



# AICAD

## African Institute for Capacity Development

# NEWS

A Newsletter from AICAD Secretariat

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### Message from the Executive Director



As we finish the calendar year 2012 and welcome the new year 2013, on behalf of everyone at AICAD, I would like to express our best wishes to our entire readership though belatedly. I have the honour to take a moment to acknowledge with thanks the enormous support AICAD received from the members of the Governing Board, Annual Members Forum, AICAD stakeholders and members of staff during the year that just ended.

I wish to welcome you all to the 36th issue of our Newsletter, which is the first one for this year 2013. Foremost on behalf of AICAD Secretariat and on my own behalf, I would like to reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of our Strategic Plan for this year. We are excited about 2013 and one of our main tasks will be to better connect AICAD to the world and increase its membership and resources. Beyond this, we wish to see increased robustness and participation of communities that we interact with in poverty reduction programmes. The end of the year 2012 saw AICAD successfully implement some of its planned activities. I am delighted to share with you a few of these activities.

In terms of governance, AICAD Secretariat organized the 11th GB Meeting that was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 28th November 2012. During the meeting, the GB approved the MTEF Budget for 2013/14, Audited Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2012, appointment of auditors, Unified Programme (UP) activities up to June 30th, 2013, revised AICAD Strategic

Plan from July 2012 to June 2017. Report on financial review of AICAD Performance Contracts for 2012/13 and staff contract renewals.

AICAD organised a number of activities through its UP for 2012/13. These activities were implemented at Headquarters and Country Offices in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Some of these activities were implemented in collaboration with our partners; such as World Bank Institute and Wetlands International Africa. Similar joint ventures with our partners are being organized so as to take place in 2013.

In an effort to forge collaborative ventures, AICAD signed Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the East Afri



Signing of the MoU with the EAC

can Community (EAC) on 15th August 2012, in Arusha Tanzania. The MoU is mainly for the two institutions to jointly organise activities related to human capacity development in the region.

AICAD won a 3 year Research project together with other 16 consortium members the project entitled; Turning Biowaste into Sustainable Products (Biowaste4SP) is funded by European Union under its FP7 Programme. The Biowaste4SP Project Consortium members held their kick-off meeting at AICAD Headquarters from 26th to 30th November 2012.

These modest achievements are as a result of well-coordinated teamwork



Members in the kick off meeting in the biowaste project

amongst AICAD governance partners and staff. We wish to express our sincere appreciation and pray that this spirit of teamwork continues for AICAD to attain even higher achievements as we begin the year 2013.

### Country Reports

#### Tanzania Office

#### Improved Banana Production in Mkuyni and Matombo Divisions

Knowledge and Technology transfer is one of AICAD's mandates in the effort of poverty reduction. As part of fulfilling this, AICAD Tanzania Office conducted a project to disseminate technologically developed pathogen free banana plants. The objective of this project was to improve the productivity of bananas for food and income generation for small scale farmers in Mkuyni and Matombo division through the introduction of the new babnana variety that is pest and disease free and promotion of organic practices for bananas. The project was implemented between August 2011 and January 2012 in Mkuyni and Matombo divisions in Morogoro. The technology was obtained from the horticulture unit of the Department of crop science of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). These suckers can exhibit resistance to the pathogens for 3 generations. This technology is particularly useful for Mkuyni and Matombo divisions which are famous for banana production in Morogoro region. The economy of people in these two divisions mainly depends on

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banana production. In recent years however, production of bananas in these divisions has been threatened by the emergence of the fusarium wilt disease which according to SUA pathologists, is spreading quite rapidly. Farmers have been struggling to fight with the fusarium wilt disease without success due to lack of resources to facilitate transfer of technology and also limited information on the availability of pest



Extension officers, AICAD and SUA staff at a contact farmer's field

and disease free banana plants. During implementation of this project, 20 suckers (4 Uganda green and 16 FHIA varieties) were distributed to each contact farmer. A total of 204 banana suckers were distributed to 10 contact farmers. On the other hand, a total of 200 banana suckers were planted on demonstration fields which were es-



Healthy banana plant

established for the purpose of multiplication of planting materials for other farmers. Although the project ended before the first fruits of the introduced new banana varieties were harvested, farmers from Mkuyuni and Matombo divisions have continued to communicate informally with AICAD-TCO on the progress of the new banana varieties. Among the things communicated is the high yield of the new banana varieties and that the bananas are very palatable. They are very happy and thankful for the solution to the problem of fusarium wilt disease. This project links up with a similar one conducted by JKUAT, at Embu & Kirinyaga

district in Kenya and supported by AICAD.

### Uganda Office

#### AICAD Participates in the 20th Source of the Nile Agricultural and Trade Show at Jinja, Uganda

Uganda Country Office (AICAD-UCO) participated in the 20th Source of the Nile Agricultural and Trade Show held at Jinja show ground from 23rd - 29th July 2012. The show is a platform for organizations to disseminate innovations in Agricultural trade and other sectors by displaying improved technologies for better production and marketing geared towards poverty eradication and improving livelihoods among communities. The theme of the show was "Promoting Smart Farming for Sustainable National Food Security, Farm Incomes and Regional Market Opportunities". The Show was officially opened by the President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

Four AICAD ex-trainees and one facilitator exhibited various products they produce as a result of the knowledge and skills acquired through the trainings. During the exhibition, AICAD's objectives, programmes and the achievements were outlined. The 4 AICAD exhibitors were; Mrs. Semalie Rusoke from Twagalane Bunga Group Ltd Ltd. Ms. Regina Nakayenga from Kakindu subcounty, Mityana district. Ms. Robina Nakawesi from Casper fruit and wine produces, and Mr. John Robert Mayanja from Kakindu Tweekembe Organic Savings & Credit Organization.

Mr. Mayanja exhibited the making and use of organic manure to improve soil fertility and crop production. He demonstrated how to make "plant teas" from Tithonia sp. leaves mixed with animal urine and ash. He also demonstrated how to make liquid manures from livestock dung and urine mixed with ash. In addition, he displayed appropriate technology for drip irrigation of grafted mangoes, oranges and avocados using mineral water bottles.

Mrs. Samalie Rusoke another AICAD exhibitor was an ex-trainee in poultry farming. She was previously rearing only broilers until 2010 when she decided to diversify into turkey and geese, as a result of the loss of most of her broilers as well as the escalated cost of poultry feeds. She informed the visitors that the new enterprise was more profitable since turkeys and geese are more resistant to diseases and feed

mostly on grass, hence are cheaper to maintain than chicken. She explained that she started with 20 young female turkeys which she bought at ugshs. 1,300,000/=. After 7 months the turkeys had laid a total of 400 eggs out of which she hatched out 395 young turkeys. After one month, she sold the young turkeys at ugshs. 30,000/= each giving her a revenue of ugshs. 11,850,000/=. She said that since the female turkeys had not incubated their eggs, they started laying eggs again after 14 days and she hatched out 360 young turkeys, which she sold at ugshs. 7,800,000/= after



Mrs. Rusoke exhibits to visitors the turkey eggs

one month. Mrs. Rusoke also ventured into rearing geese, starting with 1 male and 5 female, which cost her ugshs. 750,000/=. She informed the show goers that the 5 geese laid a total of 30 eggs which she hatched getting 30 young geese. After 2 months, she sold the geese and got a total of ugshs. 3,000,000/=. She reported that her income and social status had significantly improved since she took on rearing of turkeys and geese as they are more profitable than chicken. During the exhibition, she encouraged poultry farmers to diversify from chicken rearing to turkeys and geese. She said that she owes her success to the training given to her by AICAD, which has enabled fulfillment of her lifetime goal of becoming financially independent and self-employed.

Ms. Regina Nakayenga is a passion fruit farmer from Mityana District. She was trained by AICAD in 2009 in value addition and enterprise development, which made her dream of processing passion fruits into juice and wine come true. She exhibited the juice & wine that she produces as a result of the training. Ms. Robinah Nakawesi is an ex-trainee based in Busimbi sub-county, Mityana district. She benefitted from one of the AICAD's previous training in value addition. She demonstrated value addition technologies for fruits and displayed passion juice concentrates, tomato sauce, chillie sauce and assorted wines. Robinah also sold off many of her items on the last day to interested visitors.

Professor Julius Zake an AICAD facilitator, exhibited various soil management prac-



The Programme Officer explains to visitors about AICAD's programmes

tices. These included the use of inorganic and organic methods of soil fertility improvement. He also displayed organic fertilizer sources such as mucuna, borne meal, wood ashes, livestock manure, phosphorus rock and compost. He explained to the visitors the various plant growth requirements, causes of soil degradation, various sources of plant nutrients, methods of soil assessment and soil and water conservation, among others. He also outlined the "complete package" approach used by AICAD as well as soil status evaluation for nutrient depletion, acidic, compacted and eroded soils.

Many visitors expressed interest in participating in AICAD's programmes, particularly the training courses and many inquired on the procedure for participating in these trainings, since they were viewed to be mostly practical. Among the visitors included the news reporters from NTV, NBS, UBC and BBC Swahili service. The reporters expressed interest in partnering with AICAD to start broadcasting our programmes on their radio and television stations at concessional terms.

### Kenya Office

#### Plans to Replicate Successful Projects on Poverty Alleviation

Since its inception, the AICAD Kenya Country Office has been involved in the formulation and implementation of a number of programmes and projects in fulfillment of the AICAD goal of poverty reduction at the grassroots; notable ones being the KTDP Cassava Project in Rongo District, Migori County and Community Empowerment Programme (CEP) at Kariandusi Region, Nakuru County. Both KTDP Cassava and CEP produced tremendous and sustainable benefits to the communities in which they were implemented, more so on adoption of appropriate farming technologies and practices, adoption and use of clean planting materials, group cohesion and initiation of group activities

increased acreage under farming and high farm yields, engagement in secondary processing through value adding activities and increased incomes among others. This forms basis for replication of the two projects in other regions with similar conditions and need. Kenya Country Office initiated the Cassava Project to restore cassava production in Rongo District with the aim



Cassava products market launch in Rongo

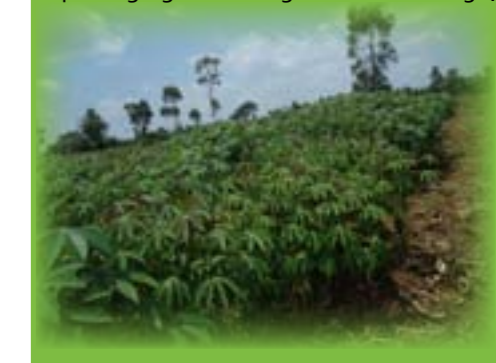
of empowering the community to produce, process, utilize and market the crop and its products for poverty alleviation and socio-economic development. The project also complemented the initiatives by the Ministry of Agriculture in Rongo under its "Orphan Crops Programme". During the project a number of activities were successfully implemented; i) baseline survey for determining the status of cassava production, ii) acquisition and bulking of planting materials, iii) training local farmers on appropriate cassava production practices, iv) establishment of bulking plots, v) multiplication and distribution of high quality cassava cuttings to local farmers, vi) field day for sharing project success to other farmers and stakeholders, vii) training on cassava processing and utilization (value addition), viii) training local farmers on marketing and market survey, ix) market launch for cassava products in Rongo Township and, x) socio-economic impact assessment.

The project was aimed at re-introducing cassava crop in the District and empowering the community on how to produce, process, utilize and market its products for poverty alleviation and socio-economic development. Therefore, the survey was conducted to establish the socio-economic impacts of the project. Specifically the survey sought to i) To assess the adoption of appropriate cassava value chain technologies Rongo model region, ii) To determine the effects of KTDP Cassava Project on farm

income levels of farmers in Rongo model region and, iii) To determine the effects of KTDP Cassava Project on social empowerment of farmers in Rongo model region.

The survey revealed high adoption and utilization levels of appropriate cassava farming and processing technologies and practices disseminated at 85% with increased

acreage under cassava farming, reduction in incidences of crop failure, pests and diseases, leading to high crop yields. There was general improved food security with over 88% of the beneficiaries having three meals per day. Farmers have formed several working groups engaging in various activities within the cassava value chain and more participation in community development activities. Processing of cassava products such as cakes, crisps, bread and scones have been initiated by the local farmers as a source of non-farm income. However, adoption of packaging technologies as not as high;



A healthy cassava crop in Rongo

only 55% were packaging the products before selling them to final consumers. Farmers (75%) are more proactive in searching for markets through simple market surveys which has improved their sales. Borrowing from the successes and lessons learnt through the project in Rongo,

the AICAD Kenya Country Office is in the process of replicating the same project in Teso District, Busia County; with a number of activities towards this direction already completed. Both the reconnaissance and baseline surveys have been conducted to determine the status of cassava production in the area; revealing similar conditions and challenges as was the case with Rongo District before the KTDP project was implemented. As revealed from the surveys, the area is characterized by hot conditions and unreliable rain patterns, with cassava as the main food crop – every homestead has a cassava crop on the farm. However, farmers rely on traditional varieties with high incidences of crop pests and diseases, and poor agronomic practices; leading to low yields and ultimate high poverty lev-



A strained cassava crop in Teso

els. Both the District Agricultural Office and local farmers showed extreme enthusiasm and readiness to embrace the project which is now in its planning phase.

The replication of the Community Empowerment Programme, though still at the early planning phase is earmarked for Narok South District. Both the reconnaissance and baseline survey activities are planned for the next phase; April to June 2013. The survey results will form basis for the design and implementation of project activities which directly address the needs of the target area within the AICAD's goal of improving socio-economic livelihoods at the grassroots. Another major project activity earmarked for implementation during the April – June 2013 quarter is ICT3: Rural Women Training in Mogotio District, Baringo county; with baseline survey, resource persons' workshop and programme development already completed.

## Research & Development (R&D) Division

### Summary of Research and Development Project Activities conducted between 2002-2012

AICAD has been providing technical and financial support, which focuses on poverty alleviation through human capacity development, in the three partner countries of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Research and Development division, (R&D) supported implementation of research projects by universities and research institutes, mainly at the levels of applied research, or those ready for dissemination to users. Other selection criteria included high quality of the proposal, conformity with the country's development policy, thematic balance, and available resources. The criteria above were instituted at two levels, that is, at each country and at AICAD Headquarters.

R&D coordinated a series of projects grouped into six (6) categories, that is, Pilot Projects, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth Call and NERICA rice promotion. These activities ran for between two (2) to six (6) years, covering a period from 2002-2012.

Project implementation was spearheaded by the participating public universities, which are seven (7) in Kenya, five (5) in Tanzania, and four (4) in Uganda.

One hundred and thirty five (135) projects were undertaken. The number shown is for the projects implemented for single phases (two years) only. However, the number of projects supported for multiple times add up to 206- broken down to Pilot (19), Second Call (50), Third Call (63), Fourth Call (44) and Fifth Call (30).

Two hundred and ten (210) researchers were directly involved in the project work.

The other institutions that took part in the work included the Agricultural Research Systems: Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (at Mwea - formerly KARI Kibos, Machakos and Matuga stations), Uganda's National Agricultural Research Organization (at Namulonge Institute) and Tanzania Agricultural

Research Organization. Additional institutes were the Coast Development Authority, Baobab Company, Lake Basin Development Authority, National Irrigation Board, Kilombero Agricultural Training and Research Institute (KATRIN), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services, Sustainable Agricultural Centre for Research and Development (SACRED Africa) in Bungoma, Bondo, Alupe, and Kizimbani Agricultural Research and Training Station (KARTS) in Zanzibar. The research systems particularly played key roles in the promotion of NERICA Rice varieties.

Forty five (45) or thirty three point three (33.3%) of the total projects were in the Food security thematic category. Other projects were in the thematic areas of Environmental conservation (16%), Health equity (16%), Community Development (15%), NERICA rice promotion (14%) and the lowest Bioprospecting proportion (3%). The proportions of the projects could be a reflection of multiple factors, such as, the policy emphasis of the nations'/institutes', capability of the researchers in those areas on aspects of development of quality competitive research proposals, and relative deployment of resources.

All of the one hundred and thirty five (135) projects were further categorized into three areas of Discipline specific Research (DSR), Multi-disciplinary Research (MDR) and Graduate Student Research (GSR). The distribution of the projects by category is DSR 39.3%, MDR 34.8% and GSR 25.9%.

Three hundred and sixty five (365) researchers-of which 95 were graduate students and other collaborators participated directly in the project work. The range of researchers per project was from single (1) and a maximum of eight (8). Seventy two (72) projects had two (2) researchers, thirty one (31) had three (3) and thirteen (13) had four (4). Besides supporting human resource capacity building, the projects also procured laboratory infrastructure, and met administrative cost of some institutions. Most of the outputs generated during the activities require additional resources to facilitate dissemination to the end users of the technologies.