

Project Title: Stabilizing Sesame Yields and Production in the Lango Region, Northern Uganda

Background

The Africa Innovations Institute (AfriI) is an indigenous, not-for-profit non-governmental center of excellence, established in 2005 with the aim of undertaking research and innovations development on agriculture and food systems to ensure sustainable increase in farmers' income, food and nutrition security and environmental sustainability in Eastern and Central Africa. AfriI envisions smallholder farmers enjoying increased incomes and assured of food and nutrition security.

Implemented under a consortium led by the Africa Innovations institute (AfriI), the project aims to stabilize and improve sesame productivity in the face of climate change impacts in the Lango sub region of Uganda with specific objectives to:

- ☒ Understand the main challenges caused by the impact of climate change on sesame production in the Lango region
- ☒ Develop and promote climate smart sesame innovations to increase and stabilize yields in the Lango region,
- ☒ Manage and share knowledge on climate smart sesame production with wider stakeholders

About 250,000 smallholder farmers in Uganda are engaged in sesame production. These produce about 101,000 Mt from an area of 176,000 ha, with the biggest percentage of this production (95,000 Mt or 93.7%) realized from northern Uganda. Sesame has small nutritious seeds, and is a very important oil crop, valued for its high quality oils (44% to 52%).



Despite its high value, sesame has received less development attention with its Production characterized by low yields and low productivity due to:

- ☒ The impact of frequent extreme weather events (droughts, unpredictable seasons, too much rainfall)
- ☒ Use of traditional varieties and management practices,
- ☒ Poor pests and diseases control practices
- ☒ declining soil fertility,
- ☒ Pre and post-harvest losses,



Members of Agikdak farmers group Amolatar being trained in better sesame management practices

In this research focused project, drought tolerant sesame varieties have been evaluated and released and also innovations in gall midge and webworm control have been effected. The released clean materials of Sesim 2 and 3 have been taken to farmer's fields for comparison with the farmer seed/local variety.



Sesim 3



Sesim 2

Experimental trials have been conducted and the released varieties of Simsim2 and 3 (Sesim 2 and 3) distributed to farmers to give them chance to select among the released varieties which is most suitable for them, compare the performance and make a selection that they on the crop yield and resistance to pests and diseases.



On-farm trials using new sesame, fungicide, insecticide & fertilizers



On-station trials

Areas of operation

The project is being implemented in the districts of Amolatar, Lira and Otuke in the Lango region.

Implementing partners



With support from the Government
of Netherlands



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