

## **Facilitating Monitoring and evaluation activities: Experience from Kapchorwa, in Uganda**

*Rick Kamugisha and Sid Mohan*

As part of the Strengthening Rural institutions (SRI) project, groups across 6 sites in East Africa have prepared and are implementing work plans to guide their activities as a group. The SRI project team in partnership with Focal Point Persons (FPPs) at each site have developed a participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tracking system that monitors group achievements as well as changes in maturity level and site level trainings. ICRAF staff Rick Kamugisha and Sid Mohan conducted a 5 day field visit to Kapchorwa in Uganda from 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May 2013, and visited eleven groups to follow-up on the M&E tracking. The FPP for Kapchorwa was guided on how to fill the monitoring and evaluation tools to be used by the groups, how to collect additional information on the groups, as well as updated on the 3 components of the project: capacity building enterprise development and development of platforms for knowledge sharing. During discussions with the FPP and group members, common activities by the groups were identified including zero grazing, milk production for sale, grass management for fodder, micro saving credit schemes through SACCOs, coffee production, and sunflower harvesting. Soil and water conservation activities, tree bed establishments for sale, and bee keeping were mentioned in addition to bio-gas plants construction.



*Kamweshok farmer's group members explain mulched maize plot an innovation that showed differences in crop performance in two adjacent maize fields to ICRAF staff*

Some of the challenges mentioned by the groups were low incomes, pests and diseases, lack of management skills, lack of materials to build shelters for their zero grazing cattle, poor record keeping, reporting and own monitoring, distance from markets, and paucity of raw materials and other inputs. Low transparency in some groups leading to conflicts amongst the members and other governance issues was also mentioned as a challenge and this is what the project will be looking at in terms of capacity building among groups and the indicators will be monitored using the monitoring tracking sheet.

On the last day of the visit the ICRAF team with the FPP visited the Director of the Management Training and Advisory Centre (MTAC), and the CEO of the Eastern Private Sector Development Centre Ltd (EPSEDEC) in Mbale, to explore the possibility of a partnership with those two organizations to provide capacity building training short courses for the groups in Kapchorwa. A similar activity will be conducted in Masindi, the second project site in Uganda in June 2013 as well as other sites in Kenya and Tanzania in the project sites. The first round of reporting by the groups using the Monitoring and evaluation tools will be done end of this June to be able to monitor what has changed in groups since the development of the works plans