Farmers’ Willingness to Adopt Rice Intercrops for Soil fertility management in the Lake Victoria Crescent Agro ecological Zone (LVCAEZ) of Uganda

Challenge
Mono/sole cropping has failed to meet the diversified domestic needs of small holder farmers. This necessitates a shift from mono cropping to inter/multiple cropping, which is being considered as an excellent strategy for intensifying land use and increasing income and production per unit area and time.

NARO-Mukono ZARDI intervenes
Formation of multidisciplinary teams, Identification of stakeholders in the rice production, selection of rice production area, population and sample size and generated information on rice intercropping systems in the Lake Victoria Agro Ecological Crescent Zone (LVAECZ)

Results
• Common rice intercrop were maize, beans, cassava, millet, sorghum
• Maize rice intercrop was preferred by the majority of farmers
• Food security ranked highest as the main reason for intercropping
• Other reasons were, income security, land utilization, soil fertility
• Determinants for rice intercropping adoption were,
  ✓ Age of house hold head
  ✓ Education level of house hold head
  ✓ Years of rice growing
  ✓ Ever received extension advice
  ✓ Membership to farmer groups
  ✓ Acreage under rice
  ✓ Paddy or upland rice
  ✓ Problem accessing seed

Recommendation
• Creation of awareness of the benefits of rice intercrops, sensitization on the selection and use of
  • appropriate intercrops for soil fertility enhancement
• Formation of Multi-stakeholder innovation platforms to deal with immerging issues like climate change

Acknowledgement: This work was supported by the Government of Uganda, Beatrice Akello(PhD),Director NARO MUZARDI
Authors: R.Kabanyoro, I.Mugisa, S.Kabiri, B.Kyampeire, B.Fungo, G.Kituuka