

# Feed the Future: Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management Trip Report

**Country(s) Visited:** Kenya

**Dates of Travel:** 8-13 February 2017

**Travelers' Names and Affiliations:** Tadele Tefera, ICIPE; Patrick kigo, icipe and Paddy Likhayo, KARLO

## **Purpose of Trip:**

- To identify farmers in order to establish demonstration plots for push-pull technology to control maize stem borers
- To sensitize farmers and stakeholders on the integrated management of maize stem borers and about the project and its partners in Kenya

## **Sites Visited:**

1. Nakuru North Sub-County, Ndundori Ward, Ndege and Sura villages.
2. Gilgil Sub-County, Elementaita Ward, Kahuruko and Miti Mingi Villages.
3. Kipkelion East Sub-County, AUSAID/Kenya Agricultural Value Chain Enterprises (KAVES) office; Kipkelion East Sub-County Agriculture office (Londiani); KIFAO office (Kedowa).

## **Description of Activities/Observations:**



A total of 40 farmers were selected including 20 in Nakuru, 10 in Gilgil and 10 in Kericho areas in order to demonstrate the push-pull technologies against the maize stem borers. In all areas, farmers were split according to their groups to select among themselves those to host the demos based on willingness and availability of land (0.5 acre). For Nakuru, in Ndundori Ward, two farmer groups (Ndisi and Sura) identified by CARITAS field staff of Catholic Diocese of Nakuru. Ndisi is an exclusively women only farmer group with 10 active members while Sura has 24 members. Project coordinator with three Ndisi women group host farmers at one the sites in Ndege village. A total of five sites were selected in Ndundori ward.

The team met with USAID KAVES staff at Kericho office, Dr. Frank Kirui, a Veterinary Officer explained about the IPM project goals. Dr Frank also explained that the core function of KAVES is capacity building through training of farmers and on-farm demonstrations to practice agriculture as business to improve livelihood and income. He further said that most land in the county grows large scale tea plantations and where smallholder farmers grow maize, own 1-3 dairy cows. The team discussed and agreed to collaborate during the implementation of the two projects. On the way back to Nairobi, the team met Paul Langat, the secretary of Kimasian Farmers Organization (KFAO) who had been contacted by KAVES office at Kedowa town. KIFAO is a registered umbrella community based organization working with 28 groups covering Kimugul/Kedowa ward and KAVES. It is a brainchild of local farmers whose main objective is improving livelihood through capacity building, farm inputs and selling of farm produce together. Its motto is provision of equal opportunities to all, including youth and women, on wealth generation and self-sustainability. The purpose of the visit was discussed and the KIFAO secretary requested to identify ten farmers to be included in the IPM demonstration trails.

### **Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items:**

To be part of the project and for sustainability purpose, farmers would provide land and labor to plough the land, while seeds, fertilizer, soil analyses and weeding costs paid for by the project. The common activities to be undertaken by both parties are planting, monitoring & evaluation and harvesting. The yields from the demos would be given to the farmers. Follow-up trips will be made in two weeks time to ensure all host farmers have prepared the land well in readiness for planting at onset of the rains in mid-to-late March 2017. Paddy Likahyo was assigned to follow up with Nakuru farmers while Kigo to follow up with Kericho farmers.

USAID/KAVES field office, Isaac Too reported that Monsanto Seed Company availed commercially maize variety DK777 that is resistant to maize lethal necrosis disease

(MLND) in December 2016. The disease is of great concern to farmers, demonstration of this variety alongside the push-pull technology will go a long way in addressing one of farmers' major concern.

**List of Contacts Made:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Organization</b>	<b>Contact Info (address, phone, email)</b>
Wallace Kinyua	Field Officer/Build Africa Network	0723649518
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Organization</b>	<b>Contact Info (address, phone, email)</b>
Mr Isaac Too	Field Officer/USAID-KAVES	0720-473368
Mr. Samson Kirui	Director of Agriculture/Kipkelion East Sub-County	0723-475444
Mrs Elizabeth Korir	Charlady/Kimasian Farmers Organization	0712-484888
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Organization</b>	<b>Contact Info (address, phone, email)</b>
Dr Frank Kirui	Vet Officer/USAID-KAVES	0738-690725
Mr Paul Langat	Secretary/Kimasian Farmers Organization	0729-565626