

**TRAINING OF SELECTED FARMERS FOR ON-FARM TRIAL IMPLEMENTATION  
REPORT**

**Project Title**

**Climate smart options allowing agricultural intensification for smallholders in the dry zones of the Central Highlands of Kenya**



### **Summary**

Farmers training was conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 to train the selected farmers on trial implementation. All the 10 farmer who had been selected turned up for the training facilitated by Dr Milka Kiboi, Nathan Okoth and Boniface Murangiri. The training session involved introduction of the VLIR-UOS to the farmers, trial management, data collection and creating awareness of their key roles during the trial implementation. They asked questions and raised their various concerns during the session. The farmers acknowledged the effort of the project in enhancing the livelihood in the community. They also confirmed they had understood what is expected of them from the project and were ready to implement the on-farm trials. Plot laying dates is set to be on 28 and 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

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## 1.0 Introduction

The farmers' training was conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2020. The objective of the training was to acquaint the 10 selected farmers with the knowledge on trials implementation and management. The on-farm trials are to be Researcher Designed-Farmer managed (Type II). The training was thus, key for effective trial implementation and management by the farmers. A set of 7 treatments had been identified for the implementation in each farm by the farmers during the on-station farmers' field day (Table 1). The farmer had selected the best performing technologies, that could also suit their farming conditions. Each farm had been identified based on their uniformity, making each farm a block. Four of the selected farms had however been identified to have two replications due to the observable variations on the soil types. The farmer-managed trials are to be used as training and demonstration farms to other farmers (Trainers of Trainers) in promoting uptake of the technologies among the community as one of the objectives of VLIR-UOS project (IR 5).

All the 10 selected farmers turned up for the training which was facilitated by Dr Milka Kiboi, Nathan Okoth and Boniface Murangiri (Appendix 1). The training was conducted as per the scheduled program (Appendix 2). The training began at 9,00 am with a word of prayer from a volunteer, and ended at 2.00 pm with a health break. The training sessions were categorised as; introduction of VLIR-UOS project to the farmers highlighting its objectives; how the selected technologies were to be implemented and managed; and how data will be collected and the role of the farmers in the whole process the entire period of the trial. The farmers were allowed to ask questions and seek clarity as the training continued.



**Plate 1** Dr Milka Kiboi introduces the project to the farmer during the training sessions

The farmers confirmed they understood the technologies very well and ready to implement. They also acknowledged the effort of the project towards the wellbeing of their community. However, they had question and concern with the on-station trial implementation.

## **2.0 Farmers concerns and the responses given during the training**

### **Questions**

1. The test crop being used by the project (Sorghum of variety *gadam*) currently does not have a market since the sole buyer, East African Breweries (EABL) is no longer buying their produce because of Covid 19 pandemic, They therefore ask whether they can use a different sorghum variety of their choice as test crop that will be more beneficial to them.
2. Can they use chicken manure for the trials?

### **Responses**

1. Lack of market is for their produce is temporary and could go back to normal when the restrictions imposed due to Covid 19 pandemic are lifted by the government, therefore there is no need of changing from the variety of interest to the EABL as they will need their produce soon. Besides the *gadam* variety is the test crop for the project and consistency is required. However, the project team will still consult over the matter to give a conclusive recommendation.
2. Chicken manure can be used, as long as the equivalence of recommended N amount is applied after analysing the chicken manure for N content. However, for the on-farm trials, the project will provide manure for all the farmers for uniformity.

## **3.0 Way forward**

The on-farm plot laying will be done on 28 and 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, after which the soil sampling and land preparation will commence.



**Table 1** Treatments to be implemented on-farm

Serial	Treatments	Treatment abbreviation	Manure rate (N equivalent in Kg/ha)	Fertilizer rate (Kg/ha)	
				N*	P**
1	Manure plus fertilizer (moderate) plus Tied ridging	MF(M)Tr	30	30	90
2	Manure plus fertilizer (moderate) plus Conventional tillage	MF(M)Ct	30	30	90
3	Manure plus fertilizer (High) plus Tied ridging	MF(H)Tr	60	60	90
4	Manure plus fertilizer (High) plus Minimum tillage with residue	MF(H)MtR	60	60	90
5	Manure plus fertilizer (High) plus Conventional tillage	MF(H)Ct	60	60	90
6	MBILI- Managing Beneficial Interactions in Legume Intercrops (Moderate manure plus fertilizer)	MI	30	30	90
7	Control (No technology)	C	0	0	0

\*\*Phosphorous

\*Nitrogen

**Appendix 1** Attendance

<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation/Group</b>	<b>Role</b>
1	Dr Milka Kiboi	VLIR project member	Facilitator
2	Nathan Okoth	VLIR PhD student	Facilitator
3	Boniface Murangiri	VLIR site technician	Facilitator
4	Martin Mwasia	Maendeleo B	Farmer
5	Shadrack Kithaka Githome	Maendeleo B	Farmer
6	Charity Muriungi	Mashinani Digital	Farmer
7	Lucy Njagi	Upendo	Farmer
8	Alice Kawira	Umoja	Farmer
9	Joseph Mugambi	Tuinuane	Farmer
10	Benard Ngochi	Welfare	Farmer
11	Jelcia Kathambi Mugambi	Welfare	Farmer
12	Stephen Simba	Tunka	Farmer
13	Pauline Kanyaru	Kanyange	Farmer

## Appendix 2 Training programme

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Facilitators</b>
9.00 -9.10 am -	Opening prayer and Introductions	Murangiri and A volunteer farmer
9.10-9.40 am	Project Introduction, Objective of the training	Dr. Milka Kiboi
9.40 -10.00 am	Question and Answers	Facilitators
10.00-11.00 pm	Technologies Implementation	Nathan Okoth
11.00-11.30 pm	Question and Answers	Facilitators
11.30-12.30 pm	Data collection and Way forward	All Facilitators
12.30-1.00 pm	Question and Answers	Facilitators
1.00-1.30 pm	AOB and Closing Prayer	Murangiri and A volunteer farmer
1.30-2.00 pm	Heath Break and dispersion at own pleasure	