Scaling out sweetpotato and potato-led interventions to improve nutrition and food security in Tigray and SNNPR, Ethiopia
Background

![Graph showing trends of per capita cereals production](image)

**Fig 1: Trends of per capita cereals production**

- Per capita cereal production (kg/hd/yr)
- Cereals self sufficiency at 182.5kg/hd/yr
- Cereals self sufficiency at 225kg/hd/yr

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>0.332</td>
<td>0.369</td>
<td>0.351</td>
<td>0.257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>0.475</td>
<td>0.454</td>
<td>0.393</td>
<td>0.304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0.455</td>
<td>0.442</td>
<td>0.387</td>
<td>0.296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Trend in proportion of children under nutrition**

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wasting</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underweight</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stunting</td>
<td>57.8</td>
<td>51.5</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>40.1</td>
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consumption of vitamin A Rich foods
Efforts to address high food insecurity and malnutrition through a **grain-led approach only** (cereals are the predominant staple throughout the country) have not been able to keep up with population increase.

- Population pressure, climate change, malnutrition

This indicates a need for new approaches, including breaking the “grain mentality” by including production and consumption of less-labor intensive nutrient rich root and tuber crops such as potato and OFSP that can be **accessible and affordable by poor people.**
Project goal, objective and locations

- **Project Goal:**
  - Contribute to improved nutrition and food security in vulnerable households with young children in Tigray and SNNPR through increased production and consumption of micronutrient-rich sweetpotato and potato varieties as part of diversified diets
Project objectives

- **Objective 1**: Expanded smallholder production of nutritious sweetpotato and potato varieties

- **Objective 2**: Increased consumption of OFSP and potato as part of more nutritious diets

- **Objective 3**: Improved and diversified market access for OFSP and nutritious potato

- **Objective 4**: Increased institutional and policy support for nutrition-focused agriculture
Project Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>To October 2013: 2 Projects</th>
<th>From 1 November 2013: 1 Joint Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tigray</td>
<td>5 woredas (30 kebelles)</td>
<td>Staggered expansion to 10 woredas (45 kebelles) in Tigray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNNPR</td>
<td>5 woredas (15 kebelles)</td>
<td>5 woredas (15 kebelles)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project partners

- Implementing partners:
  - **Tigray**: BoA, BoH, BoE, TARI, Mums for Mums, Women Association of Tigray, Univ of Mekelle, World Food Programme
  - **SNNPR**: BoA, BoH, SARI, Egna Leegna, Goal, Univ of Hawassa, Wolayta Sodo University
  - Univ of Wisconsin
What have we achieved so far

- In 2015, more than 5.2 million OFSP cuttings distributed, reaching more than 9,287 HH
- Area covered by OFSP is increasing from year to year.
5 million vines per year

15 decentralised vine multiplier five woredas

Supply of OFSP vines increased through:

- Women to women extension or women development group
- School gardens,
- FTCs and
- Model farmers
Ongoing Operational research

- Pilot cultivation of OFSP, potato and other nutritious crops in kitchen gardens, and assess viability for scaling-out
- Inter cropping with cereals to reduce hunger months
- Refining cost effective small scale irrigation for off season root and vine production
- Validation of cost effectiveness of on-farm vine conservation using the triple ‘S’ (sand, storage, and sprouting) technology in 30 farmer plots
- Conducted on-farm trials introducing net tunnels in 22 pilot farmer fields in both regions.
- Product development
Institutional capacity building
Strengthening DVM - Basic seed multipliers

Established and strengthened the capacity of 72 decentralised vine multiplier (DVM)
Capacity Building
Demand creation promotion

- Awareness creation campaigns using multiple complementary approaches

- Health center - Nutritional counseling
- Health extension workers – House to house
- Billboard
- Poster/booklet/leaflet
- Mobile cooking demonstration at different events
- Market day promotion
- Document film
- T-shirt/cap distribution and promotion calendar
- School feeding
- School clubs
- Demand creation Promotion strategy
- Radio message/discussion/drama
- Painted kiosks support
OFSP popularisation street campaigns
OFSP school garden and Feeding
• Strengthen vine dissemination through women to women network and school children
Market support
Constraints in the OFSP chain

- Inadequate access to timely and sufficient quantities of quality planting materials (vines)
- Long dry season – vine conservation
- Small scale scattered producers
- High seasonality of supply & uneven quality of roots
Thank you !!