

Technical Report

SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF KEY FARMING SYSTEMS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

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Introduction

As part of the U.S. government's Feed the Future (FtF) initiative to address global hunger and food security issues in sub-Saharan Africa, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is supporting multi-stakeholder agricultural research projects to sustainably intensify key African farming systems and as a way of bringing a regional focus to the CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) on Integrated Systems, especially CRPs 1.1 and 1.2. The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is the lead institute for developing and implementing the Eastern and Southern Africa project. This research project focuses primarily on maize- and rice-based production systems in Tanzania but is intended to result in spill-over effects to other similar agro-ecological zones in Eastern and Southern Africa. .

Feed the Future Tanzania is focusing on reducing poverty and enhancing nutrition through key investments to improve availability and access to staple foods by enhancing the competitiveness of smallholders in rice, maize and horticulture value chains; raising productivity through irrigation and rural roads; improving household nutrition; policy reforms; and developing national capacity for policy, planning and coordination, research and development and monitoring and evaluation (U.S. Government, 2010). These investments are being geographically focused in areas with high agricultural potential bordering chronically food insecure districts: Morogoro (rice); Manyara and Dodoma (maize); and Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Iringa and Mbeya (horticulture). Nutrition interventions are being focused in areas with high chronic malnutrition such as Dodoma region. The FtF target areas are characterized by moderate to high levels of food insecurity and poverty, but with high potential for growth due to proximity to transport corridors for market access and impact on nearby food insecure areas, lack of investment by other donors, good water resources and climatic conditions, opportunity for high impact on "productive" poor, prioritized by Government of Tanzania and private investors, and ability to achieve scalable high growth impact.

This project is expected to complement FtF investments in Tanzania with research on best-bet management practices for sustainable intensification and diversification of maize- and rice based farming systems. It should also expand existing activities such as the project on Sustainable Intensification of Maize-Legume Cropping Systems for Food Security in Eastern and Southern Africa (SIMLESA), initiatives in maize and legume systems in Eastern Zambia (SIMLEZA) supported by USAID-Zambia, and others.

The Project started in October 2011 when funds were transferred to IITA.

Activities October to December 2011

1. Project planning meeting

A project planning meeting was held from 16 to 17 October 2011 at the ILRI office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. in preparation for a project inception workshop in February 2012 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Twenty participants attended (including via Skype) from USAID/BFS/ARP and the CGIAR Centers ILRI, ICRISAT, CIMMYT, IFPRI, CIAT, and IITA.

The meeting was called by USAID to bring together Centers and scientists conducting critical agricultural research in the region. The discussions of the meeting were expected to provide the basis for the development of concept notes in which regional research and development project plans and objectives would be more fully described.

The Centers present gave an overview on their current work in Tanzania and neighboring countries and the partners they are collaborating with.

Relevant researchable issues and constraints were discussed and it was recommended to address them in the Concept Note.

With Manyara and Dodoma Regions, the tentative geographic focus of the project for work on maize-legume-livestock integrated farming systems was identified. It was decided that the specific locations would be determined later during the forthcoming project design/inception workshop with the support of IFPRI and when more biophysical and socio-economic data would be available.

During the workshop it was not fully clear whether research on rice-based farming systems should be part of the scope of the project.

Next steps in terms of developing the concept note and preparation of the project inception meeting were decided. The date for the inception workshop was fixed for 6-9 February 2012 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and IITA was charged with the organization in close collaboration with USAID/BFS/ARP.

2. Concept note development

Following the planning workshop in Addis Ababa, a core team under the leadership of the Project Coordinator prepared the concept note on Sustainable intensification of maize-legume-livestock integrated farming systems in Eastern and Southern Africa in a collaborative effort. It shared with USAID in December for feedback. Members of the writing team were from ICRISAT, CIMMYT, CIAT, ILRI, IFPRI, AVRDC, and IITA.

While writing the concept note, the team followed the outline that had been prepared by the project coordinator and USAID. The exact action sites for the research were not specified as it was planned that these would be identified in a special exercise with the support of scientists from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) during the forthcoming workshop. A detailed project budget and annual workplan were also not prepared at this stage because this needed consultation with other non-CGIAR partners who would be part of the project implementation team and identified during the design workshop.

Upon the request of USAID, a separate concept note under the leadership of AfricaRice and in collaboration with AVRDC and others was prepared for research on *Sustainable intensification and diversification of rice-based inland valley systems in the national rice basket of Tanzania*. It was also shared with USAID end of December and feedback was requested.

3. Organization of project design/inception workshop

Parallel to the development of the concept notes, the Project Coordinator collaborated closely with USAID to identify key participants for the project design workshop.

The venue has been fixed and a block reservation for participants made. Invitations were sent out last week of December to all participants identified by that time.

The Head of ILRI's Communication Unit in Addis Ababa and a colleague agreed to facilitate the meeting.