



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**Volunteer Name: Aboubacar Diagne**

**Country: USA**

**Country project: Uganda**

**Host: NilePro Trust Limited**

**Venue: Arua District**

**Audience: Local government, UOSSP,  
farmers representatives, Host staff**

**Number of people :12**

**Date: 09/18/2014**



# 1a. Assignment Objectives as in SOW

## Objective1:

Best agronomic practices such as land preparation, seed selection, and choice of variety, timely planting, spacing/row cropping, types of fertilizers and their application, weed control, and harvesting

## **1b. Assignment Objectives as in SOW**

- Objective 2:
- Pest and disease identification and control and weed management

## **2. Achievement of the assignment objectives**

Objective 1: Progress with the objective:  
100% completed

Objective 2: Progress with the objective:  
100% completed

## **3a. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment**

- When growing sesame, choose only well drained and aerated soils with good or even moderate fertility.
- Soil crusting is an impediment to the emergence of sesame seeds and the growth of sesame seedlings.

## **3b. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment**

- Sesame seeds are small and lacking energy to break through soil crusting. Growers should avoid the type of soil prompt to compaction.
- If heavy clay soils are the only available type of soil; you should grow sesame on raised beds

### **3c. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment**

- After proper amendment (organic matter additions) sandy or loamy soils can be
- utilized for sesame production.
  
- Saline pedologic conditions are not conducive to sesame growth and development.

### **3d. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment**

- As well, very acidic soils should not be utilized for the growth of sesame.
- The optimum soil PH is between 5.5 and 7.0 for the sesame plant.
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### **3e. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment**

- After emergence, great care is necessary to avoid deep cultivations in the row or inter-rows.
- For weed control, proceed with shallow cultivations in order to avoid excisions on the fibrous roots. Root damage represents an opening for soil fungus and subsequent seedling losses.

### **3f. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment**

- A good spacing is important for an adequate sesame growth and development.
- Nile Pro should re-conduct the trial in different settings in the area. The study should be done for at least two years. Conclusions and recommendations from the study should be shared with their agricultural agents for them to share with growers.
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### **3. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment**

- A local determination of the ratio of nitrogen to phosphate and potassium should be made.
- Macro and micronutrients must be added to soils as a complement.
- Apply well composted organic matter can be applied to sesame in field productions. Do consider manure applications in combination with fertilizers (for example single superphosphate) for yield increase.

### **3. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment**

- Growers should rotate sesame with beans, groundnuts, maize, and sorghum. Sesame will benefit from the nitrogenous residual following leguminous crops. The crops following sesame will profit from the amendment of the physical structure of the soil. The rotation cycle can last three years. Wherever, applicable extend the cycle to four or five years.
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- Strip intercropping is a good practice for growing sesame in windy conditions as maize will serve as a windbreaker. Do utilize this technique.

### **3. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment**

- The recommendation is made for permanent field records to be kept by growers about their
- cropping history and cultural practices over the years. Growers should keep field records
- indicating the soil types, the cultivated plants per field, the varieties, the fertilizer types, the quantities utilized, the pesticides utilized, the weather conditions, and other observations.

## 4a. Anticipated Impact

- The 161 farmers who attended the trainings acquired the skills in land preparation, seed selection, timing of planting, proper spacing. Farmers have a practical knowledge of soil PH, its significance, the interpretation of the results of soil PH tests

## 4. Anticipated Impact

- how to adjust soil PH to fulfill crop requirements, and a list of PH requirements for major crops grown in the area

## **4b. Anticipated Impact**

- Farmers in attendance of trainings developed skills in weed management, pest and disease identification and control. Farmers acquired the knowledge about crop rotation, and its relation with weed, pest, and disease management.



## **4c. Anticipated Impacts**

- Special points were made to show the positive effect of intercropping and crop rotation on soil fertility and pest management. Farmers were exposed to the basic principles of conducting an experiment at farm level.



# **5. Recommended future volunteer Assistance**

## **5. Recommended future volunteer Assistance**

- Bring an umbrella or a raincoat, and be humble.

## **6. Recommendations to other non-host stakeholders**

- Associative rural movements, cooperatives should be promoted
- The management of these structures should be rigorous.
- The leadership of these structures should be answerable to growers, with frequent progress report.

## 7. How can CRS improve future volunteer experience

- During this assignment, the logistic was frequently an impediment to our the implementation.
- The expected fuel was limited or improper fuel was sent from Arua, some seventy miles away. Different drivers moved in and out ‘Rhino Camp’, our station. Similar problems need solution.
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***Thank You!***