

BRIEFING VI



TAAT CDTO TECHNICAL WEBINAR SERIES

Enhancing Commercialization of Africa's Agricultural Research Products Cassava Value Chain and Youth Enabler Compact

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Key Messages

1. FARA together with Technology Specialists and Extensionists have developed 12 modular and 12 promotional outreach materials, to improve understanding of TAAT proven technologies and their usage within Innovation Platforms
2. The development of the 6 Steps to Weed Management technology within the cassava value chain, has led to an 83% increase in average net profits for the beneficiaries.
3. Through the Agribusiness Park Approach of Enable TAAT compact, 74,657 youth have been reached so far, 670 jobs for youth have been created through establishment of agribusiness enterprises.





On October 28, 2020, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Africa Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) convened the 6th Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), Capacity Development & Technology Outreach (CDTO)

Enabler Compact's technical webinar of a series of 6 webinars. These webinars are organized under the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) Program of the Feed Africa initiative funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

The discussions in the sixth webinar focused on scaling cassava technologies as well as actions and corresponding approaches to improving the condition and position of youth in Africa's Agricultural Research for Development. This offered stakeholders the opportunity to reflect on how to capitalize on their different perspectives and mandates to accelerate the engagement of youth in their specific countries. So far, the past technical webinars have attracted over 3,000 participants, 36% being youth and 23% being women, whereby 38% of the women are below 39 years.

The past webinars in the series covered value chains such as livestock, high iron bean, aquaculture, maize, rice, wheat, millet and sorghum, and orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, and enabler compacts such as soil fertility and water management. These webinars have played a key role in strengthening the capacity of the end user to utilize technologies. So far, 12 modular and 12 promotional outreach materials have been developed jointly with the Technology Specialists and Extensionists. Ultimately, the materials will help to improve understanding of TAAT proven technologies and their usage within the context of Innovation platforms.

How Technologies in Cassava are being Scaled through Agribusiness

The sixth webinar attracted over 300 participants: 27% female and 42% being youth. Dr. Abass Adebayo, the TAAT Cassava Compact Coordinator, hosted by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) presented the following technologies being scaled: (1) Improved varieties, (2) Rapid Cassava Multiplication (SAH) (3) Mechanized production, (4) Mechanized processing, (5) Mobile Processing System, (6) ICT for market linkage, (7) Good Agricultural Technology Practices (8) Protocol for cross-border transfer of planting stakes, and (9) Seed multiplication through Seed Bulking Farms.

The technologies are being scaled in 12 focus countries (Benin, Togo, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, DR Congo, Cameroon, Rwanda, South Sudan, Zambia, and Burundi). These are disseminated through radio and video with listenership of over 2 million people.



Figure 1: Mobile technologies used within the cassava value chain

Dr. Abass recommended the 6 Steps to Weed Management Toolkit as one of the technologies with a potential towards commercialization. This was illustrated as a 27% increase in yield compared to best hand weeding techniques; and a 102% increase in yield compared to typical farmer weeding practice. Also, average net profits increase by 83% with these protocols.

Mr. Tope Olabokunde- a young farmer noted that with the implementation of the 6 Steps to Weed Management protocols, he manages his farm through a period of twelve months without the challenge of weed control as the farm is free of weeds. In general, the 6 steps to Weed Management Toolkit offers improved food security; less drudgery for farming families; increased income; and increased root availability to the processing industry.

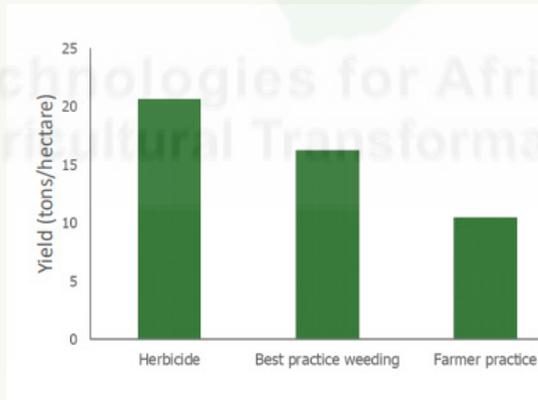


Figure 2: Comparative analysis of yield from herbicides vs best practice weeding vs farmer practice

Showcasing Proven Technologies in ENABLE-TAAT

Ms. Ogunwole Omotola Dorcas, ENABLE-TAAT enabler compact liaison officer presented the Agribusiness Park Approach and Capacity building approaches as methods of youth engagement in scaling out TAAT's key technologies. The goal of this engagement is aimed at building the capacities of the youth and introducing modernized agricultural technologies.

These approaches are currently being used in 7 countries: (Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, DR Congo, Zambia, Benin). These approaches have been integrated into the youth enabler compact's cooperation with the commodity compacts of the TAAT program. This cooperation facilitates the youth's access to the TAAT technologies and Youth Training on sustainable agribusiness enterprises in the TAAT-related value chains. Through this arrangement, TAAT has reached over 74,657 youth and has led to the creation of 670 jobs for youth through establishment of agribusiness enterprises.



Figure 3: Beneficiaries of the Youth Enabler Compact- ENABLE-TAAT.

Ms. Destiny Gladys Chaiga, a young agripreneur in the maize value chain used to operate her business on a subsistence level until she was introduced to the Youth Enabler Compact and consequently adopted the pro-vitamin A technology and attained certification for seed multiplication. With this, she realized an increased revenue from 500,000 Ugandan shilling to 3,000,000 Ugandan shilling per season.

Similarly, Mr. Edmond Ng'walago through TAAT's interventions adopted the livestock value addition technology as well as improved his skills in livestock processing (rabbit processing). Currently, Edmond produces bio-pesticides from rabbit urine which has proven to control Fall Army Worm. He also processes rabbit skin into leather. This has helped him expand his venture from 200 rabbits to 2500 rabbits. Additionally, it has led to an increase in monthly revenue from 5,000,000 Tanzania shilling to 7,500,000 Tanzania shilling. Owing to this, Edmond now employs 6 full time and 10 daily rated staff.

To access the webinar videos, click <https://www.youtube.com/user/FARAAfrica>

To join the TAAT Capacity Development & Technologies Outreach Network, please register at https://dgroups.org/taat_cdto/join or email babugri@faraafrica.org

