

Bananas for a Cow

The Luwero District of Uganda is a traditional banana cropping area although production has steadily declined over recent years, largely because of the damage caused by leaf diseases, nematodes (microscopic worms) and weevils, which have become established in the district. The CPP's banana pest management research (R7529, R7567) has been working with other ongoing initiatives of Uganda's National Banana Research programme. Partnerships with major NGOs have enabled the outputs from these CPP banana projects to be promoted to 15,000 farmers in the central region.



Mr Lubega with his recently purchased cow bought from the proceeds of selling his improved banana crop

Mr and Mrs Umaru Lubega have recently bought a cow, a bicycle and a mobile phone; they live in the Luwero District. They attribute their ability to buy these from the additional income they are now receiving from their banana crop. Mr Lubega has been harvesting 30 kg bunches of fruit, twice the size of the fruit from the disease-susceptible varieties. What is more, the Lubegas are confident that now they have access to transport, up-to-date communication and a better income, they are well positioned to break the cycle of poverty.



The Lubega family now have a bicycle

The main outputs from the CPP projects have been the introduction, to farmers, of disease-resistant varieties of banana, demonstrating the benefits, in terms of pest and crop management, of using a mulch, and demonstrating the benefits of planting pest-free tissue culture-produced planting material (a technology evaluated in project R6850 and now commercially available). The new varieties have resistance to fungal diseases and tolerance to nematodes.

R8342: Promotion of improved IPM practices for banana diseases and pests in Uganda

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