

FFSnet Newsletter – May 2007

This is the monthly FFSnet Newsletter for May 2007. The next Newsletter will appear at the end of June 2007. If you have any inputs for the June issue, send your inputs to info@farmerfieldschool.net by 21 June 2007.

The set-up of the newsletter has slightly changed now that the FFSnet web site is operational (see news item below). News items now appear on a daily basis on the front page of the FFSnet web site and these news items are then brought together in the newsletter for a mailing at the end of each month.

FFSnet News

FFSnet web site operational

Today, 31 May 2007, the new version of the FFSnet web site – <http://farmerfieldschool.info/> – is officially released. The site has been built over the last few months using a Joomla Content Management System – see more about Joomla at <http://www.joomla.org/content/view/12/26/>. Over the next months you will slowly be introduced by the FFSnet Support Unit to the various existing and new functions of the FFSnet web site.

→ If you have any comments, please don't hesitate to share them with support@farmerfieldschool.net.

Uganda FFS network operational

Since 15 May 2007 the Uganda FFS network has also become operational and will be moderated and facilitated by Paul Nyende (paul.nyende@farmerfieldschool.net). The Network will hold an experience sharing workshop in July 2007 and operate internet-based knowledge sharing tools (as part of FFSnet), including a listserv to inform FFS stakeholders in Uganda on the development of the Uganda FFS Network and FFS activities in Uganda. If you would like to subscribe to this listserv, check the link below.

- Network details: http://www.infobridge.org/ffsnet/organisation_view.asp?organisationID=1473
- Uganda-FFS-I listserv: http://farmerfieldschool.net/mailman/listinfo/uganda-ffs-I_farmerfieldschool.net

Kenyan and Tanzanian FFS listserves

In addition to the Uganda-FFS-I listserv, listserves have also become operational for Kenya and Tanzania, with the same purpose. If you would like to subscribe to these listserves, check the links below.

- Kenya-FFS-I listserv: http://farmerfieldschool.net/mailman/listinfo/kenya-ffs-I_farmerfieldschool.net
- Tanzania-FFS-I listserv: http://farmerfieldschool.net/mailman/listinfo/tanzania-ffs-I_farmerfieldschool.net

Regional and National FFSnet Training in Kenya, 23-27 June 2007

The FFS Foundation, FAO-Kenya and CTA are organizing a regional (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) FFSnet training in Nairobi, Kenya, from 21-22 June 2007, followed by a Kenyan FFSnet training from 25-26 June 2007. These training events have the purpose to familiarize the three country networks with FFSnet tools and build a capacity to manage information. Invitations for these meetings will be sent out next week and updates will be announced through the various listserves.

→ Further information: contact Edwin Adenya (edwin.adenya@fao.org).

Outputs

- Misiko, M., 2007. *Fertile Ground? Soil fertility management and the African smallholder*. PhD-thesis, Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands. 146 pp. More info: http://www.farmerfieldschool.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=56&Itemid=2
- Ruben, R., M. van Boekel, A. van Tilburg and J. Trienekens (eds.), 2007. *Tropical food chains - Governance regimes for quality management*. Wageningen Academic Publishers, Wageningen, The Netherlands. 310 p. More info: http://www.farmerfieldschool.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=55&Itemid=2
- Praneetvatakul, S., H. Waibel and L. Meenakanit, 2007. *Farmer Field Schools in Thailand: History, Economics and Policy*. A Publication of the Pesticide Policy Project, Special Issue Publication Series, No. 12, Hannover, January 2007. pp. 89. More info: http://www.farmerfieldschool.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=2
- Duveskog, D., 2006. *Theoretical Perspectives of the Learning Process in Farmer Field Schools. With reference to East African experiences*. Working Paper, December 2006. 38 p. More info: http://www.farmerfieldschool.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=49&Itemid=2
- Kyrgyzstan IPM Informative Bulletin April 2007. More info: http://www.farmerfieldschool.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=47&Itemid=2
- Van Mele, P. and N.T.T. Cuc, 2007. *Ants as Friends: Improving your Tree Crops with Weaver Ants*. Second Edition. Africa Rice Center (WARDA), Cotonou, Benin, and CABI, Egham, UK. 72 p. More info: http://www.farmerfieldschool.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=48&Itemid=2
- Isubikalu, P., 2007. *Stepping-stones to improve upon functioning of participatory agricultural extension programmes - Farmer Field Schools in Uganda*. PhD-thesis Wageningen University. Wageningen University Publishers, Wageningen, The Netherlands. 216 p. More info: http://www.farmerfieldschool.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=45&Itemid=2

Events

PhD. Defense Prossy Isubikalu: Are Farmer Field Schools stepping stones to improve agricultural extension in Uganda?

On 14 May 2007 Prossy Isubikalu defended her PhD. dissertation titled "Stepping-stones to improve upon functioning of participatory agricultural extension programmes. Farmer Field Schools in Uganda." at Wageningen University, The Netherlands. The copyright of this publication is with the publisher, Wageningen Academic Publishers. As such the book is not available electronically. If you wish to communicate with or seek more details or clarification from Prossy Isubikalu, send an e-mail to ikalu@agric.mak.ac.ug.

- For more information (book details, how to purchase it, the video of the PhD. defence): http://www.farmerfieldschool.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=45&Itemid=1.

World Cocoa Foundation Partnership Meeting

The World Cocoa Foundation held a partnership meeting from 23-24 May 2007 in Amsterdam, Netherlands, to share experiences among its partners. Quite a number of WCF programmes and projects use the FFS approach. The workshop was also attended by the FFS Foundation. As a follow-up to the meeting, the reports, projects outlines and news items from this meeting will appear on the WCF web site (<http://www.worldcocoafoundation.org/>) and the FFSnet web site in the coming weeks.

→ For more information, contact Bill Guyton (Bill.Guyton@worldcocoa.org), WCF President.

Malawi FFS Experience sharing workshop

The Bunda College of Agriculture, University of Malawi, organized a national FFS experience sharing workshop from 25-27 April 2007 in Lilongwe, Malawi. The report from the workshop is not yet available, but will be posted on the FFSnet site once available.

→ For more information contact Charles Masangano (cmasangano@bunda.unima.mw) or Midori Yajima (midori.yajima@gmail.com).

23rd AIAEE Annual Conference - 20-25 May 2007, Montana, USA

The Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) has held its 23rd Annual Conference in Polson, Montana, United States, from 20-24 May 2007. The theme of the conference "Internationalizing with Cultural Leadership". Two papers presented at the workshop deal with the impact of Farmer Field Schools, one in Uganda and the other in India.

→ For the conference programme and accepted abstracts, go to

<http://www.aiaee.org/conferences.html>.

→ Read more about the two FFS impact papers:

http://www.farmerfieldschool.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=43&Itemid=2

Agri-ProFocus Expert Meeting 'Responding to the Training Needs of Producers and Producer Organizations'

On the 19 April 2007, PTC+ and Agri-ProFocus (<http://www.agri-profocuse.nl>) organised an Expert Meeting on 'Responding to the Training Needs of Producers and Producer Organizations'. During the meeting Mr. Arnoud Braun of the FFS Foundation gave a presentation on 'Farmer Field Schools - Concept and Evolution to Apex Organisations'.

→ Presentation "Farmer Field Schools Concept and Evolution to Apex Organisations":

http://www.infobridge.org/ffsnet/output_view.asp?outputID=3569

→ Minutes of the meeting: http://www.infobridge.org/ffsnet/output_view.asp?outputID=3570

International Late Blight Conference - Beijing, China April 2008

GILB, CIP and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) are organizing a Third International Conference on Late Blight to be held in Beijing between the 3rd and 6th of April, 2008. This conference builds on the earlier ones in Hamburg (Germany) in 2002 and Quito (Ecuador) in 1999.

→ For more information and pre-registration: <http://research.cip.cgiar.org/GILB/>

PhD. Defense of Stephen Sherwood, 9 January 2008

On 9 January 2008 Stephen Sherwood will defend his PhD. thesis, titled "People, pests, pesticides and power: A socio-biological revisioning of an eco-system health crisis in Carchi, Ecuador", in Wageningen, The Netherlands.

About Global-FFS-I

This message has been sent to you by the Global Farmer Field School Listserv (Global-FFS-I), which has been launched as part of the Global Farmer Field School Network and Resource Centre (FFSnet). The listserv is managed by the FFS Foundation and uses a moderation system for postings to the list, which means that messages sent by list members need to be approved by the Moderators. This is to prevent that you receive messages not meant for the whole list. Your moderators are Arnoud Braun and Marc Schut.

Collection of prior postings to the list: http://farmerfieldschool.net/pipermail/global-ffs-l_farmerfieldschool.net/

Posting a message to all the list members, send an email to global-ffs-l@farmerfieldschool.net. Postings will be moderated to prevent non-requested postings.

General information and to subscribe or unsubscribe, use the forms at: http://farmerfieldschool.net/mailman/listinfo/global-ffs-l_farmerfieldschool.net