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Feed the Future Sierra Leone Entrepreneurial Agriculture for Improved Nutrition activity

Debrief on Agronomy of groundnut production offered to Dim Din Farmers Federation

Date: May 19, 2017, Freetown



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- **Volunteer Name: Aboubacar Diagne**
- **Country: Sierra Leone**
- **Country project: FtF Groundnut value chain**
- **Host: Dim Din Farmers Federation, Tonkolili district**
- **Venue: Mabai Junction, Kholifa Rowalla Chiefdom**
- **Audience: Smallholder farmers**
- **Number of people : 44**
- **Assignment Dates: April 29, 2017 – May 19, 2017**



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1. Assignment Objectives as in SOW

Basic agronomic practices such as seed bed preparation, timely planting, row cropping, intercropping, optimum plant population, fertilizer application and soil management, pest and disease identification and control

Recommendations that highlight appropriate agronomic and harvesting practices

2. Achievement of the assignment objectives

- a) Progress with the objective: 100% achieved
- b) Expected impacts/results: Farmers who attended the respective trainings acquired the skills in seed bed preparation, seed selection, choice of market types and varieties, the timing of planting, proper spacing/row cropping, intercropping, optimum plant population, fertilization issues and soil management, pest and disease identification and control. In addition, attendees were exposed to different types of fertilizers, the application of fertilizers and calculations associated with fertilizer utilization. Farmers have a practical knowledge of soil PH, its significance, the interpretation of the results of soil PH tests, and how to adjust soil PH to fulfill crop requirements

3. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment

Recommendation 1: Systematize the utilization of cultivars from the Spanish group for the long rainy season (6 months) in the district to get two harvests or have a mix of the varieties from the Virginia group and the Spanish group for the season.

Recommendation:2: Choose a light-colored, well drained sandy loam soils for growing groundnuts. Clay soils should a good structure, or friable for groundnut production

Recommendation 3: Plow early in the season instead of plowing just days before planting

Recommendation 4: Well composted organic matter can be applied to peanut in field productions. Do consider manure applications (15-20 t per ha).



4. Anticipated Impact

- a) Expected impacts/results: Groundnut production require a basic understanding of agronomic recommendations collected from the body of scientific experimentations and various farming experiences. Dim Din members of the Federation are trying to improve their ways of conducting their field operations. These oilseed growers are able to select the best practices (reduction of crop losses, post-harvest handling) and include them in their itineraries. By doing so, the opportunity of increasing their yield and total output will be increased. The economic gains will reflect positively in their lives and by extension, the life of the community.





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5. Recommended future volunteer Assistance

Proposal development for grant application and management



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6. Recommendations to other non-host stakeholders

- Animal traction for deep ploughing and cultivation



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Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
<p><i>Recommendation 1:</i></p> <p>Systematize the utilization of cultivars from the Spanish group for the long rainy season (6 months) in the district to get two harvest or have a mix of the varieties from the Virginia group and the Spanish group for the season.</p>	Implementation	Dim Din Farmers	Before planting (Mid April)
<p>Recommendation:2:</p> <p>Choose a light-colored, well drained sandy loam soils for growing groundnuts. Clay soils should have a good structure, or friable for groundnut production.</p>	Implementation		



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Action plan for host recommendations

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
<p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>Plow early in the season instead of plowing days before planting</p>	Implementation	Dim Din Farmers	Mid April
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>Well composted organic matter can be applied to peanut in field productions. Do consider manure applications (15-20 t per ha).</p>	Implementation	Dim Din Farmers	Mid March



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Recommendation 5:

Utilize calcic lime to raise the pH on strongly acidic soils

Implementation

Dim Din
Farmers

Mid March

Recommendation 6:

Remove the immature seeds before storing the groundnut harvest.

Implementation

Dim Din Farmers

Harvest time



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7. How can CRS improve future volunteer experience

Improve the logistics and planning. A great deal of time was spent waiting for an available car and driver.



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