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## **CROP CRISIS CONTROL PROJECT**

Sub-project: Strengthening the capacity of the regional NARS to sustainably manage the outbreak of Banana *Xanthomonas* Wilt in East and Central Africa

### **Phase 2 progress report**

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

<b>BXW</b>	Banana <i>Xanthomonas</i> Wilt
<b>CBT</b>	Community Based Trainers
<b>CRS</b>	Catholic Relief Services, Kenya
<b>IITA</b>	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Nigeria
<b>PML</b>	Participatory monitoring learning
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers

## Summary

The sub-project, "Strengthening the capacity of the regional NARS to sustainably manage the outbreak of Banana *Xanthomonas* Wilt in East and Central Africa" was designed to be executed in three consecutive phases, starting in October 2006 with the training of trainers (ToT) at the regional level (Tier1), followed by ToT at the country level (Tier 2) and finally at community level (Tier 3). Bioversity and IITA's role is to lead the regional ToT providing broad-based knowledge and skills in integrated pest and disease management in banana-based cropping systems, and in the packaging and dissemination of Banana *Xanthomonas* Wilt (BXW) diagnostic and management techniques in particular.

A regional workshop was held in Phase 1 for 30 participants from six countries (5 persons/country), including policy makers, government extension agents, national research institutions and universities. The participants were exposed to both laboratory and field diagnostic and management strategies for BXW in both on-station and on-farm demonstrations. They viewed both successful and less successful trials to control, manage and eradicate the disease in the BXW disease epidemic and endemic regions of Uganda. At the end of the training workshop, participants were equipped with:

- a) tools and skills for BXW field recognition and management;
- b) tools and skills for raising public awareness to mobilize stakeholders and resources to control the disease;
- c) soft skills for developing collaboration within country and across the border.

For the current report phase, the Bioversity-IITA team provided technical back-stopping to the NARS to ensure that the science content and management of the trainings provided to national-level stakeholders met high standards. Tools, in the form of posters and leaflets for disease recognition and management as well as for the assessment of the effectiveness of the training materials, were prepared and shared with the NARS. The regional level teams also participated at both Tier 2 and 3 training organized by the NARS. In addition, the teams participated in emergency response activities in disease outbreak areas and assisted the NARS with the diagnosis of the disease and the institution of emergency measures to contain the epidemic. The details of the activities as executed during the reporting phase are provided below.

## Activity Reports

### Tier 1

#### **1.1 Dissemination of BXW diagnostic and training tools**

The posters used for Tier 1 ToT (*What is BXW? How does it spread? and How is it controlled?* - see Phase 1 report) were redesigned for use by community-based trainers (CBTs) and farmers following the feedback from Tier 1 and 2 training of trainers' workshops. Handling three posters was reportedly inconvenient and, therefore, a single A1 poster was designed to hold the messages of the three posters (Annex 1).

It was also envisaged under this activity to initiate action plans at various task levels. In preparation for this, Uganda's Strategic Plan of Action against BXW was discussed in Tier 1 training to aid the participants to develop their own country-level action plans. In Tanzania, the Kagera region local authorities developed an action plan that focused on

mobilizing both human and financial resources to arrest the spread of the disease. In Uganda, the Caritas-managed CBTs have sub-county level action plans which guide the planning and execution of activities in the mandated districts. Elsewhere the feedback on the development of action plans has been scanty, and it would appear that the limited time frame and resources may be responsible for the slow start of discussions and activities in the majority of countries.

### ***1.2 Public Awareness (BXW documentary)***

The terms of reference for this activity has been developed and discussed, and a call put out to potential applicants to take up the contract but the response has been limited. Challenges are presented in the selection of the language(s) to be used in the documentary and the limited resources available for the activity and these have slowed down the implementation of this activity.

### ***1.3 Regional exchange of stakeholders***

The Ugandan sites to be visited by Kenyan farmers have been selected. The Ugandan farmers to visit Tanzania (Kagera region) have also been selected and Mr. Mgenzi is preparing a programme for the Tanzanian visit. For the Kenyan farmers, the selection will be concluded during the scheduled training programme, 7-11 May, 2007.

## **Tier 2**

### ***2.1 Preparation and dissemination of bilingual BXW posters***

3000 French and 3000 English hard copy posters (See Annex 1) were produced, tested on farm in Uganda and are currently being distributed to NARS. They have also been put on CDs for distribution to NARIs and universities in the region. The work on the English version of the BXW Diagnostic and Management Manual is progressing well and will soon be tested at NARS-level training events in the region.

### ***2.2 Backstopping support to country training***

Bioversity-IITA teams back-stopped training in Tarime District in Tanzania, 3-8 February 2007, where a fresh disease outbreak was reported in January 2007. Meetings were held with both regional- and district-level policy makers who are mandated with overall coordination of BXW control measures in the district (the Mara Regional Commissioner and his team; the Tarime District Commissioner, the District Development Committee and the District Disasters Management Committee).

Training workshops were held for farmers affected by the disease, the extension staff and policy makers in the district, and posters and leaflets were given out to participants.

In Uganda, the sub-project team also back-stopped the training of extension workers in Luwero and Nakaseke districts, 7-11 April 2007. BXW diagnostic and management tools were distributed to participants.

A number of countries have yet to carry out Tier 3 training and future back-stopping and training activities are planned as shown in the schedule below:

Date	Country
23 <sup>rd</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> April, 2007	Tanzania
7 <sup>th</sup> -11 May, 2007	Kenya
14 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> May, 2007	Burundi
21 <sup>st</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> May, 2007	Rwanda
28 <sup>th</sup> May – 1 <sup>st</sup> June, 2007	DR-Congo

### **Tier 3**

#### ***3.1 Participatory monitoring and learning at community level***

The Participatory monitoring and learning (PML) assessment tool was developed and tested at farm level in Uganda. The revised version was translated into English and French (see Annex 2). The final versions have been distributed as electronic copies to all participating NARS and to the country project managers.

#### ***3.2 Evaluation of BXW management and diagnostic tools on disease distribution and incidence***

As reported in the Phase 1 report, this activity was combined with 3.1 above.

### **General Comments**

Some countries have moved faster than others. The project can exploit this development by facilitating more interaction between countries, so that experiences can be passed on to the countries which have yet to advance on their plans. In this regard, the project would like to make use of the Tanzanian experience on stakeholder mobilization, particularly with respect to collaborating with policy makers and resource mobilization. It is, therefore, suggested that Mr. Mgenzi joins the Bioversity-IITA team in the training schedule above with the aim of identifying potential issues that concern policy makers' participation in project activities, and to share experiences and help develop solutions.