**EBCA COMPONENT 1 NOTES**

**Uganda – Jimmy Lamo – Friday, 22 may 2020**

Jimmy explained that their usual process to conduct PVS trials is to have a partner seed company or farming location host the activity at their site; where participants walk around to look at various varieties and rank them from best to worst. Breeders then consult with the farmers to obtain information on what they like or don’t like to define the traits they should improve on. PVS activities have been conducted with 320 farmers at 10 different sites, during which 3 promising varieties have been identified. Cooking sessions have also taken place in 4 producing areas, and some training on quality seed production has been given to seed growers in 10 locations. Nucleus seed of the 3 promising lines have been cleaned and planted, 7 tons of foundation seed has been produced, and a total of 4 new released varieties (Namche-1; 4; 5; 6) are now being promoted. The work of a womenʼs group was highlighted as showing great initiative and performance (visited by Gary Atlin), and Jimmy was enthusiastic to report about the training his team has undertaken on gender-based breeding. A draft document is being compiled on the farmer preferences they have collected at the different PVS locations, which he agreed to share with the EBCA team. It was also agreed that they will send us the information leaflets/technical factsheets for the top 10 varieties grown in Uganda (including the 4 new releases); their contact listings of seed growers and companies (2 seed companies are involved in EBCA, each working with various seed growers); the protocol used and the raw data collected from the reported PVS activities; as well as any other relevant knowledge products to feed the KnowledgeBase. Valerie also offered her help to document project stories when and if needed and requested that they share any relevant photos or articles in the meantime.

Side note about the seed multiplication process (a question by Jean-Marcel):

* Breeder seed is produced at the institute
* By law, foundation seed should be produced by institutes or credible/registered breeding companies. The private sector should be producing more foundation seed but the reality is that seed companies are not very much interested in doing it for rice
* Therefore, most of the time, the institute will be producing foundation seed (F1), and refer to seed growers to produce F2 in irrigation schemes (and show them how to avoid seed mixing). Seed companies will then buy foundation seed (F2) to multiply (1 cycle – quick to market) and distribute them
* Quality declared seed are produced by communities in some locations (and then inspected by the institute), because seed companies don’t cover the whole country or orphan crops
* Seed quantities (production) and demand (sales) can be tracked through the Seed Traders Association

**Senegal – Omar Faye – Thursday, 21 May 2020**

Omar provided an example of how they conduct a PVS trial: farmers would look at 30 varieties and choose their top 3 preferred lines. These choices are weighted, and farmers are asked to explain which criteria and traits they used to support their preferences; after which all these answers are compiled and classified to identify the strongest candidates. 3 PVS trials have been conducted with 73 farmers, with the help of 3 students. 15 varieties have been released for irrigated areas, and 5 new promising lines have been identified. There are plans to have those 5 promising varieties evaluated after the harvest season. 9 specific traits have also been identified for the breeding program to work on. Some showcases have taken place with farming associations and seed companies but links with them remain to be officialized (contracts). 3 workshops on agronomic practices and seed productions are also in the plans: 2 planned for the dry season have been delayed due to the pandemic (1 with technicians on production control, and 1 with producers for research-action); another is still in the works for the wet season. Breeder seed have been distributed to 4 seed companies/big farming associations for multiplication (6 tons; though 14 tons of "prébase" is produced to also cover the needs of "essais de vitrine"). We have already received all the technical factsheets requested (top 10) but it was agreed that Omar will now share the factsheets for all 15 released varieties. People on his team is already working on documenting all their seed dealer contacts so they will share those with us as well. The protocol they use for PVS is very close to the one provided by the Breeding Task Force but they will share their local model for comparison purposes. They have been producing videos and blog articles about their activities and we have requested that they include us in their lists so that we may share these stories in our communications channels to give more visibility to the project.

**Ghana – Maxwell Asante – Tuesday, 19 May 2020**

There are 2 ways in which PVS activities usually take place: a) farmers are invited (and grouped according to the locations they come from) to have them select choose among varieties and explain the criteria behind their preferences – this also include blind selection to check between varieties; b) on-farm: seed is given to farmers to grow them in their fields and have them provide feedback after. PVS activities and trials have reached 141+ farmers and a number of others who have been otherwise exposed in various demos. These include 20 farmers directly engaged to test new varieties in their fields (on-farm). Breeder seed for 6 new varieties have been distributed to 4 companies and one farming community. Plans in 2020 include organizing 3 fields days and focus groups, and engaging with 15 farmers for variety evaluation as well as cooking and milling tests; though this large group meeting will most likely be delayed due to the ongoing pandemic. Another challenge is that the program is currently short on seed it can distribute to farmers. Some articles have already been written describing the feedback and preferences received by farmers. It was agreed that the team in Ghana will share these with us, as well as the raw data and the protocol generated from the reported PVS activities. They will also share their listings of seed dealers, and the technical factsheets for the top 10 varieties grown in Ghana as well as the 6 reported new varieties, to feed the KnowledgeBase. The Rice Breeding Taskforce will now pick up on multilocation and on-farm trials thanks to a 2-year project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the tools and data generated there will also be shared with the EBCA team.

*\* Note was taken to remind EBCA partners of our branding guidelines for the use of project logos.*

**Uganda – David Okello – Thursday, 7 May 2020**

PVS activities were conducted at 22 farmer sites; where they compare the standard NaSARRI variety with stabilizing material. Trial sites are also being maintained by and for students at NaSARRI and NaCCRI. 6 varieties are currently in the pipeline (groundnut) and they will be documenting the technical factsheets with more information; especially to take into account the data requested by socio-economics specialists. David has shared the technical factsheets (as they stand now) to feed into the EBCA knowledge base (NARONUT 1R (DOK 1R) and 2T (DOK 1T); SERENUT 8R; 14R; 9T and 11T). He his particularly interested in finding ways to capture the adoption story for these varieties; what will have made a farmer switch to them? The next step for the knowledge base will be to send in the contact lists they have for seed businesses (private companies); though note is taken that they also work with community distributors and multiplicators for which contact names shall be systematized A new EBCA website (portal) will be a great way to provide better visibility to the program and their partners.