

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Plant Sciences Programme
Manager: Centre for Arid Zone Studies
University of Wales, Bangor

Please note that this project is ongoing and a final technical report will not be available until April 2006. Below are further details of the project and contact details should you require further information.

R7438

1.41

1. Project title

Participatory promotion of 'on-farm' seed priming

2. Abbreviated title

Participatory promotion of 'on-farm' seed priming

3. Is the research strategic / adaptive? (delete as appropriate)

4. Project summary

On-farm seed priming - soaking seed, usually overnight, in water before surface-drying and sowing - is highly cost effective for farmers, producing better stands, earlier maturing crops and higher yields for little cost. Experience has shown that uptake is poor without participatory evaluation. Seed priming will be promoted in a range of DFID target countries, crops and agro-ecosystems. Participatory approaches will be used that involve group- and community-based methods to evaluate, and where necessary modify, the technique to fit local circumstances. Pilot studies will be supported designed to achieve direct impact with farmers, to initiate farmer-to-farmer spread and to furnish evidence to extension services and policymakers of the utility of seed priming and the effectiveness of the participatory approach to agricultural development. The project will target influential bodies in a number of DFID priority countries, including NARS, extension services and high-profile, effective NGOs. Our knowledge will be increased of the importance of farmer-to-farmer spread of information on seed priming, and the impact of seed priming on the livelihoods of poor people will be evaluated.

The project will follow a process approach and will spend significant resources identifying additional opportunities to improve farmers' livelihoods by promoting seed priming.

5. Keywords

On-farm seed priming, participatory technology development, group evaluation, farmer-to-farmer spread.

6. RNRRS Production System

Cross-cutting

7. Project goal

Production of target crops sustainably increased in SA, HP, Hillside and FAI production systems.

8. Geographic Focus

Initially: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, West Africa (Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone), Zimbabwe.

9. Commodity Base

Initially: Upland rice, maize, chickpea, wheat, pearl millet, sorghum

10. Applicant's full name(s), title(s), post(s) held, and departments(s)

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11. Name, address, telephone and fax. numbers of applicant's institution

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12. Name and address of any overseas collaborators

Initially:

India. SOTEC (Society for Development of Appropriate Technology), 182 Civil Lines, Bareilly 243001, UP, India

Nepal. LI-BIRD (Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development), P.O. Box 324, Bastolathar, Mahendrapur, Pokhara, Nepal.

Pakistan. NWFP Agricultural University, Peshawar

W. Africa. WARDA (West Africa Rice Development Association), BP 2551, Bouake, Cote d'Ivoire.

• **Cameroon.** IRAD, P.O. Box 62, Kumba/Barombi Kang

• **Gambia.** NARI, PMB 526, Serrekunda

• **Ghana.** Crops Research Institute, P.O. Box 3785, Kumasi

• **Nigeria.** National Cereals Research Institute, PMB 8 Bida, Niger State

• **Sierra Leone.** Rice Research Station, Rokupr, PMB 736, Freetown

Zimbabwe.

• SMIP (ICRISAT Sorghum & Millet Improvement Project), Matopos Research Station, P.O. Box 776, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

• Save Valley Experiment Station, Private Bag 2037, Chipinge, Zimbabwe

Additional countries, organisations and crops may be identified during the course of the project.

13. Project Location

Field work as above.

Project co-ordination at CAZS, Bangor, U.K.

14. Starting and finishing dates

1st July, 1999 to 28th February 2006

**16. Is this proposal a continuation or extension of work already funded by the DFID?
If so, please state project reference No. and title.**

This project is based on outputs from, and contacts made during, **R6395** The development and testing of seed priming to improve stand establishment, early growth and yield of crops in semi-arid Zimbabwe and India.