

Feed The Future India Triangular Training (FTF ITT) Program

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1. National Farmers Day 2020 @ MANAGE

‘National Farmers Day’ is celebrated every year in India to mark the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, **Shri Choudhary Charan Singh** on 23rd December. Farmers Day/ ‘Kisan Diwas’ is celebrated to acknowledge and appreciate the role of millions of farmers in feeding the nation.

MANAGE, Hyderabad celebrated the National Farmers Day on 23rd December, 2020 through a webinar at MANAGE, Hyderabad. More than 80 delegates that included farmers, farm women, fishermen, Agripreneurs, innovating startups, input dealers and trainees from different states and even



other countries participated and shared their field level experiences and gave suggestions to improve extension and entrepreneurship in agriculture. The officers, scientists, faculty members and extension professional from state departments, ICAR, KVKs, SAMETIs, EEs, NGOs, FPOs, Students of different MANAGE educational courses and International trainees from Uganda, Kenya, Ghana and Nepal attended this live webinar and shared their professional experiences and expressed their expectations from MANAGE.

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General, MANAGE emphasised the need for everyone to work together to build better institutions, better programs and better approaches in order to develop a better farmer and better extension worker in the country. He shared that MANAGE has introduced innovative programs



like, Service Extension through Voluntary Association (SEVA)-MANAGE to involve retired Agri professionals in agricultural development, National Network of Agri Journalists (NNAJ) for rapid communication of Agri news and Krishi Gyandee Knowledge Lectures Series for motivating extension professionals in India. MANAGE is willing to join hands with all its partners to rededicate

itself for the welfare of farmers, he said.

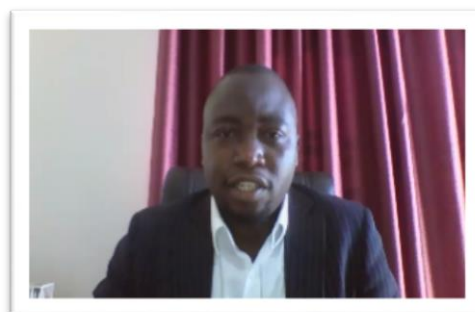
Dr. Mahantesh Shirur, Deputy Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE facilitated the feedback by International trainees and participants of Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) program implemented by MANAGE. Dr. Mahantesh Shirur introduced three International trainees Mr. Huudu Bampuori Abu from Ghana, Mr. Mutehimbwa Chrispin Kakuba from Uganda and Ms. Kabaji Mary Njeri from Kenya. All the three shared their feedback and experience in attending the FTF ITT programs organized by MANAGE.



Mr. Huudu Bampuori Abu, Regional Crop Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Ghana recalled his FTF ITT International Training Program on “Value Addition and Market Linkage Mechanisms in Millets” held during 23rd January – 06th February, 2018 at ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India and shared the ways in which he is making use of the recent technologies in millets production in his region in Ghana.



Mr. Mutehimbwa Chrispin Kakuba, Executive Director, Sensitise Uganda from Uganda who attended the 35th FTF ITT International Training Program on “Agribusiness and Management” held during 18th June – 2nd July, 2019 at National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India shared his experiences. He highlighted the importance of augmenting farming income through agribusiness and management. He said his experience of training at MANAGE was very enriching and he is trying to spread the same knowledge in Uganda. He urged MANAGE to arrange similar trainings and follow-up sessions in the coming year.



Ms. Kabaji Mary Njeri Principal Agriculture Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Kenya who attended the 43rd FTF ITT International Training Program on “Food Processing and Value Addition Technologies for Agripreneurship” held during 4th -18th March, 2020 at CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru, Karnataka, India appreciated MANAGE for inviting her during National Farmers Day celebration. She said, the hands on training experience at CFTRI, Mysuru gave her one of the best training experience in her life. She is confident that her training at MANAGE will help her in her professional excellence.



2. Success Stories from Back at Work Plans implementing by trained executives of FTF ITT

Benefits of Legume Intercropping in Agriculture and Food Security in Tanzania

Improving agricultural productivity and production in developing countries like sub-Saharan Africa is a prerequisite for maintaining rural livelihoods. This needs increased use of quality seeds of improved and well-adapted crop varieties. Legumes are particularly critical in ensuring food and nutritional securities of the majority of farming households. Legumes play an important role in the sustainability of agricultural and food systems, contributing to soil fertility and environmental protection, as well as to food safety and nutrition. Tanzania grows several species of tropical grain legumes. These include common bean, groundnut, pigeon pea, cowpea, chickpea, peas and soybean. Annual area and production of the major grain legumes are estimated at more than 1.5 million ha and 1 million metric tons (MT), respectively.

Ms. Mwaindi Iddi from Tanzania attended the 42nd FTF ITT training program on “Good Agriculture Practices for Sustainable Agriculture in Developing Countries” conducted on 11th – 25th March, 2020 at International Crop Research Institute for Semi-arid tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad. Climate change is one of the major factors that hinders the production of legumes in Tanzania and a report of United Republic of Tanzania (URT, 2017) had indicated that like any other developing nation Tanzania is going to experience the effect of climate change and variability. In order to make the agriculture sustainable, climate adaptation strategies, programmes and policies has to take place to develop resilience against climate-related shocks. Adaptation strategies such as minimum tillage, mulching, integrated nutrient management, crop rotation and use of improved varieties helps to attain the productivity and thus food security will be achieved.

To attain this, Ms. Mwaindi had organized a training programme to agriculture tutors on climate adaptation and resilient practices and she also planned to conduct a field study with the help of final year agricultural graduates but unable to conduct due to the pandemic situation of COVID-19. She is hopeful that, this plan will be renewed on next cropping season.

In April, 2020 four demo plots were raised in a heavily infested nut grass (*Cyperus rotundus*) field to demonstrate the practice of intercropping. Sole cropping of cassava was followed in first plot, cassava+ cowpea in second plot, maize + groundnut in 3rd plot and maize with cowpea in fourth plot. Hand weeding was done to remove the weeds nut grass (dominant weed) and other weeds; black jack (*Bidens pilosa*) and quick weed (*Galinsoga parviflora*), followed by earthing up the crop with the help of a hand-hoe.

Outcome

The legume intercropped demo plots had shown a significant control on weed infestation levels than those without intercropping as shown in figure 1 & 2.



Figure 1



Figure 2

The intercropping of cowpea and groundnut legumes led to the growth of well-established plant canopies covering the entire soil, which led to the emergence of new weeds being limited (figure 1a and figure 2b). It led to the reduction in the cost of weeding and thus helps to increase the yield levels.



Figure 1 a



Figure 2 b

Intercropping with legumes not only aids in weed control and moisture conservation but also provides as economic security to the farmers in case of crop loss. Further, legumes also helps in fixation of atmospheric nitrogen to the soil thereby improving the biological properties of soil. The cowpea leaves are consumed fresh especially during wet season and in dried form during the lean or dry season while the mature seeds are consumed as pulses. The leaves can also be sold at the market to get money for household income. The Fall Army Worm infestation levels were observed less in maize when intercropped with legumes like cowpea and groundnut.



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(ii) Introduction to Agro-forestry and Training on "Nursery Establishment"

Tobacco production has been one of the largest sources of income for many farmers in Malawi. In 2005, Malawi was 12th largest producer of tobacco and 7th largest global supporter of tobacco leaves. Even though production of Tobacco leaves has decreased due to switching on from non-contracted farmers to contracted farmers, a great number of farmers are still producing tobacco.

Over the years, the industry has contributed to rapid deforestation of land. For each pound of tobacco produced, the farmer needs 20 pounds (9.1 kg) of wood. A good number of farmers grow flue-cured tobacco, a process that uses intensive amount of wood.

Ms. Mtaza Violet was inspired by the agroforestry fields that they visited in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu during the FTF ITT International Training Program on “Agroforestry: Policy, Practice and Impact” organized during 10-24th October, 2019 at World Agro Forestry (ICRAF), New Delhi/ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute (CAFRI), Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh/ Forest College and Research Institute (FC&RI), Mettupalayam, Tamil Nadu, India.

The initial plan of Ms. Mtaza Violet was to conduct trainings for farmers to incorporate pasture species as an agroforestry practice in Kasungu area, where she noticed scarcity of pastures. But due to other factors such as trouble in finding the pasture species here in Malawi as well as distance to the district to conduct the trainings with thorough supervision, she decided to work with the government forestry officer in Lilongwe to implement the activity. She identified three activities for implementation of Back At Work Plan are given briefly as below.

Introduction to Agroforestry and Nursery establishment training

She conducted training on ‘Introduction to Agroforestry’ on 2nd June, 2020. A total number of 18 farmers from 2 clubs attended the training.



Establishment of Nursery

Both clubs established tree nurseries of senna spectabilis and albizia lebbeck species on 10th June 2020.



Established nursery

The trees that were established in the nurseries were chosen for the purpose of them being a source of firewood, a source of wood for establishing live barns to be used during tobacco production.



Interaction with the farmers during one of the field visits

Tree planting

Trees were water planted in September, 2020 and are maintained well now.

Current status:

The clubs welcomed the idea of agroforestry. All the members of these clubs are prominent tobacco farmers. She is optimistic that the current trend that has been set as a result of the trainings conducted in this area will be replicated to other farmers as the farmers have been trained to train fellow farmers in their region.

Challenges

- Due to the recent Covid-19 pandemic some few activities that I planned were cancelled. But because of the good rapport I had with the forestry officer I was able to communicate with him on progress.
- Low resources - I could not conduct frequent supervision trips due to lack of resources

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3. Sneak peek into the upcoming 50th issue of the e-bulletin

- ❖ Back at Work Plan Success stories of executives

FTF ITT Training Program Overview

Total number of training programs completed: **44/44**

Number of executives trained: **1144**

Male: Female: **709: 435**

Number of Countries covered: **20**

Name of the countries:

Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam

Africa: Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda

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