. However, there are some challenges that hindering its full implementation. These include:

1. Delayed disbursement of funds.
2. Delayed approval for project work plans.

3. General delays in communication such as reply to emails and answers to specific questions.

Way forward

The time has arrived to intensify project activities through field technology trials, scientific research and training of artisans in construction and repair of the successfully proven appropriate technologies. This involves urgent procurement of demonstration technologies. In order to speed up the implantation of this project at Gulu University, the following items are now urgently required:

Item	Required number	Current price (UGX)	Total (UGX)	Remarks
A pair of Oxen	2	1,000,000	2,000,000	To be used at CITED UGU
Portable motorized rice threshers	3	5,000,000	15,000,000	To be tested in each project district
Rice reaper / windrower	3	15,000,000	45,000,000	To be tested in each district. Machine available 6-8 weeks after order with 50%
Portable maize shellers	3	5,000,000	15,000,000	To be tested in each project district.
12 ELISA KITS capable of 48 analysis	12	-	-	For CITED UGU Lab
Total (UGX)			75,000,000	

Proforma invoices for the supply of these items will be sent out shortly, separately. However, this request serves to prepare the Coordination Unit at UNIMOL to appreciate the need for these equipment and expedite the required approval process for the work plans. It is also important to emphasize that without these equipment, the needs of the farmers, who are the primary beneficiaries, will not have been met, and the project will not have achieved **some** of its objectives at Gulu University.