

Inside this issue:

NaCRRRI socio-economists set to assess impact of Fall Army Worm

Researchers in drive to create awareness on new Striga-resilient maize varieties

TL III three years down the road...

Ugandan media, scientists discuss opportunities and challenges for public awareness on GMOs

Uganda benefits from Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project

Africa conference confirms growing strength of plant disease research network

Contributors

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Researchers in drive to create awareness on new Striga-resilient maize varieties



Maize field attacked by Striga weed

Scientists combating the devastating Striga weed on maize, have been urged to ensure that *Imazapyr* resistant maize seed is readily available to maize farmers resident in Striga-prone areas (Namutumba, Bukedea, Pallisa and Tororo).

This request was put forward by agricultural technical personnel and extension workers in majority affected districts. This was during clustered meetings in which the newly released Striga-resilient maize varieties (NAROMAIZE 58IR, 59IR & 60IR), were being introduced. In addition, the meeting enhanced the capacity of the extension staff to manage Striga infestation.

These new varieties will buffer farmers against the effect of the weed, with potential to give them between 4-8tn/ha. These varieties provide hope for the farmers whose maize yields are significantly affected.

Striga is negatively impacting food security and income of smallholder

farmers that primarily depend on maize. The weed is now reported to be wide spread; currently it's reported in over 10 districts and very likely to get into new areas in the eastern, western, and northern regions.

Striga is a parasitic weed which attacks and siphons water and other nutrients from roots of cereal crops. Under severe infestation, farmers may encounter up to 100% yield loss. Affected crops include maize, sorghum, rice, millet and sugarcane.