



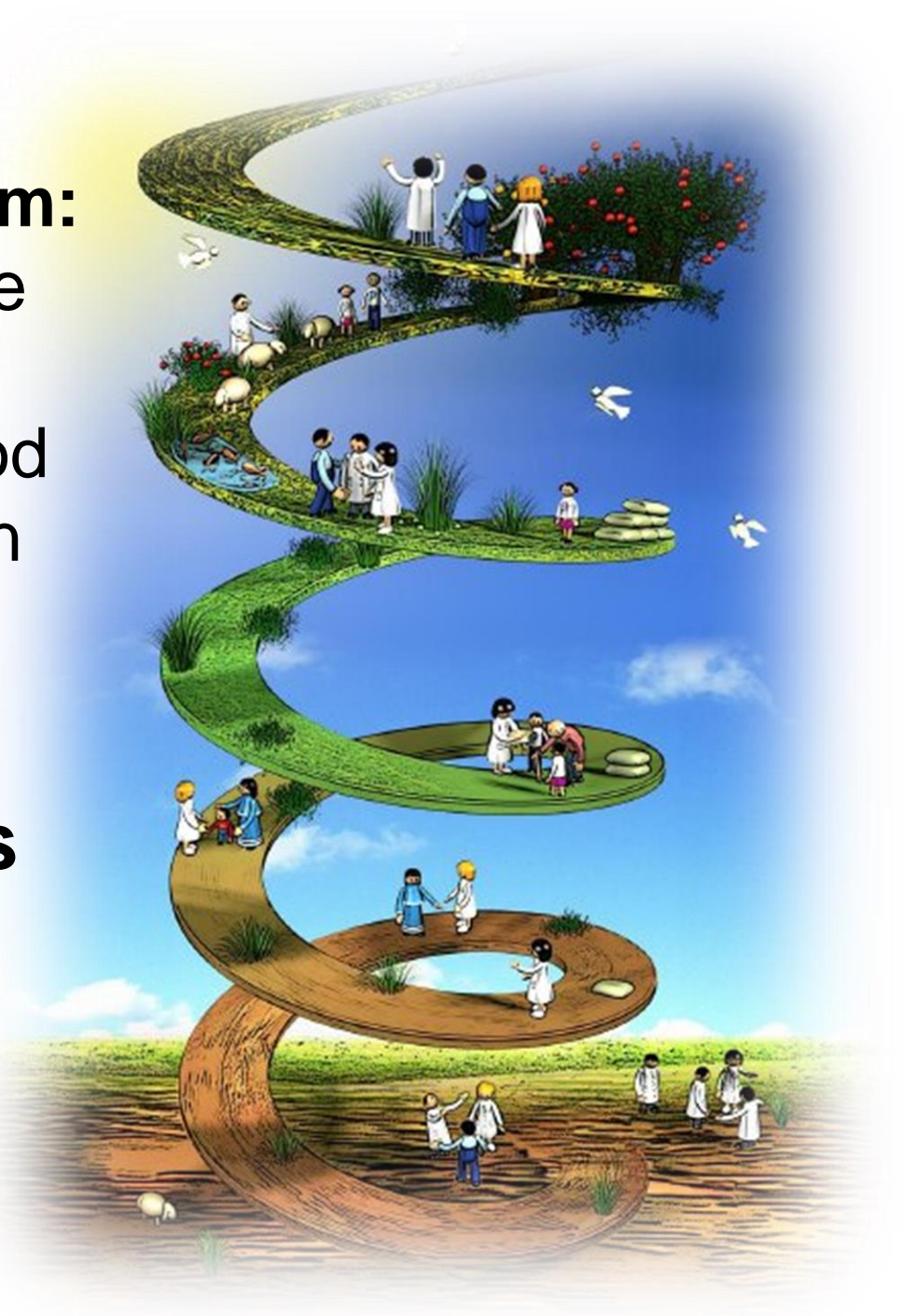
NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF SWEETPOTATO PRODUCTION IN NORTHERN GHANA: IMPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH AND EXTENSION EFFORTS

By

J. K. Bidzakin
(CSIR-SARI)

**The Drylands Systems
CGIAR Research Program:
Integrated and Sustainable
Agricultural Production
Systems for Improved Food
Security and Livelihoods in
Dry Areas**

**CRP1.1 to work in 5
West Africa countries
Sites in Ghana :
Dimabi NR
Touri, UWR**



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graph TD; A((developing a systems approach in dryland agriculture)) --- B((AIM: Trigger sustainable agricultural development in the drylands)); B --- C((Develop multi-disciplinary research methods)); B --- D((Site specific SRF developed based on major constraints));
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developing a systems approach in dryland agriculture

AIM: Trigger sustainable agricultural development in the drylands

Develop multi-disciplinary research methods

Site specific SRF developed based on major constraints



DS CRP: partnership

- Further-reaching partnership than the traditional CGIAR-NARS collaboration
- Heavier involvement of FBOs, NARS, NGOs, private and communication sectors
- More emphasis on participatory and “demand-driven” Research and development processes

Rationale of the study

To generate relevant information to describe the prevailing sweet potato production, marketing and utilization in the selected communities.

To guide **CIP** Ghana to identify entry points and to help in the design of interventions for implementation in the selected districts in the three regions up North

To provide preliminary data which will complement the comprehensive household baseline study to be conducted

Methodology

- Qualitative RRA/PRA tools
 - focus group discussions (FGDs)
 - key informants interviews
 - seasonal calendars
 - problem solving tree
 - decision making matrix
 - problem census and prioritization matrix
 - personal field observation

Sampling strategy

District	Community	Female	Male	# of Farmers
Tolon	Dimabi			
Kumbungu	Yipala	9	21	30
	Cheyohi Nayili	16	13	29
Lawra	Touri	11	41	52
	Dikpe	7	24	31
Bawku Central	Ninkongo	12	14	26
	Kpaliga	16	28	44

Results

Decision making matrix	DECISION MADE BY:		
DECISION / TASK	MEN	WOMEN	Comments (include the comments and discussion from the participants)
Potato farming			
- Use of plot for farming	✓✓✓✓	✓	Men own the land but some is given to women to cultivate
- Choice of crop variety for farming	✓✓✓✓	✓✓	Mostly by men but in consultation with the women
- Cultivation method	✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓	Both share ideas to decide on the appropriate method
- Purchase of inputs	✓✓✓✓	✓✓	Mostly by men
- Use of SP(sale, home consumption)	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	Women can decide to use the SP they have produced by themselves likewise the men
- Use of cash after sale	✓✓✓	✓✓	Whoever owns it decides its usage
- Taking loan	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	Any of us can decide but in consultation with the other
- Become member of producer	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	Both discuss and agree on which group to

Problem solving tree

PROBLEM	CAUSES	SOLUTIONS/COPING STRATEGY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of bullocks for ploughing• Lack of planting materials• Lack of improved varieties• Poor soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of credit facility to assist them buy bullocks• Lack of water sources for dry season gardening Difficult to maintain seed and animal destruction• Lack of knowledge on varietal options available• Intensive continuous cropping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Company farming and provision of credit• Use of fenced gardens in the offseason to maintain planting material• Sensitization on available varietal options• Application of organic and inorganic fertilizers

Problem solving tree con'd

PROBLEM (Trunk)

- Drought
- Insect damage to root and vines
- Animal destruction
- Lack of knowledge on modern methods of production

CAUSES (Roots)

- Natural, they cannot explain
- organic material in soil, Clay soils attract them
- Animals are not restricted /housed intensively
- Lack of training

SOLUTIONS/COPING STRATEGY (Crown)

- Planting early if seed is available
- Clear all crop residue from field and crop on loamy soils, use of pesticides
- Fencing of potato fields and tethering of animals
- They need training on new agronomic practices

Results Con'd

problem census and prioritization matrix

Northern

- Provision of planting material (seed)
- Provision of Credit facility
- Help identify Good market sources
- Timely supply of planting material

Upper West

- Seed multiplication
- Training on disease and pest management
- Provision of credit facility
- Training on good agronomic practices for SP production
- Soil fertility management
- Identifying good market sources

Upper East

- Credit facility
- Provision of fertilizer
- Identifying good market sources
- training on processing options available
- Lack of tools for land preparation

Conclusion

- There is bright future for sweetpotato production if the right interventions are put in place.
- The regions' soil and climatic conditions support the growth of sweet potato, especially in the Northern Region, as farmers are switching to sweetpotatoes production due to declining soil fertility to support yam production.



What
is
this?

It is really confusing!!!

