



**Number of Extension Events
Organized per Season per
Country**

Milestone 4.4.3

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N2Africa

**Putting nitrogen fixation to work
for smallholder farmers in Africa**



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Milestone 4.4.3: At least three extension events (e.g. field days, exchange visits) organized per season per country.

1 Summary

Extension events held across most N2Africa countries from October 2011 – July 2012 were both more numerous, varied in type and for DRC, Kenya, Malawi and Zimbabwe were particularly successful at drawing in more female than male participants, compared to the first reporting period. Many more extension events have been organised in most countries than initially planned, and these have been attended by over 28,000 farmers. Showcasing value added legume products, as was done in Kenya and Zimbabwe, and using drama to promote N2Africa technologies (Zimbabwe) are excellent means of getting more information about the project to the public, as well as providing more effective ways of conveying our messages. All N2Africa countries should attempt to diversify both the type of extension events and the means by which information is conveyed in the last year of activities so as to have a greater and more lasting impact. In areas where it is difficult for women to travel (e.g. northern Nigeria), use of media, and perhaps establishing demonstration plots at clinics with leaflets (in local languages) explaining the purpose of the trials, the different treatments, etc., which are made available to women who visit the clinics might be one such alternative. More use of setting up demonstrations at schools, as “outdoor classrooms” where students can study microbiology, soil and plant science, insects and diseases would not only provide broader exposure of our technologies to the next generation of farmers, but encourage them to learn more about the science behind agriculture, and to realize it is indeed a complex and fascinating subject to study.

2 Introduction

Objective 4 of N2Africa is to “Deliver legume and inoculants technologies to farmers in eight targeted countries within three impact zones”, and activity 4.4 is to “Conduct collaborative legume and inoculant technology dissemination campaigns and create awareness in rural communities in all impact zones”. One means by which the project disseminates information on legumes and inoculants as well as raising awareness on its work with farmers is to hold extension events -such where members of local communities can view and discuss N2Africa technologies for example being demonstrated by farmers in their own fields. Farmers from one area also benefit by seeing how technologies perform in other areas, and learning from other farmers how they implement the different legume production practices, as well as harvest and post harvest technologies, including processing legumes into different food products. In countries like Zimbabwe, farmers participate in what they call “dry shows” wherein they display how much grain is harvested using different legume varieties and production techniques.

This report covers the period from October 2011 through to the end of July 2012. It should be noted that this period represents different stages in the agricultural season in the different countries where N2Africa is implemented.

Extension events, for the purposes of this report, can be (loosely) defined as organized occasions where information on N2Africa technologies is “showcased” to an audience comprised of farmers, trainers, government officials, partner organizations (e.g. the non-governmental organizations with whom N2Africa works in its delivery and dissemination activities, etc. Usually these events involve a discussion of how N2Africa technologies are working in specific locations, how they are applied, and which are preferred by farmers and why.



The most prevalent 'extension events' are field days. However one can think of many other forms an extension may take such as 'open door' days as has taken place in Mozambique. In Zimbabwe and some other countries, 'dry shows' are organized in which farmers can expose their products and, in addition, they learn about different legume varieties, grading of grain and post-harvest activities. Agricultural shows and exchange visits are other types of extension events wherein N2Africa technologies can be promoted. Even field days come in many different shapes and sizes: these are at times large scale events convened at the district level with the involvement of local authorities and government representation. At the other end of the scale, a field day can be a very localized event with few participants, e.g. one or two Lead Farmers gathering their group members and other interested people for half a day on their Delivery and Dissemination (D&D) demonstration plot(s). Although media events can function as extension events, they are not covered in this report as they fall under a different milestone. It should not be forgotten, however, that media is an important and useful means by which N2Africa extends its technologies.

Extension events are one of the means used by N2Africa to disseminate its technologies to farmers and partners. They are preceded by a series of training activities organized by each country's Farm Liaison Officer in conjunction with D&D partners, together with the establishment of demonstration plots by Lead Farmers.



3 Extension events held

3.1 DRC

Between October 2011 and July 2012, a total of seven field days were organized by the partner organizations, with the participation of 909 farmers, 63% of which were women; some of the field days included information on processing legumes into different food products. Twelve exchange visits were also conducted, where a total of 364 farmers participated (73% women). N2Africa and its DRC partners also participated in six events related to International Women's Day, wherein N2Africa technologies, including processed legumes, were showcased.

3.2 Ghana

Most of the field days in Ghana were organized by MoFA and EPDRA/ACDEP in October and November, 2011 (Tables 1 and 2). Although not all records were fully completed, N2Africa financed all field days that were held throughout the N2Africa project impact zones.

Table 1: Number of field days in four districts, Ghana, 2011

District	Number of field days
Bawku West	4
Chereponi	5
Kassena-Nankana East	7
Nadowli	5

In total, 3204 people participated in field days in Ghana as reported, including NGO staff, government officials, extension staff and farmers. Of this total, 3012 were farmers, 53% of whom were men and 47% women and of the 165 extension staff in attendance, 84 % were men and 16% women (Table 3).

Looking at the overview of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) information collected, it appears that the form for Field Days was only fully completed for the five field days held in Nadowli. Additionally, for those field days no attendance registers were filled as well as in Doba – Kandiga Junction (Kassena-Nankana East District).

There was no specific activity for the youth during any of the field days. In four cases, it was reported that there was a specific activity for women, but this concerned a visit to a field of a female Lead Farmer, which is not particularly a specific activity for women.

Subjects covered in the field days were: Improving soil fertility through BNF by legume, Effect of rhizobium inoculants, improved legume varieties, improving household nutrition and improving yield through fertilizer application.

Table 2: Overview field days, Ghana, 2011

Action site	Village	Date field day	Main organizer field day
Bawku West District	Apotdabogo	27/10/2011	MoFA
Bawku West District	Googo	21/10/2011	MoFA



Bawku West District	Kobori	25/10/2011	MoFA
Bawku West District	Tilli	04/11/2011	MoFA
Chereponi	Andoyamanu	19/10/2011	EPDRA /ACDEP
Chereponi	Achuma	20/10/2011	EPDRA /ACDEP
Chereponi	Adari	17/10/2011	EPDRA /ACDEP
Chereponi	Jakpa	18/10/2011	EPDRA /ACDEP
Chereponi	Ugando	16/10/2011	EPDRA /ACDEP
Kassena-Nankana East	Manyoro	10/10/2011	MoFA
Kassena-Nankana East	Naaga	23/10/2011	MoFA
Kassena-Nankana East	Naaga	10/10/2011	MoFA
Kassena-Nankana East	Naaga	04/10/2011	MoFA
Kassena-Nankana East	Nyangua	06/10/2011	MoFA
Kassena-Nankana East	Punyoro	10/11/2011	MoFA
Kassena-Nankana East	Doba – Kandiga Junction	07/10/2011	MoFA
Nadowli	Zambagu	10/12/2011	MoFA
Nadowli	Kojokpere	10/11/2011	MoFA
Nadowli	Goriyiri	13/10/2011	MoFA
Nadowli	Daffiama	10/11/2011	MoFA
Nadowli	Serekpere	10/12/2011	MoFA



Table 3: Overview of participation in field days, Ghana, 2011

Action site	Village	Farmers					Government Extension staff					Other (Govt officials, NGO staff, Private Sector)			Total
		Male	Female	Total	% Male	% Female	Male	Female	Total	% Male	% Female	Male	Female	Total	
Bawku West District	Apotdabogo	134	64	198	67.7	32.3	8	1	9	88.9	11.1				207
Bawku West District	Googo	180	127	307	58.6	41.4	8	1	9	88.9	11.1				316
Bawku West District	Kobori	104	210	314	33.1	66.9	8	1	9	88.9	11.1				323
Bawku West District	Tilli	222	171	393	56.5	43.5	8	1	9	88.9	11.1				402
Chereponi	Andoyamanu	68	80	148	45.9	54.1	6	0	6	100.0	0.0	4	1	5	159
Chereponi	Achuma	94	80	174	54.0	46.0	6	0	6	100.0	0.0		1	1	181
Chereponi	Adari	87	87	174	50.0	50.0	6	0	6	100.0	0.0		1	1	181
Chereponi	Jakpa	93	94	187	49.7	50.3	6	0	6	100.0	0.0		1	1	194
Chereponi	Ugando	38	62	100	38.0	62.0	6	0	6	100.0	0.0		1	1	107
Kassena-Nankana East	Manyoro	26	16	42	61.9	38.1	6	3	9	66.7	33.3				51
Kassena-Nankana East	Naaga	25	5	30	83.3	16.7	6	3	9	66.7	33.3				39
Kassena-Nankana East	Naaga	145	107	252	57.5	42.5	6	3	9	66.7	33.3				261
Kassena-Nankana East	Naaga	15	7	22	68.2	31.8	6	3	9	66.7	33.3				31
Kassena-Nankana East	Nyangua	23	12	35	65.7	34.3	6	3	9	66.7	33.3				44
Kassena-Nankana East	Punyoro	29	16	45	64.4	35.6	6	3	9	66.7	33.3	1		1	55
Kassena-Nankana East	Doba Kandiga Jct	20	21	41	48.8	51.2	6	3	9	66.7	33.3		1	1	51
Nadowli	Zambogu	57	33	90	63.3	36.7	6	0	6	100.0	0.0	1		1	97
Nadowli	Kojokpere	65	23	88	73.9	26.1	6	0	6	100.0	0.0	4		2	96
Nadowli	Goriyiri	92	109	201	45.8	54.2	12	1	13	92.3	7.7	4		2	216
Nadowli	Daffiama	40	55	95	42.1	57.9	5	0	5	100.0	0.0	3		1	101
Nadowli	Serekpere	41	44	85	48.2	51.8	6	0	6	100.0	0.0	1		1	92
	Total	1598	1423	3021	52.9	47.1	139	26	165	84.2	15.8	18	6	18	3204



Table 4: Assessment of field days, Ghana, 2011

What went really well?	What did not go so well?	What will be done differently next time?
Farmers appreciated exhibits from lead farmers' field, farmers were eager to get access to the exhibited new and improved varieties to cultivate next season	K fertilizer was not available during the groundnut planting, as such the effects of K fertilizer could not be demonstrated, some cowpea sites were so fertile that the control plots also performed well as well as the plots that fertilizer was applied to.	Demonstration site will be selected in such a way that farmers can easily visit the site.
Farmers were impressed with the introduction of the improved legume varieties. They also appreciated the performance of the soybeans that were treated with inoculants.	Not all the inputs were available at the operational areas such as K fertilizer. Demonstration fields were far apart, as such the participants complained that they were tired / exhausted	Lead farmers fields need to be organized to make them accessible.
Attendance was very impressive. Demonstration sites were all at one area. Fields were easily accessible. Journalists from GBC, GNA and Radio Progress were in attendance.	Video coverage could not take place because GBC technical staff had only one camera which was engaged for a week-long programme elsewhere	Request for more than one TV station will be made
Farmers were happy with the improved legume varieties' availability. Farmers expressed interest of adopting agronomic practices seen on lead farmers' field. Effects of fertilizers and inoculants were clearly shown.	Visits to lead farmers' fields were tiresome because fields were far apart. Farmers expressed worry of difficulty in accessing inputs, such as inoculants and fertilizers (TSP and muriate of potash).	Field will be planned in such a way that they will not be difficult to access
	Farmers in one community were not willing to visit a demonstration plot due to outstanding problems between them.	Field will be planned in such a way that they will be easily accessible

On March 28, 2012, N2Africa partner ADVANCE, in collaboration with N2Africa and Yara Ghana Limited held a field day at Bontanga irrigation scheme to demonstrate the effect of inoculants and Yara legume fertilizer (P2O5: 18, K2O: 12%Mg: Zn: Mo: Bo) on soybean to agro-dealers and some commercial farmers from the three northern regions of Ghana.

The inoculants and the seeds for the trial were given by N2 Africa, Yara (Ghana) Limited provided the Yara legume fertilizer and ADVANCE was responsible for the laying out and management of the demonstration.

Generally, legumes need phosphate- and potassium-based fertilizers for optimal growth and performance. The objective of the field day was to ascertain and demonstrate if Yara legume fertilizer could replace Triple Super-Phosphate (TSP) which is currently both expensive and not readily available to farmers.

During a discussion held at the event participants commented that the plants grown in plot that received both inoculants and Yara legume fertilizer had more numerous and bigger pods than plants grown in the other treatments' plots. In addition, the Yara-fertilizer+inoculants treated plants looked more robust and had more leaf biomass than the other treatments. Table 5 below lists the organizations which participated in the extension event and the number of participants from each.

N2Africa also participated in the "Africa's Science Renaissance Day" celebration convened at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research-Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (CSIR-SARI) Conference Centre in Nyankpala on 26 June 2012. An exhibition on inoculants and their use was displayed, and explained to participants who included staff of the CSIR institutes, university and high school students along with members of the press.



Table 5: Organizations which attended the N2Africa-Yara-ADVANCE field day in Bontanga Irrigation Scheme, 28 March 2012.

Organization	Number of Participants
Commercial farmers	11
Aggregators	3
Agro-Input Dealers	8
ADVANCE Staff	8
Yara (Ghana) Limited	2
N2Africa	2
Total	34

3.3 Kenya

N2Africa's extension event focus in Kenya continued to be placed on farmer field days with 23 events held at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 Short Rains between 8 and 30 December. These field days attracted 2443 participants, 91% of whom were farmers (51% women). On average, these events cost \$245 each and attracted 106 participants. In addition to farmers, these field days were attended by 17 participants from the private sector, 24 government officers and 64 staff from NGOs. The most popular exhibits included grain legume technologies, inoculation and new legume varieties. Most of these field days (70%) had exhibits prepared by and specifically targeting women farmers and homemakers. The most frequently encountered problem was poor or late participation, often due to late rains, and the failure of planned exhibitors to participate. Suggestions for improvement include arranging for more and different exhibits, better mobilization of local communities and offering greater incentives to participants through prize-giving and contests. Additional field days (approximately 25 in number) were held after the end of the Long Rains in June and July, and data on composition and gender of participants are still being calculated. Plans were also in place for N2Africa to participate in two provincial agricultural shows (Kisumu and Kakamege) in August, with information on legume processing to be displayed.

3.4 Malawi

During the 2011/12 season, N2Africa partners, often with participation from the Farm Liaison Officer, convened 132 field days. Discussions were held around the different legume technologies, and farmers provided feedback on which were preferred and why, as well as what was not going well. Field days were conducted in all the sites of the project, covering topics ranging from different legume varieties, use of legume fertilizer and soybean inoculants. During the course of the season, over 15,000 farmers participated in field days in Malawi, as indicated in Table 2 below:

Table 6: Field days convened at Malawi D&D sites by end of 2011/12 growing season.

District	Partner	Total No. of participants	Percentage of Female participants	No. of Field Days
Ntcheu	Concern Universal	1560	59	13
Kasungu	Catholic Relief Services	177	66	25
Salima	Makande & Chinguluwe Extension Planning Area (EPA)	762	48	10



Dedza	World Vision	825	41	15
Dedza	Linthipe EPA	4621	49	28
Lilongwe	World Vision	752	35	10
Lilongwe	NASFAM	82	40	1
Lilongwe	Mngwangwa EPA	394	40	1
Mchinji	NASFAM	285	33	3
Mchinji	World Vision	934	57	13
Dowa	World Vision	1255	63	7
Salima, Dowa & Mchinji	AISAM*	163	31	4
Total		15320	53	132

* Agri-Input Suppliers Association of Malawi (AISAM)

This remarkably higher number of participants attending field days in Malawi compared to other N2Africa countries could perhaps be attributable to the very high population density in of the country, which means that not only is less time required to travel to events, but more potential participants are more readily made aware of the field days in advance.¹ In addition, the provision of “Fantas” and snacks at the Malawi field days, which is not a done in most other N2Africa countries, could contribute to the high turn-out experienced in this country.

N2Africa partner World Vision also convened “review meetings” in Dowa District to bring all lead farmers and participating extension officers together so as to discuss progress of the demonstration trials across the district. A total of 61 lead farmers and 11 extension officers participated in the meetings, which were held in three different locations in the district.

3.5 Mozambique

Six field days were organized by N2Africa across project sites in Mozambique over the 2011/12 season, for farmers to visit on-farm and on-station trials and provide feedback. Two open days² were organized for participating farmers in Ntengo-Umodzi. Numerous field days around demonstration trials were also convened by Mozambique partner TechnoServe.

¹ Rwanda has a similarly high population density; the political and cultural climate are such that gatherings of any size must first have approval from the authorities...something they are usually reluctant to grant. Especially since the 1994 genocide and the events which have followed up until the current political situation in the country, where every movement is closely watched and tightly controlled by the government, it is quite likely that arranging for field days or any other extension events involving more than a handful of participants is extremely difficult.

² Open days are events where all members of the community are invited to view and discuss N2Africa demonstration plots so as to expose the project’s technologies to a larger audience than is reach directly through our work with D&D partners.



Table 7: N2Africa Extension Events held in Mozambique over the 2011/12 Season.

Type of Event	Location	No. Participants	Percentage Female Participants
Field Day	Nampula	20	60
Field Day	Nametil	21	19
Field Day	Muriaze	73	42
Field Day	Macanga – Gandali	36	17
Field Day	Angonia – Domue	25	28
Field Day	Angonia – Ulongue	35	17
Open Day	Ntengo Umodzi	76	29
Open Day	Ntengo Umodzi	64	44
Field Days*	Multiple	2521	25

*Convened by partner Technoserve in Tete, Zambezia, Nampula and Niassa Provinces.

With the exception of Angonia and field days held by TechnoServe, it appears that the trend for greater participation of men than women in N2Africa activities in Mozambique is also evident in the extension events as has been indicated by numbers of women farmers involved in demonstration and trainings in country reports (c.f. N2Africa Project Progress Report Month 30).

3.6 Nigeria

For the field days organized in Nigeria, N2Africa has provided some funds while in almost all cases, partner organizations provided vehicle/transport, canopy refreshments, staff, etc. In all cases one or more farmer associations were involved and the host of the field day was known. No attendance registers have been filled. Table 8 below provides an overview of the field days held in Nigeria.

Table 8: Field days held in Nigeria, 2011

Action site	Date field day	Organizers field day
Albasu LGA	27/11/2011	N2Africa, SG2000, KNARDA and Albasu LGA
Gaya	31/10/2011	N2Africa, SG2000, KNARDA and Gaya LGA
Bichi	29/10/2011	N2Africa, SG2000, KNARDA and Bichi LGA
Garko	26/10/2011	N2Africa, SG2000, KNARDA and Garko LGA
Tudun Wada	02/11/2011	N2Africa, SG2000, KNARDA and Tudun Wada LGA
Wudil	28/10/2011	N2Africa, SG2000, KNARDA and Wudil LGA
Giwa LGA	26/10/2011	N2Africa, KADP & Giwa LGA
Igabi LGA	29/10/2011	N2Africa, KADP & Igabi LGA
Zangon Kataf LGA	27/09/2011	N2Africa, KADP & Tagama LGA



Kachia	25/10/2011	N2Africa, KADP & Asako LGA
Soba	29/10/2011	N2Africa, KADP & Tudun LGA

List of subjects covered in field days:

- Improved varieties of legumes distributed in the Local Government Area (LGA);
- Importance of inoculant and phosphorus fertilizer in soybean production as seen in various treatments;
- The need for farmers to adopt new technology and new varieties;
- Soybean production using inoculant and phosphorus fertilizer;
- Food processing;
- Importance of growing soybean to improve soil fertility, human and animal nutrition as well as good source of income generating activities.

Table 9: Farmers' attendance field days, 2011, Nigeria

Action site	Farmers Male	Farmers Female	Farmers Total	% male	% female
Albasu LGA	23	0	23	100	0
Gaya	60	11	71	84.5	15.5
Bichi	46	9	55	83.6	16.4
Garko	87	45	132	65.9	34.1
Tudun Wada	54	5	59	91.5	8.5
Wudil	53	17	70	75.7	24.3
Giwa LGA	35	4	39	89.7	10.3
Igabi LGA	70	26	96	72.9	27.1
Zangon Kataf LGA	32	20	52	61.5	38.5
Kachia	19	19	38	50	50
Soba	27	8	35	77.1	22.9
Total	506	164	670	75.5	24.5

The data collected on field days held in the 2011 season in Nigeria for the N2Africa project reports on the larger field days only and do not necessarily take into account the smaller field days. In total 670 farmers reportedly participated in the field days.



Table 10: Attendance of field days, 2011, Nigeria

Action site	Government extension staff			Government officials	NGO staff			Private sector	Other	Total
	Male	Female	Total	Total (All male)	Male	Female	Total	Total (All male)	Total (All male)	
Albasu LGA	5	0	5	2	2	0	2	0	8	17
Gaya	6	0	6	3	2	0	2	1	0	12
Bichi	14	0	14	3	4	0	4	3	34	58
Garko	8	0	8	5	2	1	3	3	23	42
Tudun Wada	14	0	14	4	1	0	1	2	11	32
Wudil	13	0	13	14	3	0	3	2	65	97
Giwa LGA	9	1	10	7 ³			0	0	0	17
Igabi LGA	4	0	4	2			0	0	0	6
Zangon Kataf LGA	5	2	7	4	5	0	5	0	13	29
Kachia	4	1	5	0			0	0	0	5
Soba	4	0	4	4	2	0	2	0	16	26

³ One female government official included in this number.



Table 11: Total male and female participation in field days, 2011, Nigeria

Action site	Total Male	Total Female	Total
Albasu LGA	40	0	40
Gaya	72	11	83
Bichi	104	9	113
Garko	128	46	174
Tudun Wada	86	5	91
Wudil	150	17	167
Giwa LGA	50	6	56
Igabi LGA	76	26	102
Zangon Kataf LGA	59	22	81
Kachia	23	20	43
Soba	53	8	61
Total:	841	150	1011

At two field days, there were specific activities for women, being different dishes from respectively soybeans and cowpeas prepared by women farmers groups. There were no specific activities for youth, though in one case they did participate actively by clearing the road for easy accessibility. At three field days there were specific exhibits such as the display of agro-chemicals and sprayers from companies.

For one field day it was noted that farmers called for early distribution of seeds and inoculant to farmers and on another field day farmers requested very specific variety of soybean (TGX1951-3F) because they saw it did not shatter and is high yielding.

The feedback on the field day forms with regards to what went well, what did not go so well and what will be done differently next time was diverse and valuable.

What went well:

- There was interaction between farmers, researchers and government officials on the ground. Participants were taken around the fields to see the various treatments and they appreciated the way the works is done.
- Farmer to farmer interaction and exchange of ideas. The importance of soybean for human nutrition, soil fertility and animal nutrition.
- Lectures were given by a special guest, chemical company and the soybean dishes exhibitions. Farmer-to-farmer interactions and dissemination of ideas.
- Create awareness of the program and more demonstration of the technology to farmers.
- It creates awareness for the farmers to engage in soybean production using inoculants and phosphorus fertilizer.
- Farmers appreciated what they sow on the field. It create avenue for discussion between farmers, researchers and local leaders.

What did not go so well:

- The field day was conducted late when the crop was already drying. (2x)
- Starting later than scheduled and N2Africa staff did not attend. (2x)
- Late arrival of guests



What will be done differently next time?

- Organize the field day in two stages of plant growth, i.e. vegetative stage and at harvest;
- Hold the events before the crop completely dries up;
- Increase the size of demonstrations;
- To get a plot by the roadside which is well managed and accessible, be it of a lead or satellite farmer. Organise mini and major field day at different stages of the crop. (2x)

Table 12: Other events in Nigeria, 2011 season

State	Activities	No. of times
Kaduna	Community mobilization	10
Kaduna	Visit Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	1
Kaduna	Visit Dr. Kenton Dashiell	9
Kaduna	Visit Prof. Ken Giller	3
Kaduna	Field days	5
Kaduna	Mid-season evaluation (Pair-wise)	66
Kano	Community mobilization	30
Kano	Visit Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	4
Kano	Visit Dr. Kenton Dashiell	2
Kano	Visit Prof. Ken Giller	5
Kano	Field days	6
Kano	Mid-season evaluation (Pair-wise)	149
	Total	290

3.7 Rwanda

Thirteen field days were conducted by partner organizations in Rwanda in their respective mandate areas in December 2011. All partner organizations participated in open days organized in their respective districts (Bureha, Gakenke, Kamonyi, Bugesera and Kayonza) between February and March 2012, where N2Africa technologies were exhibited. In November 2011, 5 farmers (one from each impact zone) participated in the study tour in Kenya. N2Africa team in Rwanda participated in the National Agricultural show held in June 2012.

3.8 Zimbabwe

In total, we have records of 19 field days organized in Zimbabwe during the 2011/12 season, and the total number of people who attended these field days was 3546 (58% of the attendees were women, see also Table 4). The field days were mainly organised by partner organisations. Local authorities were invited to officiate the field days. In two of the action sites Members of Parliament attended the field days alongside local councillor, village heads and other government departments.

At these field days, women often performed dramas and sang about N2Africa and its benefits to the in the communities. This helps to draw people in to more active participation, as well as providing a bit of fun and entertainment. Items such as value added products from the four legumes were on display at these field days and farmers learned about the use of inoculants and fertilizers recommended for use in legume cultivation. At one of the field days, in Gुरुve, staff from the Soil Productivity Research Laboratory (SPRL) attended and explanations and advices on the use of inoculants in soybean and sugar bean production.



Table 13: N2Africa field days, season 2011/12, Zimbabwe

N2Africa field days, season 2011/12, Zimbabwe

District	Partner	No. of Participants	Percentage of Women Participants	No. of Field Days
Murewa	CTDT	343	64	2
Makoni	Agritex	814	65	3
Guruve	LGDA	864	55	6
Hwedza	Agritex	512	62	3
Goromonzi	CADS	650	56	3
Mudzi	Agritex	363	43	2
Total		1489	58	19

As part of the collaboration between N2Africa and the Zimbabwe IFAD project, exchange visits were jointly organized for farmers in Hwedza and Makoni districts. The purpose of the exchange visits was to provide farmers from the two districts an opportunity to learn and share their experiences about the legume production and marketing in their respective districts. The farmers who participated in the exchange visits were selected by their resident agricultural extension officers.

The first exchange visit was held on the 13th of March 2012 in Chigondo ward in Hwedza district. Ten lead farmers (including four women) were transported from Makoni district to the field day. Three AGRITEX officers (two women, one man) from Makoni attended the field day.

The second exchange visit was held in Makoni district on 28 March, where 12 farmers (half of them women) from Hwedza district attended a field day in Makoni District. The Hwedza farmers learned a great deal from the field day since they saw that the Makoni farmers were more organised and the design of the N2Africa plot was up to standard. Staff from AGRITEX also had a chance to compare how farmers in different districts take projects.

In addition to field days and exchange visits, partners in Zimbabwe organized what they call “dry shows”; these are displays of harvested grain and value added products made from same. A total of nine dry shows were held in July of 2012, as shown in Table 14 below.

Table 14: N2Africa Dry Shows in Zimbabwe over the 2011/12 Season.

District	Ward	Total No. Participants	Percentage Female Participants
Goromonzi	2	185	65
Goromonzi	10	167	65
Goromonzi	5	203	66
Goromonzi	18	199	64
Goromonzi	12	173	65
Goromonzi	11	168	58
Hwedza	9	282	79
Chegututu	27	253	71
Total		2010	69



The majority of participants to both field days and dry shows in Zimbabwe was comprised of women, especially with respect to the dry shows.

4 Conclusions

Considering the diversity of extension events and the importance that is generally attributed to these to achieve objectives N2Africa and other agricultural projects, it would be very relevant to study the actual effectiveness of such dissemination efforts. Some questions the project may wish to investigate are:

- How important are these in building capacity of farmers?
- Is it only about showcasing technologies or is it actually stimulating 'new' farmers to also try out the N2Africa technologies?
- Is it possible to assess effectiveness of for example field days in term of funds and objectives of a field day?
- Can we look at the organisation of field days and how that helps or not in getting the message across?

In summary, we need to closely examine extension events in the final year (as well as the first three) of N2Africa so as to learn "what works best where and for whom". This information would be of great value to future work of N2Africa, as well as any other agricultural development projects working with smallholder farmers in the eight countries where N2Africa is already involved.



List of project reports

1. N2Africa Steering Committee Terms of Reference
2. Policy on advanced training grants
3. Rhizobia Strain Isolation and Characterisation Protocol
4. Detailed country-by-country access plan for P and other agro-minerals
5. Workshop Report: Training of Master Trainers on Legume and Inoculant Technologies (Kisumu Hotel, Kisumu, Kenya-24-28 May 2010)
6. Plans for interaction with the Tropical Legumes II project (TLII) and for seed increase on a country-by-country basis
7. Implementation Plan for collaboration between N2Africa and the Soil Health and Market Access Programs of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) plan
8. General approaches and country specific dissemination plans
9. Selected soybeans, common beans, cowpeas and groundnuts varieties with proven high BNF potential and sufficient seed availability in target impact zones of N2Africa Project
10. Project launch and workshop report
11. Advancing technical skills in rhizobiology: training report
12. Characterisation of the impact zones and mandate areas in the N2Africa project
13. Production and use of Rhizobial inoculants in Africa
18. Adaptive research in N2Africa impact zones: Principles, guidelines and implemented research campaigns
19. Quality assurance (QA) protocols based on African capacities and international existing standards developed
20. Collection and maintenance of elite rhizobial strains
21. MSc and PhD status report
22. Production of seed for local distribution by farming communities engaged in the project
23. A report documenting the involvement of women in at least 50% of all farmer-related activities
24. Participatory development of indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress with project activities and their impact
25. Suitable multi-purpose forage and tree legumes for intensive smallholder meat and dairy industries in East and Central Africa N2Africa mandate areas
26. A revised manual for rhizobium methods and standard protocols available on the project website
27. Update on Inoculant production by cooperating laboratories
28. Legume Seed Acquired for Dissemination in the Project Impact Zones
29. Advanced technical skills in rhizobiology: East and Central African, West African and South African Hub
30. Memoranda of Understanding are formalized with key partners along the legume value chains in the impact zones
31. Existing rhizobiology laboratories upgraded



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32. N2Africa Baseline report
 33. N2Africa Annual country reports 2011
 34. Facilitating large-scale dissemination of Biological Nitrogen Fixation
 35. Dissemination tools produced
 36. Linking legume farmers to markets
 37. The role of AGRA and other partners in the project defined and co-funding/financing options for scale-up of inoculum (banks, AGRA, industry) identified
 38. Progress Towards Achieving the Vision of Success of N2Africa
 39. Quantifying the impact of the N2Africa project on Biological Nitrogen Fixation
 40. Training agro-dealers in accessing, managing and distributing information on inoculant use
 41. Opportunities for N2Africa in Ethiopia
 42. N2Africa Project Progress Report Month 30
 43. Review & Planning meeting Zimbabwe
 44. Howard G. Buffett Foundation – N2Africa June 2012 Interim Report
 45. Number of extension events organized per season per country



Partners involved in the N2Africa project



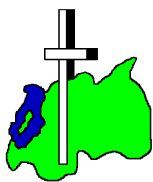
Bayero University Kano (BUK)



Caritas Rwanda



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Resource Projects-Kenya



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Université Catholique de Bukavu



University of Zimbabwe

