



Improvement of banana for smallholder farmers in the Great Lakes Region of Africa

Project progress workshop

Hosted by Nelson Mandela - African Institution of Science & Technology
Arusha, Tanzania

23-25th April 2018

Convenors: *Danny Coyne* and *Rony Swennen* (IITA, Tanzania) and *Prof. Karoli Njau* (NM-AIST)

Local Organizing Committee: *Scola Ponera*, *Cornel Massawe* (ARI)

Rapporteurs: Each of the 5 work package leaders or their designate

Supporting documents: Project narrative document and Results Framework & Results Tracker, Annual Report 2017.

Participants

- Project participants and partners of the Breeding Better Bananas - "Improvement of banana for smallholder farmers in the Great Lakes Region of Africa" project
- Collaborators including project related MSc and PhD fellows
- Members of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG)
- Members of CGIAR Root, Tuber and Banana Program (RTB)

Objectives of the workshop

- Assess whether we will achieve the 9 planned Primary Investment Outcomes (see Annex)
- Present, reflect and assess achievements to date
- Brief review on the BPAT
- Identify areas for strengthening within the project
- Strengthen team collaboration within and among the 5 work packages
- Determine clear projection for the coming 12 months
- Define communications objectives for coming year
- Provide information to the Steering Committee (SC) to assess progress and direction
- Facilitate interaction between SAG, SC and project staff

Sunday 22nd April 2018

Time	Topic	Responsible
All day	Arrival of participants all day	Scola
16.00	Early Registration	Scola
18.00	Drinks reception for project arrivals at hotel	Scola
19.30	Dinner	Gold Crest Hotel

DAY 1: Monday 23rd April

Time	Topic	Chair or Facilitator
8.00-8.45	Transfer from hotel to NM-AIST Conference Room	Scola
8.45-9.00	Registration for local participants	Scola
9.00-9.05	Welcome from the Chair, Vice Chancellor NM-AIST	Prof K. Njau (Chair)
9.05-9.15	Remarks from IITA, the Lead center of the project, Danny Coyne & Rony Swennen	Prof K. Njau
9.15-9.25	BMGF Feedback - Jim Lorenzen	
9.25-9.35	Remarks Scientific Advisory Group, SAG Chair Short introductions of SAG members	Prof K. Njau
9.35-9.45	Introducing the Banana Centre of Excellence at NM-AIST	Prof K. Njau
9.45-10.00	Opening Speech: Dr Cyprian Ebong, Executive Secretary, ASARECA	Prof K. Njau
10.00-10.15	Group Photo	Scola Ponera
10.15-10.45	Coffee break + Press conference	Scola Communication staff –Neema, NM-AIST; Catherine Njuguna, IITA
10.45-13.00	Work Package update reports ~20 mins per WP + questions: WP1 – <i>Jerome</i> WP2 – <i>Altus</i> WP3 – <i>Brigitte</i> WP4 – <i>Inge</i> WP5 – <i>Lukas</i> Discussion	Richard Sikora (Chair)
13.00-14.00	Lunch	NM-AIST
14.00-17.00	Transport to NM-AIST labs, banana fields then hotel	Scola
18.30-20.00	Welcome Cocktail evening	Blue Heron

DAY 2: Tuesday 24th April

Time	Topic	Chair or Facilitator
8.00-8.40	Practical arrangement/transport to NM-AIST	Scola
8.40-8.45	Day 2 details	Danny Coyne
8.45-8.50	Participant Introductions	Danny
8.50-9.00	Briefing: <i>Rony Swennen</i> What should be discussed during WP meetings Briefing on results tracker Matters arising	Danny
9.00-	Individual Work Package meetings in parallel: discussion of progress and collaboration <i>WP leaders</i>	Danny SAG members to sit in respective WP meeting WP leaders to appoint rapporteur
10.15-10.45	Coffee break	
-12.30	Work package meetings in parallel: continued.....	
12.30-14.00	Lunch	NM-AIST
14.00-15.00	Poster presentations – 1 min each presenter Posters to be pinned up on day 1 at Conference Centre	Jim Lorenzen
15.00-15.30	Coffee break	
15.30-17.30	Report back and update on progress and forward planning for Work Packages: - WP1 <i>Jerome</i> - WP2 <i>Altus</i> - WP3 <i>Brigitte</i> - WP4 <i>Inge</i> - WP5 <i>Lukas</i> discussion	Steve Rounsley (Chair) 20 mins each
17.30-19.30	SAG and SC parallel meetings (room TBD)	
20.00	BBQ dinner at Life Fitness Center	Scola

DAY 3: Wednesday 25th April

Time	Topic	Chair or Facilitator
8.00-8.40	Practical arrangement/transport to NM-AIST	Scola
8.40-8.50	Day 3 details	Danny Coyne
8.50-10.15	Inter-WP meetings (WP1, WP3) + (WP2, WP4, WP5) (WP2, WP3) + (WP1, WP4, WP5)	Danny Coyne 60 mins each
10.15-10.45	Coffee break	
10.45-12.45	Inter-WP meetings (WP4, WP3) + (WP2, WP1, WP5) (WP2, WP1) + (WP3, WP4, WP5)	Danny Coyne 60 mins each
12.45-14.00	Lunch	NM-AIST
14.00-14.30	Data platform update <i>Trushar Shah, Lukas Mueller, Allan Brown</i>	Altus (Chair)
14.30-14.50	Communication – website, publications, data sharing, etc. <i>Danny Coyne/Laura Cortada</i> Science Writing Course <i>Scriptoria</i>	Altus
14.50-15.00	Matters arising	Altus
15.00-15.30	coffee	
15.30-16.30	Poster competition results - SAG /SC feedback – <i>Steve Rounsley</i> - RTB Feedback – <i>Michael Friedmann</i> - PL feedback – <i>Rony Swennen</i> - BMGF feedback – <i>Jim Lorenzen</i> + other announcements? Genomics Workshop – <i>Allan Brown</i> Banana Agronomy meeting – <i>Jerome Kubiriba</i>	Inge (Chair)
16.30-17.00	Next meeting Closing by <i>Cornel Massawe</i>	Inge
19.30	Evening Dinner at ASILI	Scola

DAY 4: Thursday 27th April

Time	Topic	Responsible
8.00-	Science Writing Course Gold Crest Hotel	Sciptoria
8.00-	Genomic Course NM-AIST	Al Brown
8.00-	BMGF Banana Agronomy meeting Gold Crest Hotel	Jerome

ANNEX

The nine planned Primary Investment Outcomes

1. Matooke and Mchare breeding pipeline performance increased by a 15-20% higher production of seeds facilitating larger progeny populations from which to select better performing and more pest and disease resistant hybrids (linked to WP1)
2. Accelerated Matooke and Mchare banana breeding through early identification of material resistant to *Fusarium* wilt, Sigatoka, nematodes and weevils (linked to WP2)
3. Genetics of resistance to *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubensis* (Foc), burrowing nematode (*Radopholus similis*) and weevil determined in banana facilitating development of molecular markers for banana breeding (linked to WP3)
4. Breeders have better understanding of traits of importance to endusers and use this to orientate breeding strategies and early selection processes (linked to WP4)
5. Simplified, standardized protocol and tools for trial design and implementation, data collection and sharing implemented by all partners allowing meta-analyses across sites (linked to WP4)
6. Farmers participating in selection of new hybrids, with feedback driving changes to strategy and selection processes of breeding programs to improve tailoring of future improved hybrids (linked to WP4)
7. Farmers across Uganda and Tanzania and beyond growing their preferred NARITA cultivars, alongside local cultivars (linked to WP4)
8. Public access banana breeding database used on a daily basis by all project partners and regularly accessed by Musa researchers and breeders globally providing a virtual hub for information exchange, R&D collaboration and enhanced adoption of new hybrids (linked to WP5)
9. Project management