

# Workshop Report no 2

**Promoting Farmer Innovation**

*Harnessing local environmental knowledge in East Africa*

**edited by**

**Will Critchley**

**with**

Roshan Cooke, Tijan Jallow,  
Sophie Lafleur, Mineke Laman,  
Janet Njoroge, Verity Nyagah  
and Emmanuelle Obas

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There are also 'invisible contributions' from Chris Reij and Alie van der Wal and others of the ISWC2 consortium who could not attend the workshop: thanks for their help and ideas.

### *Acknowledgement:*

Special words of thanks are due to Ms. Gemma Aliti of UNDP, Dar es Salaam, who acted as overall chair of the workshop, and helped to organise the meeting, and to INADES-Formation Tanzania (especially Patrick Lameck) for hosting the workshop in Dodoma and for co-ordinating all the local arrangements.

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## Abbreviations

ASAL	=	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
ASIP	=	Agricultural Sector Investment Programme
Bw.	=	Bwana (Mr.)
CBO	=	Community Based Organisation
CCD	=	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought
CDCS	=	Centre for Development Cooperation Services (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
DONET	=	Dodoma Environmental Network
FI	=	Farmer Innovator
GTZ	=	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
IFSP-E	=	Integrated Food Security Programme - Eastern
INADES-F (IFTz)	=	<i>Institut Africain pour le Développement Economique et Social Formation</i> (Tanzania)
IPR	=	Intellectual Property Rights
ISWC	=	Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation
ISWC2	=	Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation (Project, Phase 2)
KARI	=	Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
M&E	=	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAAIF	=	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (Uganda)
MFPEd-NEX	=	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development – National Execution Unit (Uganda)
MOA-SCLUPS	=	Ministry of Agriculture – Soil Conservation and Land Use Planning Section (Tanzania)
NAC	=	National Advisory Committee
NARO	=	National Agricultural Research Organisation
NGO	=	Non Governmental Organisation
NRM	=	Natural Resource Management
OMM	=	Organic Matter Management
PE	=	Participatory Extension
PELUM	=	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PFI	=	Promoting Farmer Innovation
PLUM	=	Participatory Land Use Management Planning
PM&E	=	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
PRA	=	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PSSP	=	Public Sector Service Provider
PTD	=	Participatory Technology Development
RELMA	=	Regional Land Management Unit
Sida	=	Swedish International Development Assistance
SUA	=	Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania)
SWC	=	Soil and Water Conservation
TOT	=	Transfer of Technology
TSP	=	Technical Services Project
ULAMP	=	Uganda Land Management Project

UNDP	=	United Nations Development Programme
UNSO	=	United Nations Development Programme - Office to Combat Desertification and Drought
UNSO/SEED/BDP	=	UNSO/ Sustainable Energy and Environment Division/ Bureau for Development Policy
USCAPP	=	Uganda Soil Conservation and Agroforestry Pilot Project
VPO-DOE	=	Vice-President's Office, Division of Environment (Tanzania)
WH	=	Water Harvesting
WOCAT	=	World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies

## **Preface**

*This booklet has its origins in a programme entitled 'Promoting Farmer Innovation' (PFI) and specifically in a sub-regional workshop held under PFI, in Dodoma, Tanzania between 23 and 25 February 1999. The objectives of that workshop were given by Mr. Dumea, Head of the Soil Conservation and Land Use Planning Section of the Ministry of Agriculture, Tanzania as:*

*to exchange experience between the three countries (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda);  
to assess progress of PFI at its mid-term point;  
to discuss specific issues, including: monitoring and evaluation, scaling up the programme, identification of farmer innovators, gender etc;  
to assemble material for booklet on farmer innovation.*

The final objective is thus the basis for this booklet, which seeks to take the lessons of the programme so far, and to set these in the more general context of 'farmer innovation', for we believe that there is tremendous potential in using this untapped resource in the fields of research and development. Potential is a key word here: the project is young, and despite considerable early strides, and all round enthusiasm, it does not yet claim to have set out a cast-iron case. For example, though many fascinating and undoubtedly effective innovations have been uncovered, these have yet to be scientifically validated. Neither is the 'vision' complete: we are still working out how local innovation can best be harnessed. To what extent can the approach be integrated into on-going rural research and extension systems in Africa?

*For those who follow RELMA publications, there is an obvious, and natural progression from Technical Report no 20 ('Traditions and Innovation in Land Husbandry') which tells the story of an innovative project in Uganda, pioneering such developments in East Africa. This booklet takes both the theory and the practice further. It also differs in that 'Promoting Farmer Innovation' is not written specifically for field workers. Neither is it primarily the voice of the farmer innovators themselves – though they speak to us in these pages, just as they did at the workshop. It is not a set of guidelines, but an introduction to a new and exciting concept which is explored from various angles.*

*This publication has been a joint effort of all those who attended and participated in the workshop. Inevitably it has to be a summary, and an editorial team bear the responsibility for what has been put in and what has been left out. Some presenters will be disappointed that their full papers have not been included. Some discussion groups will say that various conclusions are missing or have been absorbed and presented under other headings. We apologise for what is inevitable in such proceedings. Finally we warmly thank all those who have contributed to what we believe (in the context of East Africa at least) is a watershed publication. This is not the last we will hear of farmer innovators.*

*Will Critchley, on behalf of the editorial team*

## Publisher's Preface

RELMA, through its predecessor, the Regional Soil Conservation Unit, has been supporting soil and water conservation and agroforestry related initiatives for close to two decades. Its new mandate, which is to *contribute towards enhanced food security and improved livelihoods* is much wider than before, thus encompassing virtually all the major subject areas in agriculture and related rural sciences. The geographical focal area for RELMA remains the same as in RSCU and covers Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda,, Tanzania and Zambia.

'Promoting Farmer Innovation' is the type of initiative that RELMA appreciates, and is keen to collaborate with. Not only does PFI have a focus on natural resource conservation at the local level, but it embraces a participatory methodology that RELMA endorses. There are many thematic connections with initiatives that RELMA is already promoting in East Africa. There is also the obvious link of personnel. In each of PFI's three countries of operation, the soil conservation branches of the relevant Ministries of Agriculture are focal points for RELMA as well as PFI.

The production of this publication has been a joint effort between RELMA, UNDP-UNSO, and CDCS. This is a mutually beneficial collaboration which we hope will prosper, and ultimately be of benefit to the farmers in the region.

Mats Denninger  
Director, RELMA

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