PRiDe II NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

OUR RICE OUR PRIDE

Remarks from Dr. Nozaka, the outgoing Project Chief Advisor

Dr. Nozaka will be retiring as Chief Advisor for PRiDe II Project at the beginning of May 2022. During the period he was engaged in PRiDe Project as Chief Advisor, the Project has registered many achievements such as expansion of the MFS approach, development of new rice varieties, strengthening of self-reliance of Ugandan counterparts and many more.

We had an interview with Dr. Nozaka, which went as follows;

How long have you worked with the PRiDe Project in Uganda?

I have worked with the Project for six years and five months. The first four of those years were spent working as an Agricultural Planning Advisor for MAAIF, the third of which was concurrently as a Senior Advisor for PRiDe Phase 1 and in the fourth year as the Chief Advisor for PRiDe II. From the fifth year, I concentrated on being the Chief Advisor for PRiDe II.

What are your observations towards the achievement of the project objectives in regards to Research and Extension?

I am proud of the results of the Mid-Term Review study that showed that the project has so far been implemented in line with the objectives despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was achieved as a result of the tireless efforts of all the individuals in the project. I hope that the project activities will continue to be developed within the framework of research-extension linkage and the strengthening of zonal function for training and extension.

What message do you leave behind for the improvement of the Project activities and the Rice subsector in Uganda?

PRiDe II has been working specifically for small-scale rice farmers whose living standards are still inadequate. The Project receives assistance of Japanese people and collaborates closely with MAAIF, NARO, and local governments. I would wish all members working for the Project to keep this in their mind when they implement the project activities, so that Uganda will be able to achieve her self-sufficiency of rice in parallel with improvement of their livelihood.

What has been so interesting about working in Uganda and for the PRiDe Project?

I have been working in Africa for almost thirty years, and Uganda is one of the best countries in my African life. This is especially because of the humanity of the Ugandan people. Ugandans have a very strong will to support others, specifically those who have challenges. I am sure that this intention gives us a very strong follow-up wind for the achievement of the project purpose.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those who supported my activities while in Uganda.

The outgoing Chief Advisor – Dr. Jiro Nozaka at the PRiDe II Project Office Namulonge

Mr. Tatsuo Fujita will succeed to the Chief Advisor, who has vast knowledge and experiences on JICA's technical cooperation projects.

Progress of the Musomesa Field School (MFS) – Season 2022A

PRiDe II MFS activities have been proceeding smoothly in the selected lowland sites in Eastern Uganda (Bugweri, Mayuge, Namutumba, Sironko, Kween among others) and Northern Uganda – Lira District (Itek and Barr Sub counties).

The PRiDe team together with the extension officers and ZARDI researchers have been training farmers on nursery bed making and transplanting. PRiDe II recommends planting with pure seed and transplanting at a space of 30cm x 15cm using planting rope. This allows proper field management, especially for easy weeding.

In Bugweri District, surprisingly, the Agricultural Officer (AO) and a Musomesa who graduated MFS in 2019 have started their own MFS based on the experiences with PRiDe II. All the AOs receive training posters after the Training of Trainers (TOT) at NaCRRI, therefore, they can utilize such materials for training in villages.

Independent Musomesa Field School (Nursery bed making training) in Ibulanku Sub County, Bugweri District

We were worried about shortage of rain till the beginning of April, however, now most of the MFS sites receive enough rain and training at the demonstration fields have been proceeding smoothly.

Research Activities for PRiDe II

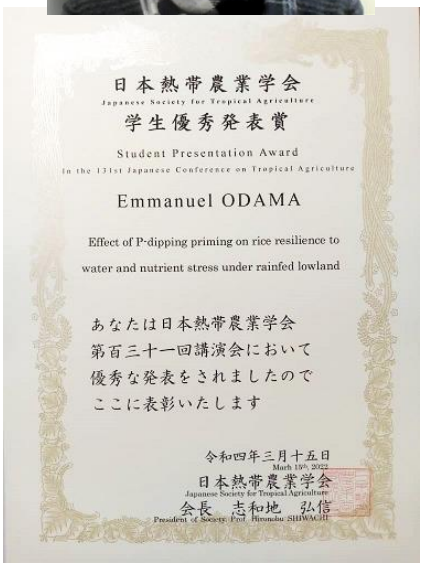
Target Research Institutes of PRiDe II have been progressing research, seed production and extension activities under the close collaboration with PRiDe II. Especially in Ikulwe station, Buginyanya ZARDI and Bulindi ZARDI, the institutes received JICA volunteers (JOCV) to promote rice-related activities.

Mr. Kojima, JICA Expert (Breeding) and Dr. Jimmy Lamo, Head of Cereal Programmes in NaCRRI have been working closely on National Performance Trial (NPT) at 7 sites including the selected ZARDIs to monitor the performance of new varieties. Kamenyamigo Station, Mukono ZARDI and Tochi Irrigation Scheme in Oyam District were newly selected. Monthly planting experiments were started in NaCRRI, Bulindi, Rwebitaba, Ngetta, Abi ZARDI and NaSARRI to determine the best sowing timing and to identify a suitable variety for each specific zone. JOCVs also share their knowledge and experiences with researchers/technicians in each institute.

From the top; Ikulwe, Abi ZARDI, Rwebitaba ZARDI, Bulindi ZARDI, NaSARRI, and Ngetta ZARDI

Award Winning Research Officer

Mr. Emmanuel Odama, Research Officer in Abi ZARDI is currently pursuing a Ph.D in Tropical Bio-Resources and Plant Production through the Agricultural Networks Program for Food Security (Agri-Net) under a scholarship by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



As part of the requirements of his Ph.D program, and under the supervision of Professor Junichi SAKAGAMI, he participated in the 131st General Meeting of Japanese Society for Tropical Agriculture held online on March 15-16, 2022. During the Conference he won the outstanding Student Presentation Award.

Student Presentation Award by Japanese Society for Tropical Agriculture

Follow-up work for development of DNA Marker Technology in NaCRRI

On 18th April, Dr. Nitta came back to Uganda for a one-month assignment. From December 2021 to February 2022, he worked as a short-term expert on DNA marker technology. This time, he is going to follow up on the marker guidance which he performed the previous time. Dr. Nitta is assisting the Cereals Program in developing a DNA marker-assisted selection system for the Rice Yellow Mottle Virus (RYMV) resistance gene, rymv1-2, which is found in the rice variety Gigante. This technique is expected to simplify and accelerate rice breeding in order to develop RYMV resistant new rice varieties.

(Left) Dr. Nitta checking the condition of block incubator

(Right) Dr. Nitta discussing the result of lab tests with his counterparts

PRiDe Uganda