

## Report Green Seeder - Burundi

Roelof van Til, March 2017

I have presented the greenseeder to Burundian farmers at two locations: a). 25K NE Cibitoke, altitude 1800 m, medium textured soil; b) 15 K N Mabanda, 1500 m, light textured soil.

Farmers were very enthusiastic. They have been practicing conservation agriculture: zero tillage and soil cover. They immediately recognized the seeder as a potential next step in making their labor investments more rewarding.

Illustrated observations are presented below.



When using the big hole, the stick delivers exactly the amount of DAP fertilizer I recommend for one planting hole. The farmer tried it growing crops: eggplant, sweet potato and cassava. He liked it, because it is precise and fast.





The soils were wet, which caused clogging of the stick. This was the case at both locations. Only on the relatively dry bunds of sweet potato on the light textured soil, the stick worked without interruptions.



Direct sowing in dying weeds. Using the small hole delivers 2 or sometimes 3 seeds of common bean, precisely what the farmers wants. However, because the soil was wet, the stick got clogged repeatedly.



When handled fiercely, the seeder disassembles, causing beans or fertilizer being spilled. A screw connection would solve this.