



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Innovation Lab

Feed the Future SANREM Innovation Lab
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Trip Report: Uganda

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Purpose of Trip:

Identify the gendered factors that contribute to the adoption of CAPS, as well as the challenges farmers face practicing CAPS. Significant process was made towards this goal through the implementation of focus group discussions with SANREM farmers in Kapchorwa and Tororo and semi-structured interviews with farmers experimenting with CAPS in these districts. A secondary goal was to take pictures and video of the Multi-functioning Instrument (MFI) and interview farmers about the challenges and benefits of the machinery. It should be noted that the findings reported here are preliminary and based on a short period of qualitative fieldwork.

Sites Visited: Kapchorwa, Uganda
Tororo, Uganda

Description of activities:

Executive Summary:

Mary Harman Parks and Emily Van Houweling travelled to SANREM research sites in Kapchorwa and Tororo, Uganda, in order to identify the gendered factors that contribute to the adoption of CAPS, as well as the challenges farmers face practicing CAPS. Activities included focus group discussions, household interviews, and key informant interviews. The core team included Emily, Mary and Grace Tino (from AT Uganda), a local field coordinator and two translators in each town.

Men's and women's focus groups were held separately in Kapchorwa and Tororo. Each focus group included between 10 and 15 participants, for a total of 46 (20 men and 26 women) participants. The focus groups discussed farming practices, soil knowledge, and socio-economic activities relevant to CAPS. The semi structured household interviews included a total of 23 (11 men and 12 women) participants from the two towns. The interviews involved a series of questions on men's and women's perceptions of CAPS practices, their roles in deciding to adopt

CAPS, and how CAPS has affected their everyday lives. It also included a participatory mapping exercise where the farmers drew their fields, where they practice CAPS, and who has access to, control over, and provides labor for each area. Upon completion of fieldwork, Emily and Mary met with Rita Laker-Ojak, Director at AT Uganda, to debrief on the trip and discuss preliminary findings.

Training Activities Conducted:

Program type (workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)	Date	Audience	Number of Participants		Training Provider (US university, host country institution, etc.)	Training Objective
			Men	Women		
Focus group	5/1/14	SANREM CAPS farmers in Kapchorwa	10	11	AT Uganda and Virginia Tech	Raise awareness of gender issues, discuss how CAPS has affected men and women, answer farmers questions related to CAPS and SANREM
Focus group	5/4/14	SANREM CAPS farmers in Tororo	10	15		

Summary of Preliminary Findings:

Although there were a small number of farmers in each town adapting CAPS, the men and women we spoke to had positive remarks about their experiences with CAPS. Many farmers talked about the cost and labor-savings that come with no or minimum tillage and the reduction of weeds from spraying herbicides. Many farmers also said they have seen an improvement in soil fertility and decreased soil erosion. Several farmers also mentioned that they have seen an increase in yields from the fields where they practice CAPS. Despite these noted benefits, the farmers interviewed were only implementing select CAPS practices, namely diverse crop rotation and year-round crop cover on a small percentage of their total land.

Based on preliminary analysis, gender-based opportunities for the adoption and experimentation of CAPS include:

- Men and women are aware that their soils are degrading and many farmers are witnessing their soils improve under CAPS;
- Men and women claim that they have experienced reduced costs under CAPS by not having to hire people as often for tilling or weeding; rather they buy the herbicides;
- Men save on labor by reducing the number of times they till in a season;
- Women save on labor by reducing the number of days it takes to weed a field;

- Men and women perceive that women can use the MFI because it is lighter than a traditional plow, easy to control and steer, and they can attend the trainings on how to use it.

Based on preliminary analysis, gender-based constraints for the adoption and experimentation of CAPS include:

- Men (especially cattle owners) may lose additional income from plowing;
- Women may not have the same access to information and trainings on CAPS due to time constraints, limited communication between husbands and wives (as seen in Kapchorwa, see appendix below), and the perception that women do not spray herbicides and cannot prepare land;
- Men do not have enough information and training regarding the use of herbicides and have limited sources to access them;
- Women do not have equal decision-making authority when it comes to adopting CAPS and typically follow the decisions made by their husbands;
- Farmers without plow animals may not be able to use the MFI;
- Women may not have access to the MFI because they are not responsible for land preparation, they do not work with plow animals, and both MFIs are currently held at male-headed households.

For more findings and a detailed log of daily activities see appendix below.

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

- Host trainings on CAPS and the MFI specifically for women. It should not be assumed that a man will communicate the information to their wives (as seen in Kapchorwa).
- Have more trainings for men and women on herbicides: correct dosages, safety precautions, different applications for each type of crop, and how/where to purchase high-quality herbicides.
- Put the MFI in the hands of women. Providing the MFI to wealthy male landowners may make it difficult for farmers, and especially women to access it. An organized women's association might be an appropriate group to manage the MFI. A widowed woman may also be able to serve as a Champion farmer and share the technology with other women, as well as achieving some empowerment for herself and other women through the process.
- Cost-savings might be the best way to promote CAPS. It will appeal to men who will not have to find the labor for tilling; and women who will not have to weed as much or hire as much labor to help.
- Demonstrate CAPS on crops that are also important to women (e.g. bananas, beans, potatoes, cassava).

List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Grace Tino	Program Director, AT Uganda	tinoasianut@yahoo.com
David Chemusto	Project Office, AT Uganda	mdchemusto@yahoo.com
Ketty Nambozo	Field extension coordinator, AT Uganda	nambozoketty@gmail.com
Susan Mugala	Research Assistant, SANREM	mugalasusan@gmail.com

Appendix: Preliminary Findings:

Number of focus group participants

	Kapchorwa	Tororo	Total
Men	10	10	20
Women	15	11	26
Total	25	21	46

Number of household interview participants

	Kapchorwa	Tororo	Total
Men	6	5	11
Women	7	5	12
Total	13	10	23

Preliminary findings:

CAPS practices

- The farmers in the two towns refer to practicing CAPS in the context of ‘spraying herbicides.’ Whenever we would ask about CAPS, the farmers always referred to it as spraying herbicides, as opposed to no or minimum tillage which many did not practice. Spraying herbicides was what set CA apart from conventional agriculture in these two towns. The main herbicide farmers used was glyphosate isopropylamine.
- Farmers said they practiced CAPS generally on a small portion of their farm (about 1-2 acres) because they were still determining how ‘spraying herbicides’ would affect their yields and soils.
- Men and women were getting mixed messages about the herbicides. They were being told to use them by AT Uganda and other NGOs, but were being told by large organic food buyers (e.g. coffee) not to use them. Some farmers expressed health and safety concerns about using the herbicides on their crops.
- Farmers were also not sure which herbicides to use for which crops. Some told stories of buying what they thought were herbicides but they were ‘fake’ and they ended up killing their crops. Some men said that herbicides are not easily accessible.

- Despite saying they were practicing CAPS, both men and women said they usually plow once a season because the soil becomes too hard for planting. This was the reason that some farmers did not see CAPS as being cost/labor reducing.
- Farmers liked the use of Mucuna beans as a cover crop because it improved the soil, men could use some of the leaves as feed, and women could cook and sell them.
- CAPS was most frequently practiced on maize fields.
- In terms of class/wealth there appeared to be a range of farmers experimenting with CAPS, although the wealthy large landowners seem to be having the greatest success.

Gendered CAPS activities

- The men are responsible for plowing and/or finding someone to plow; it is a common additional source of income for them. The women are responsible for weeding and/or finding people to help weed. Men usually spray the herbicide and/or hire someone to do this. Men are usually the ones to buy the herbicide.
- Women work in multiple fields while men tend to work in one or two fields; women also work in the compound doing more domestic tasks than men.
- There is a perception that women can't use a traditional plow because 'it requires strength'; however, several women said that women can use plow machines if they are trained to use them.
- Children are a significant source of labor on the farm and participate in most activities.
- One common livelihood strategy for women, other than farming, was brewing beer.
- When we asked men and women which crops were the most important to them, men were more likely to choose cash crops (maize, wheat, barely), while women chose subsistence crops (bananas or cassava).

Impacts of CAPS

- Generally, both men and women said that the use of herbicides and CA have improved their soils because erosion has been reduced, the soil is softer, and/or it increased organic matter by killing the weeds.
- Overall, both men and women said that CAPS has reduced their labor in tillage and weeding activities.
- Most farmers interviewed said that CAPS has saved them a lot of money. The women said they would have to pay people to help weed on a conventional field for 1-4 weeks. On the CAPS field, some said they only had to pay people for two days. Regarding tillage, farmers noted that it costs 50,000 shillings for an acre for one plowing or 150,000 shillings a season if they plowed three times. Under CA, they would usually plow one time for 50,000 or not at all. One bottle of herbicide costs 18,000 shillings or approximately \$7.20.
- With the time savings provided by CAPS most of the men and women said they work in other fields enabling them to expand their income and/or harvest.

Soils

- Texture was commonly mentioned by both men and women during the soil discussions. Texture determined the 'workability' of the land; whether it was hard to dig or not; and its moisture holding capabilities.

- Men were familiar with soil associated with rice paddies because they do the majority of the labor in the paddies, while women were familiar with soils used to smear floors and make pots.
- Farmers said they chose the plot to practice CAPS on based on the fertility of the soil and whether it was becoming eroded. Some of the women said they also based it on where the most weeds were, in hopes of reducing their time and labor weeding.

Decision making

- Based on a preliminary analysis, men have more input in deciding to experiment with CAPS. In several cases, men came back from trainings with herbicides and informed their wives they would be reducing tillage and spraying. In other cases, both the husband and wife/wives decided together after attending a training or talking with another farmer who practices. In two cases in Kapchorwa, the women we spoke to were not aware that there was a field on their farm under CAPS. There were two instances where women had a larger role in deciding to experiment with CAPS, and in both these cases these women were widows.
- Some men and women said the decision-making regarding how money is spent in the household is done between them equally. Many men referenced how decision making between couples has recently become more equitable. Although men and women might share some decisions, several couples mentioned that men make decisions about large expenditures, while the women make decisions about small household expenses. For example, one female farmer in Kapchorwa said, “We both decide how the money is used. He usually decides when the expenses are high and I control the money when it comes to smaller expenses like seeds, milk, and salt.”

Information sharing and trainings

- Most of the farmers heard about CAPS from NGOs such as AT Uganda or spoke with a fellow farmer/neighbor who was practicing. A couple of farmers in both towns have been using herbicides for more than 10 years due to other government programs. Several women said they learned about CAPS from their husbands.
- When we asked men and women if they told people about CAPS, men would say they had told other men while women had told other women.
- Both men and women said women now attend more trainings than men; but it is not clear how many types of trainings they attend. For example, in Tororo, many women attend domestic violence and family health trainings. Men were more likely to attend farming trainings than women. Most of the extension workers are male.
- There has been low attendance at the trainings and field days organized by AT Uganda. Some farmers mentioned that they felt they should be given something (i.e., a monetary contribution) for attending the training. AT Uganda also felt that it was difficult to get farmers interested in a research project, when so many other NGOs provide the farmers with more incentives for participating.

MFI

- The MFI in Kapchorwa was rarely used. The one farmer who used it said it worked very well and that “he wouldn’t change anything about it.” However, he did tell us that when the MFI was brought in, the farmers who were trained to use it were under the impression that oxen would be provided. Many farmers in this town do not own plow animals and must rent them from others. He also said that donkeys in the town were not trained to use

it so it has not been as adaptable. The farmer did say that women would be able to use it if they were taught.

- The MFI in Tororo was used more often. The host farmer who had the MFI hired out his oxen whenever a farmer wanted to use it. The farmers who used it said that it worked very well because it was easier to use, it didn't disturb the subsoil, and it did not need to be repaired as often as a traditional plow. The farmers let us try out a traditional plow and then let us use the MFI. The MFI was much easier to steer and control.
- The farmers who have used the MFI said that women can use it because it is lighter and easier to use. The constraints that might limit women's use of the MFI are the need to hire and manage plow animals. Women will likely need/want men's assistance when yoking the oxen to the MFI. One woman said that she has a hard time turning the MFI to start another line, and still needs men's help for this task.
- The status (including wealth) and social relations of the person holding the MFI can have an impact on other's access to and use of the machine.
- Improvements suggested by the farmers: an automatic seed dispenser, a blade in front of the MFI to slash the grass, and a diesel power engine so that oxen would no longer be necessary.
- Farmers said they would be willing to pay approximately 500,000 shillings or roughly \$200 for the MFI.
- The farmers in Tororo said they do not have the parts to repair the MFI if it were to need anything. They mentioned that if one of the tires were to go flat, they would not have the means to get another one. They would prefer it to have metal wheels.

Log of Activities

Monday, April 28 –

- Departed from Roanoke, VA Airport

Tuesday, April 29 –

- Arrived in Kampala at approximately 11:30 PM
- Lodged in Diamond Suites Hotel

Wednesday, April 30 –

- Met with Grace Tino at AT Uganda and discussed logistics for fieldwork
- Travelled to Kapchorwa, settled at Savanna Guesthouse.
- Met with David and Ketty (Local AT Uganda employees), discussed the agenda for focus group discussions the following day

Thursday, May 1 –

- Conducted focus group discussion with SANREM farmers in Kapchorwa; Emily took notes for the women's group and Mary took notes for the men's group

- Interviewed male farmer who has used the MFI

Friday, May 2 –

- Interviewed four male and four female farmers who have been practicing CAPS

Saturday, May 3 –

- Interviewed two male and three female farmers who have been practicing CAPS

Sunday, May 4 –

- Travelled to Tororo; settled in at TLT Hotel
- Typed notes from household interviews

Monday, May 5 –

- Conducted focus group discussion with SANREM farmers in Tororo; Emily was facilitator for the women's group and Mary was the note taker for the men's group
- Interviewed farmers who have been using the MFI

Tuesday, May 6 –

- Interviewed four female and three male farmers who have been practicing CAPS

Wednesday, May 7 –

- Interviewed one female and two male farmers who have been practicing CAPS

Thursday, May 8 –

- Travelled to Kampala
- Typed notes from household interviews and drafted report

Friday, May 9 –

- Met with Rita on fieldwork findings and logistics; exchanged information and pictures
- Drove to airport and flew back to the United States

Saturday, May 10 –

- Arrived in Roanoke, VA and drove back to Blacksburg