Performance of the OFSP chain in Mukono District, Uganda
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Structure of the presentation

- Introduction to the study
- Objectives
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions & recommendations
OFSP production and commercialization in Uganda

Since OFSP was introduced to Uganda, a number of initiatives have been made to popularize it

- Mukono district, in central Uganda is a major hub of OFSP promotion initiatives
- The district has proximal access to major urban markets hence a good candidate for commercial production
- However, OFSP is not easily available in major markets in central Uganda
Objectives of the study

To analyze the dynamics that influence the performance of the OFSP chain:

- Characterize the OFSP chain in central Uganda
- Assess factors that influence farmers decision to participated in the market
- Evaluate constraints faced by OFSP farmers
Methods:

- A cross sectional study was done and data collected from 123 farmers, 37 traders, 26 consumers and 9 key informants
- Focus groups discussions with 34 farmers
- A two stage model was run to determine factors affecting farmers participation and extent of participation
- Farmer were clustered in three categories: net sellers, autarkic and net buyers
Results
Characterization of the OFSP chain

- The chain is disorganized with mistrust amongst actors
- 48% of the farmers were commercial root producers
- Their major market was rural consumers (plantation workers)
- OFSP was the least traded variety in urban markets
- Consumer attributes: OFSP scored lowest
Factors influencing decision to participate: multinomial regression

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Independent variables</th>
<th>Autarkic buyers</th>
<th>Net buyers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Years growing OFSP</td>
<td>0.100</td>
<td>0.061*</td>
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<td>Labour costs</td>
<td>0.008***</td>
<td>0.200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fertilizer use</td>
<td>0.000***</td>
<td>0.093*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rank of OFSP</td>
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<td>Constant</td>
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Factors influencing extent of participation in the market: Tobit regression

<table>
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<th>p - value</th>
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<td>Sex of h/head</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years growing OFSP</td>
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<td>Log labour costs</td>
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<td>Fertilizer use</td>
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<td>Constant</td>
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Evaluation of constraints faced by commercial farmers

- **Production constraints**: drought, pests and diseases, access to inputs (credit)
- **Post-harvest related constraints**: high perishability, drudgery and bulkiness
- **Market related constraints**: few reliable buyers, price fluctuation, limited access to market intelligence, poor roads and low preference of OFSP by traders and consumers
Conclusions and recommendations

- Higher fertilizer use than anticipated – nearly all vine multipliers used foliar fertilizer – vines are a high value crop
- Rural consumers appreciate OFSP – can we use similar strategies to increase urban consumers?
- OFSP is a woman’s crop, but where are the commercial women farmers? We need strategies to increase their visibility
- Improve linkages between chain actors and supporters (Agricultural Innovation Systems)