

(Sustainable Weed Management Technologies for Cassava Systems in Nigeria Project)

An Overview of Project Management: Year 3

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Goal is to ensure an efficient and effective technical, administrative and financial management of the Project

To achieve the outputs, outcomes and impact of the Project.

Key Milestones:

- Organization of ARWP Workshop.*
- Organization of Steering Committee Meeting*
- Operational webportal and Newletters.*
- Project Management and other trainings.*
- Baseline Assessment and M&E of Project.*
- Other Operational Matters*

Key Milestone: One workshop organized

- ❑ ***Annual Review & Workplanning Workshop*** successfully held at IITA, Ibadan (25-26 April, 2016) - 69 participants.
 - Jointly assessed 2015 achievements of Project, and developed 2016 Workplans for Project Steering Committee's approval.

Key Milestone: Steering Committee (SC) meeting held.

- 3rd meeting of the **Project's SC and its Sub-Committees** (Herbicides and Herbicides Safe Usage) held (28 -29 April, 2016).
- **Nine resolutions/recommendations** formulated for efficient and effective implementation of project in Year 3.
- Approval of **2016 workplans and protocols**.
- **Field trip** organized at IITA for SC and subcommittee members (demonstration of the mechanical weeding of cassava fields).

Key Milestone: Web portal operational.

- **Project website** (<http://www.cassavaweed.org>) continues to be operational and project accounts also operational on social media platforms.
- Cassavamatters website (<http://www.cassavamatters.org>), Cassavamatters newsletter and Cassavamatters Whatsapp Group launched June 2016.
- 5 issues of the bimonthly Cassavamatters Newsletters and 12 press releases produced and shared.
- Farmers' field days and other activities covered in radio and on television.

Key Milestone: Project Management trainings held.

- Capacity building of the collaborating partners by ‘learning-by-doing’ continued.
 - **Week-long working visit** (14-18 March, 2016) organized for NRCRI Project coordinator/AEZ scientist (Dr Adeyemi Olojede) at IITA.
 - **Hands-on training** on Project Administrative and Financial Management (11-15 January, 2016) extended to FUNAAB and UAM Project team.

Other Trainings:

- Project partners (NRCRI, FUNAAB and UAM) trained on use of **Social Media** as a resource and effective tool in project implementation (Joint Quarterly Review Meeting (JQRM) - 17-18 February 2016).
- A one-day training workshop on the **use of electronic devices** (tablets) to capture data in the laboratory and field (28 June 2016 during the sixth JQRM at UAM).
- Training on **Combined Data Analysis Workshop** (21-22 March 2016).
- The 4th, 5th and 6th Nigerian Engineers and Fabricators' brainstorming sessions hosted at IITA (10 -11 and 21-22 October, 2016 and 19-20 November, 2016).

- **Training Workshop on Herbicide Action on Weeds and Crops (1-3 March, 2016):** 41 participants (27 males and 14 females).
- **A Training of Trainers Workshop on herbicide use and their safety (18- 20 April, 2016)** for lead farmers, Extension Agents and Spray Service Providers: 37 participants comprising (29 males and 8 females).
- **Training workshop on application techniques and the safe use of pesticides (21-23 April, 2016):**[89 participants (76 males and 13 females).
 - Research centers (IITA, NRCRI)
 - Regulatory Agencies (SON, NAFDAC, NESREA)
 - Universities (FUNAAB, MOUAU, UI, UAM)
 - NGOs (KOLPING Nigeria, JDPM Abeokuta)
 - State ADPs (OGADP, ABIA ADP, BENADP, OYO ADP)
 - Government agencies (FMARD and Ministry of Environment).

Key Milestone: M&E of Project is conducted.

- The **M&E baseline survey report** completed in 2016.
- The M&E consultant and team conducted **monitoring visits** to all trial sites of IITA and partners institutions (17 to 25 October, 2016).
- The **M&E focal persons and project administrators** from the partner institutions trained (26 to 28 October, 2016) at NRCRI on M&E principles and applications.

Internal Monitoring of Project Progress

- ❑ **Four Joint Quarterly Review Meetings** for project staff at IITA and partner institutions held: IITA (17-18 February), UAM (27-28 June), FUNAAB (27 September) and NRCRI (10 December).
- ❑ Facilitated **monitoring and exchange visits** to implemented trials at IITA and partner institutions.
- ❑ Facilitate **two technical backstopping visits** of Consultant from Professor from Purdue University facilitated to provide technical support to the on-farm herbicide trial.

Other Operational Matters

Leadership Transition

- ❑ **Meeting** held (16 February, 2016) with **IITA and NRCRI Management** and the Project Management team:

- ❑ **Joint interactive meeting and training session** between the IITA and NRCRI project team members, IITA-CDO and IITA-PAO organized (8 to 9 March, 2016).
 - Facilitate the process of the leadership transition to NRCRI to ensure that necessary frameworks are in place

 - Specific needs of the partners (UAM and FUNAAB) also addressed.

 - Interactions with the NRCRI's Executive Director and Director of Administration in establishing the proposed Grant & Contract office in NRCRI.

 - Training of NRCRI team on requirements for setting up and running a Grant and Contracts office for donor- funded projects.

Visits to the private sector chemical companies

- Project Management Team visited **Syngenta** and held discussions on the registration of their products.
- Met with a team from **Monsanto** and held discussions on the continued availability in Nigeria of their products tested in the project.
- Project Management Team visited **Bayer AG** in Germany (13 to 17 February 2017) to discuss registration of their products tested in the Project and to seek increased collaboration.
- Professor Steven Weller of Purdue University was contacted to assist in **discussions with Valent** on the Project's behalf regarding product registration in Nigeria.

- ❑ **Workplans and budgets** for partner institutions, as well as all **protocols** for trials were finalized as well as **disbursements of funds** and made available to project teams and partner institutions for implementation of project activities.
- ❑ Analysis of budget spending: Weed Management Project showed **positive balance for year 3**.
- ❑ **Technical and financial reports:** consolidation and timely submission to the donor of the project.
- ❑ **TSA posed some challenges** in 2016, but IITA and partner institutions preferred workable solutions within the confines of Nigerian Law.

Attendance in Conferences

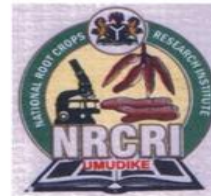
- ❑ **First World Congress on Root & Tuber Crops** (January 18-22, 2016), Nanning, Guangxi, China.
- ❑ **Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America** (Feb. 8-11, 2016. San Juan, Puerto Rico).
- ❑ **Annual Conference of the Weed Science Society of Nigeria** (Feb. 8-11, 2016, Minna, Niger State.
- ❑ **National Cassava Summit** (8 September 2016), Abuja, Nigeria (attendance and exhibition).

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Implementing Partners:



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OYSADEP

JDPM Oyo

JDPM Abeokuta

KOLPING

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Thanks for your Attention

