



NANENANE AGRICULTURAL 2015

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BY

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Introduction

NaneNane Agricultural Shows are a national events celebrated to recognize farmers' contribution to the Tanzania economy. They provide an opportunity for Farmers and other stakeholders to exchange ideas, knowledge, skills and business. During the event different stakeholders from public, private, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs which are solely their business is agriculture get priority for the space to display, educate and selling agricultural related product, non-agriculture boards also involved like banks, academia, radio and telephone companies to link up agricultural activities along the value chain. NaneNane Agricultural Shows in Tanzania occurred in seven Zones namely; Northern zone-Arusha, Eastern zone -Morogoro, Lake zone-Mwanza, Southern highland zone-Mbeya, Southern zone-Lindi and Songea, Western zone-Tabora and Central zone-Dodoma from 1st – 8th August, every year. ACT received funding from FAO Tanzania to conduct the Dodoma Agricultural Show. This time, the Regional Commissioners for Dodoma region Hon. Chiku Galawa and Singida Regional Commissioners Hon. Dr. Parseko P. Kone were involved in officiating and closing of the NaneNane Agricultural Shows respectively. The African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) had established demonstration plots showing all three principles of conservation tillage namely (i) minimum soil disturbance (ii) permanent soil cover and (iii) principle of crop rotation. It had also a booth to display some implements/tools used in CA for small scale agriculture.

Objectives

ACT participated in NaneNane exhibition in Dodoma basically to achieve the following objectives: (i) To increase public awareness on conservation agriculture in Tanzania (ii) Networking with other organizations and institutions in the agriculture industry for the future collaboration in advancing conservation agriculture in the country.

Accomplished activities

To demonstrate how conservation agriculture is done, two main activities were undertaken namely establishment of demonstration plots and displaying of CA equipment's/tools and cover crops seeds. The demonstration plots had eight different treatments to depict principles of conservation agriculture. The treatments were as follows:

- a. Maize with maize residues.
- b. Maize with mulch (glass).
- c. Maize with Mucuna.
- d. Maize with chicken pea.
- e. Sorghum with lablab.
- f. Millet with lablab.
- g. Lablab as a single stand.
- h. Soybeans as single stand.



Maize with mulch as a soil cover



Maize intercropped with chicken pea



Maize intercropped with mucuna



Sorghum intercropped with lablab



ACT show room with some CA equipment's and cover crop seeds (L) and one of the visitors learning about the job planter (R).

Achievements and results

The show room and CA demonstration plots in Dodoma attracted more people including 548 farmers, NGO's representatives, government agents and students (from in and outside of the country). In Dodoma, at least 120 practitioner participants from both private and public sector were registered as visitors to the show room and demonstration plots. To mention a few, Helvetas, Syngenta, Yara, Arystla life science, SeedCo, Hombolo Researchers, and extension officer visited ACT work. 428 farmers and students were recorded to visit the demonstration plots and booth.



Students when visited ACT demonstration plots.



DC's from Dodoma and Singida when visited ACT demonstration plots.



Dr. Lena (L) with his master's students when visited ACT demonstration plots.





Singida RC (2nd L) when visited ACT show room.



General secretary ministry of agriculture (2nd L) with DC's from Dodoma and Singida.

Lesson learned:

In the entire week of NaneNane exhibition some lessons were learnt (i) Lablab beans are found in most part of Dodoma region, used for food and fodder but less is known about its advantage as a cover crop in CA farming system (ii) Enhanced efforts by all stakeholders in the public and private sectors to promote CA are necessary in the drought Dodoma and Singida regions. Heavy investment in CA is needed. (iii) There is lack of some certified cover crops seeds like lablab, vetch, mucuna, etc. Institutions responsible for research and certification of seeds should allocate resources to ensure availability of certified seeds (iv) Inaccessibility of CA equipment's/tools for drought is common. Mechanism should be put in place to engage the private sector and other stakeholders to engage in entrepreneurial CA services in order to increase access to CA equipment and services.

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