

PD ABS-034

**Consultancy Report
Quarterly Report: January - March 1994**

**Uganda: On-Farm Productivity Enhancement Project
FAO-0158-A-00-2054-00**

Prepared for:
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OPPEP QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
ENDING MARCH 31, 1994.

This report covers the activities conducted by both the Country Coordinator and the Extension Agent based in Iganga District for the stated period.

I MONTH OF DECEMBER 1993.

The month was generally hot and dry with some isolated showers. In fact weather - related evidence indicated massive crop failure throughout the project region.

a) Activities Conducted by the Country Coordinator.

Calliandra calothyrsus seeds were procured from Kenya through the East African Coordinator and were received by the Coordinator during the first week of the month. Inputs for the establishment of Calliandra nursery were procured during the latter part of the month. These included hoes, shovels, and other related inputs. Telephone services were paid for and installation was later done although OPPEP office is not yet connected by phone at the time of writing this report.

b) Activities conducted by the Extension Agent, Iganga District.

A full account of field activities within Iganga District is tabulated in the attached reporting sheet for December.

II MONTH OF JANUARY 1994

a) Activities conducted by the Country Coordinator.

Jan 4-5: The Agroforestry unit (Namulonge), the extension agent (Iganga) and the Country Coordinator established and planted Calliandra nursery at Busalamu with 15 farmers in attendance. These farmers now have some information on raising Calliandra seedlings. NTEA staff were also in attendance.

Jan 7-8: The Agroforestry unit (Namulonge) and the Country Coordinator as well as the CCF staff of Adhola Project established and planted the Calliandra nursery in Adhola (Tororo District). Ten (10) farmers and CCF staff attended this exercise.

- Comments: (1) The farmers of Busalamu and the CCF staff have planted the nurseries subsequently indicating they grasped the techniques.
- (2) Because of drought, watering the demoplots became difficult especially with Busalamu (the nursery was established in a farmer's home). A nursery attendant was hired for both nursery sites. The Tororo nursery site was advantaged by the presence of a borehole at CCF project offices.
- (3) Germination was rather poor at both nursery sites, probably reflecting on the quality of seed. This problem was, however, overcome by soaking the seeds a little longer after the hot-water scarification process.

Jan 12: The OFPEP Lead Agency Representative halted OFPEP field activities until Washington cleared the matching fund issue. At head office, transport was grounded and the Coordinator never moved out.

a) Activities Conducted by the Extension Agent (Iganga).

Field activities, however, continued in Iganga as a result of the efforts of the extension agent based there. These activities are presented in an attached table of activities for the period January 1 through February 28, 1994.

Jan. 24: The Lead Agency Representative, the Extension Agent (Iganga) and the Country Coordinator met in the former's office to discuss the lull in OFPEP activities. The outcome of the meeting was that a decision was still awaited from Washington in this regard. The Coordinator informed the OFPEP East Africa Coordinator of this development.

III MONTH OF MARCH.

There was a resumption in OFPEP activities during this month.

a) Activities by the Country Coordinator.

- Mar 3:** Procurement of seeds (Maize, Soybean, Sorghum) from the Uganda Seeds Project (USP) to plant the demoplots. Also a Central Calliandra Nursery was established at the Forestry Department nursery site in Iganga in view of the insisiting drought. The forestry staff of the District were hired to do the job. Water was readily available in an underground well. This nursery is doing quite well and is expected to serve the farmers within Iganga and the new demoplots to be opened.
- Mar 7:** Additional maize and sorghum seeds was procured from USP for distribution in the project region. Beans (MCH5001) was also procured from CIAT for demonstration in Iganga. Appropriate inoculants were also procured.
- Mar 9:** Payment for two motorcycles for the extension agents were effected. These now await the tax exemption decision from the appropriate authorities.
- Mar 11:** A second extension agent for Tororo was interviewed and recruited. He is Mr. Nathan Koteki whose appointment took effect April 1, 1994. The interview was conducted with the Lead Agency Representative as head of the panel. The demoplot inputs were distributed in Iganga and Tororo. Sandra Blanchard accompanied the Coordinator.
- Mar 15:** The trip to the project region to distribute more demoplot inputs was conducted. In Tororo District (with no extension agent as yet), the Coordinator asked the farmers and CCF officials at project sites to do land preparations for demoplot planting. The trip was also meant to collect information on the Collaborators inputs to OFPEP to be used as Match.
- Mar 16:** Travelled to Busaba CCF Project and made appointment to plant the demoplots next Wednesday (March 23).
- Mar 17:** In the morning Abur demoplots were planted in Tororo. The attendance was twelve farmers (11 men and one woman) as well as CCF staff. In the afternoon Poyameri demoplots were planted attended by 11 farmers (all men) and CCF staff.
- Mar 18:** Appointments for planting demoplots were made with the officials of the CCF Project area as indicated below:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Officials seen</u>	<u>When Demoplot should be planted.</u>
March 18	Mr. Wandera-Omenya, Project Administrator Buhwana CCF Project.	Friday 25th March 1994, Morning hours.
" "	Mr. Moses Namanyi Senior Social Worker Buhanye CCF Project.	Friday 25th March 1994, afternoon.
" "	Mr. Julius Erina Project Committee Member, Buyengo CCF Project.	Wednesday 23rd March 1994.

Mar 19: The Project Administrator and CCF staff Adhola Project had a meeting with the farmers (project families).

They planted the demoplots together with the farmers assisted by an Assistant Agricultural Officer and last seasons' experience. Farmers who attended consisted of 55 men and 15 women.

Mar 22: Delivered demoplot inputs for Toka farmers (Peace Corps Area) in Iganga District while en-route to plant Tororo demoplots. This delivery consisted of Calliandra seeds, the inoculant and seeds of maize, sorghum and soya. Steven Eulewicz of the Peace Corps is to organise the establishment of a Calliandra nursery here. Cassava seed from Namulonge was delivered to Busisamu for multiplication in the face of attack by Cassava Mosaic Virus on local varieties.

Mar 23: Buyengo demoplots were planted with the supervision of the Country Coordinator. Twenty upper primary school children and 8 farmers (all men) attended the exercise. This is located at CCF Project offices just south of Busia. Cassava seed was delivered to Adhola Project for Multiplication.

Mar 24: Busaba demoplots were planted with the supervision of the Country Coordinator. The site is located at CCF Project offices in the extreme North of Tororo. Sixty farmers attended including 50 men and 10 women.

Mar 25: Morning Hours: Buhwama demoplots were planted. A total of 28 farmers attended including 3 elderly women.

Afternoon Hours: Buhanye demoplots were planted under the supervision of the Country Coordinator. 21 men and 16 women attended the exercise.

b) Activities by the Extension Agent (Iganga).

Ezra Okoth also planted demoplots within Iganga during the month. In fact by April 1 1994, a total of 7 demoplots have been planted against a target of 20 for Iganga. By the time of writing this report, the monthly report for March 1992 for Iganga District was still awaited.

Comments on demoplot layouts:

- A: Attitude of Collaborators: There appeared to be rather little commitment to demoplot activities from CCF Project areas which have been disaffiliated (Poyameri) or are being disaffiliated (Buhwama). MTEA is ill-financed and has requested OFPEP time and again to consider offering financial support to assist it its various financial commitments. They have no income generating activities as well as the logistic set-up.
- B: Treatment: Treatment aspects in the various demoplots in Iganga and Tororo have incorporated the following:
- 1) alley cropping
 - 2) animal manure
 - 3) inoculation
 - 4) improved seed versus local seed.
 - 5) recommended spacing versus traditional planting methods.
- C: Demoplot Size: On average, each demoplot site occupies about a quarter of an acre with each individual plot measuring 4m x 6m. In Buhwama where a smaller piece of land was prepared (probably due to the reason cited under A above), the plots measure 4m x 5m.

D: Crop Spacing.

Crop	Spacing	No. of Plants per hill
Maize-Longe I	75cm x 50cm	2
Soya -Nam I	60cm x 15cm	2
Sorghum-Seredo	60cm x 10cm.	1
Cassava	1m x 1m	1 cutting of 30cm.
Beans (MCM 5001)	60cm x 10cm	2

E: Farmer Training at Demoplot Planting. The farmers present at each demoplot planting are taught on good land preparation, early planting, correct spacing and good quality seed.

The farmers are also exposed to how to make fairly accurate measurements using sticks and bare hands just prior to planting. This is because in most rural homesteads, there are no rulers and in any case the use of rulers in planting operations can be cumbersome.

IV ASSESSMENT OF DEMOLOTS PLANTED IN THE LAST SEASON.

As noted earlier, there were hardly any rains for most of the latter part of 1993 and the early months of 1994. Most demoplots planted last season were very adversely affected by the drought. This is true with the crops planted by the farming community throughout the project region. The scenario with the demoplots is as recorded in the Demonstration Results, 2nd rains season 1993, attached.