Breaking postharvest bottlenecks: Long-term sweetpotato storage in adverse climates

“TRIAL SET UP IN MALAWI”

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A USAID-OFDA Disaster Reduction Research: On-farm Sweetpotato Storage in Ghana and Malawi
Implementing organization:

- International Potato Center (CIP)
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Catholic Development Commission based in Mzuzu, North Malawi (Mzuzu-CADECOM)
- Min of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS)
- Three farmers’ communities in Central and Northern Region of Malawi:
  - Zombealaki, Kasungu District,
  - Chizerema, Kasungu District,
  - Champira, Mzimba District
These communities are under the supervision of CRS-CADECOM
Strategic plans

- Identifying the key individual farmers.
- Getting an appropriate numbers of farmers.
- Refreshing the knowledge and skills of the NGOs and government extension and the farmers on sweetpotato production management, postharvest handling and processing and utilization.
- Training on the data collection and management (extension & farmers).
- Setting up the trial at harvest and data collection.
TRIAL SET UP

- 3 villages in 2 districts
- 30 participants per village
- 3 storages:
  - Afghanistan ventilated pit storage
  - Ladder pit storage
  - Granary
- 2 types of sweetpotato:
  - Local varieties (white and yellow flesh)
  - OFSP (Zondeni)
- 3 replicates per village
Assessments

Test of consumer acceptance at
  0 month: mid May 2014
  1.5 months later: end of June
  2 months later: end Aug 2014
  2.5 months later: mid Nov 2014

Test on market orientation:
  End June 2014 during the harvest period in June 2014
  Mid Nov 2014 where the sweetpotato is scarce

Test on Beta-carotene for OFSP varieties: End of June and Mid November 2014
Training on Pests and Diseases including a negative selection for SPVD
Good cultural practices can boost a good yield and clean
Training on Processing and Utilization:
Increase of knowledge on OFSP to reposition sweetpotato, and Behavior change
Mandazi,
Juices (leaves and roots),
One-pot meal
(at least 3 food groups in a dish), etc
Afghanistan
Ventilated Pit Storage
(a slight modification from the pit storage introduced by CRS)
Ladder Pit Storage with “dry” sand
(slightly modified Malawian storage)
Granary covered by clay-cement with “dry” sand (improved Malawian storage) 

→ useful for flood prone areas
Thank you very much for your attention.