

strides

in *Striga* management



A quarterly progress update by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation for stakeholders in the *Striga* Control Project

June, 2009

better tools, better harvest, better lives



Participants follow proceedings of the Nigeria 'Striga' kick-off meeting held in Ibadan from 20-21 May 2009.

Kenya's *Striga* Control Committee holds workshop

The Kenya National *Striga* Control Committee and the Kilimo Trust held their inaugural meeting on 12 May 2009 in Nairobi. The meeting, attended by public and private sector partners involved in *Striga* control in Kenya aimed at developing stakeholder consensus and a scientifically and financially viable Kenya sub-programme concept note to scale-up the most appropriate technologies and practices to manage *Striga* in an integrated package that addresses the entire value chain. The concept note will be submitted to Kilimo Trust and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) for consideration for funding. The funding, if provided will enable the project to unlock the production potential of cereals especially maize by eliminating the *Striga* threat through the entire value chain from resource management to marketing.

Imidazoline Resistant maize commercialised in Tanzania

Tanzania became the second country in Eastern Africa region to commercialise the Imidazoline Resistant (IR) maize (*StrigAway*®) technology after Kenya. Commonly called '*Komesha Kiduha*' (meaning stop *Striga*) in Tanzania, the full release by a local seed company - Tansed International Ltd of the first ever *Komesha Kiduha* variety TAN 222 in December 2008 is a landmark that will enable commercialisation of the technology in Tanzania. The success of this release and registration is the result of a partnership between AATF, Tansed International Ltd, Tanzania's Ministry of Agriculture and Extension Services, Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), BASF and farmers. The released *Komesha Kiduha* (TAN 222), an open pollinated variety, is already in the regulatory agency's catalogue of varieties awaiting registration this year.

Increasing awareness of IR maize in Tanzania



AATF in partnership with CIMMYT and BASF have produced two public awareness communication materials in Kiswahili (a commonly spoken language in Tanzania) targeting Tanzania. The booklets titled

'*Kiduha: Magugu hatari kwa mazao ya nafaka*' and *StrigAway*®: *komesha kiduha*' will be distributed to extension workers and farmers in Tanzania and focus on the impact and extent of the *Striga* witchweed in Tanzania and the solution offered by *StrigAway*® maize.

Controlling the spread of the *Striga* witchweed in Uganda

The infestation of the *Striga* witchweed in Uganda has been reported to cause grain losses in the range of 20-100% in maize. *Striga* which is widespread in the northern, eastern, western and West Nile regions of Uganda affects the livelihood of thousands of small-scale farmers. It is against this background that AATF and its partners in the project organised a workshop in March 2009 in Kampala to discuss the various ways that can be employed to effectively control *Striga* in Uganda.

During the workshop, it was revealed that six IR-maize varieties from CIMMYT are undergoing evaluation in national performance trials under the National Agricultural Research Organisation National Agricultural Crops Research and Resources Institute's (NARO-NACCRI) Maize Programme to identify the most appropriate IR- maize varieties for Uganda for registration, commercial release and subsequent permit seed production by the private seed companies. The meeting was attended by the various partners; including Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries, NARO- NACCRI, Uganda Seed Traders Association, African 2000 Network, CIMMYT, BASF Company and Kilimo Trust.

Striga control project targets southern and West Africa

The *Striga* control project is set to expand to Eastern, Southern and Western Africa in 2009. The problem of *Striga* in these regions affects over 23 million hectares. The process of selecting IR-maize materials suited to different agro-ecologies of southern African countries is already in progress with CIMMYT Zimbabwe. This will be followed by awareness creation on the *Strigaway*® technology and its use so as to facilitate its release, registration and eventual commercialisation.

The countries targeted in the Southern African region are Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Malawi, and Nigeria and Ghana in West Africa. The entry into Nigeria was marked by a kick-off meeting held from 20-21 May 2009 in Ibadan, Nigeria. In West Africa, the partners include AATF, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture based in Ibadan Nigeria, BASF, seed companies and non-governmental organisations.

Reading materials on *Striga* control

- AATF (2006) Empowering African farmers to eradicate *Striga* from maize croplands.
- Manyong, VM et al., (2008) Farmer perceptions of Imazapyr-Resistant (IR) maize technology on the control of *Striga* in Western Kenya: An agricultural collaborative study on *Striga* control by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
- Manyong, VM et al., (2008) Baseline Study of *Striga* control using Imazapyr-Resistant (IR) Maize in Western Kenya: An agricultural collaborative study on *Striga* control by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

For copies of these materials see contacts below.

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