

## ANNEX 1

### I. ORANGE FLESHED SWEET POTATO PROGRESS REPORT DEDZA DISTRICT (NOV 2011-MAY 2012)

#### DEDZA DISTRICT

- In TA Kamenyagwaza (Bembeke EPA)
- In TA Kasumbu (Kanyama EPA)
- In TA Kachere (Chafumbwa EPA)

#### NTCHEU DISTRICT

- In TA Makwangwala (Parts of Nsipe, Manjawira and Bilira EPAs)

#### Main activities and progress

- Conducted campaign meetings on OFSP vine multiplication reaching out to 2542 people (1105 men, 1437 women)
- Trained Field staff and Crop Village Extension multipliers in OFSP vine multiplication 90 in total (60men,30 women)
- Distributed sweet potato bundles of vines both non-voucher and voucher scheme
- Facilitated planting of the vines to 4, 851 farmers on 16.10 ha

#### Tertiary Decentralized Vine Multipliers (DVMs) in 2010/2011 & 2011/2012

District	EPA	Number of beneficiaries			No of DVM nurseries
		Males	Females	Total	
Dedza	Kanyama	98	267	365	405
	Bembeke	69	107	176	176
	Chafumbwa	95	187	282	242
Totals		262	561	823	823
					(Total ha=15.66 and 5 ha current)

#### OFSP Voucher Beneficiaries for Vine Distribution during the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 Rainy Season

2010-2011 subsidised voucher beneficiaries						2012 beneficiaries
District	Males	Females	Total households	Ha	Tonnes/ha	2012 beneficiaries
Dedza	2200	2533	4733	32	15	3000
						Ha=9.6

#### Non-Voucher Scheme (Vines From Bvumbwe)

District	No of bundles	Who bought?	Where did it	When distributed	Comment
Dedza	1000	Routing out Hunger	Chafumbwa beneficiaries	Feb 2012	Only 800 were distributed as 200 were damaged in transit
Ntcheu	1000	Routing out Hunger	TA Makwangwala beneficiaries	Feb 2012	Only 805 were distributed for some were damaged transit
Dedza	394	Routing out hunger	Individual-Bembeke	Jan 2011	

#### SUCSESSES

- The voucher system has benefitted both the suppliers and recipients. The suppliers got paid at the time when they had no any other sources of getting money and this has encouraged them to grow OFSP. The beneficiaries were able to access the vines at the time when enough rains had fallen.
- Many farmers are interested in OFSP because of the nutritional value of both the leaves and the roots.
- The roots are in high demand on the market as compared with other varieties. This shows that people have realized the benefits of this variety.

- One Tea Room in Chafumbwa makes fritters from sweetpotato and now survives on that business and some families are doing the same as ad hoc ways of income generation for their household needs.
- One farmer (Chimpikizo) in Dedza is selling 8 bags of OFSP fortnightly at about MK8000 per bag to South Africa (yet only at MK1000 per bag in the country).

## **CHALLENGES**

- Vines that were received from Bvumbwe for winter production were almost dry; 20 % of them were discarded as they were completely dry.
- The frost damage of vines in the nurseries in most parts of Dedza between July and August lead to low source of vines
- There are still problems to keep enough vines from winter to summer season to satisfy the ever-increasing demand

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMERCIALISATION**

- There is availability of vines and farmers can easily access them
- There are marketing structures which the farmers can use to sell their roots e.g Universal Industries for making biscuits
- The existence of irrigation schemes where vines can be multiplied after summer harvests

## **II. FIVE MONTHS REPORT ON ORANGE FLESHED SWEET POTATO (JUNE 2012 TO OCTOBER 2012)**

### **1.0 Introduction**

Concern Universal is collaborating on a 4.5-year project on Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato in Dedza. The targeted areas during the 2011/2012 financial year are 3 Traditional Authorities namely Kasumbu, Kamenyagwaza and Kachere. The targeted households were involved either as multipliers of vines through primary and secondary multipliers or tertiary beneficiaries. In total 3000 farmer were identified and received vines under a voucher system.

### **2.0 Progress**

During the reporting period, the project conducted a number of activities. Among the activities were conducting field days in 3 village development committees in Kachere under Chafumbwa EPA and one Village development committee in Kamenyagwaza under Bembeke EPA. In these field days a total number of 516 people attended with 306 men and 255 women. The project also conducted training in vine propagation, preparation of various recipes using the orange fleshed sweetpotato roots like, biscuits, juice, one pot dish, meat balls, sweet beer, scones, doughnuts, relish from OFSP leaves and cakes. The training was attended by 232 with 134 men and 98 women in Bembeke and Chafumbwa EPAs. The participants liked most the one pot dish, sweet beer, cakes and meat balls.

Review meetings were also conducted to reflect on the progress and the impact the farmers are experiencing. The meetings were attended by an accumulative of 321 people (173 men and 148 women).

A number of visitors were received during the reporting period by Irish Aid from both the Irish Embassy in Malawi as well as from Ireland. The visitors visited several sites in Bembeke EPA mainly winter nursery sites and nutritious displays prepared by the farmers using orange-fleshed sweetpotatoes.

### **3.0 Success stories:**

- The voucher system has benefitted the needy who could not manage to access these planting materials on their own. It is also a good system because farmers are able to procure vines when they receive enough rains as a result there have been good establishment of the vines under the voucher system.
- Many farmers are interested in OFSP because of the nutritional value of both the leaves and the roots.
- The roots are in high demand on the market as compared with other varieties. This shows that people have realized the benefits of this variety.

### **4.0 Challenges:**

- The vines that came from Bvumbwe for winter were almost dry that only 20% of the lot germinated.
- The nurseries that were established between June and early August were negatively affected by frost.

### **III. 2012/2013 Rainy Season for Year 3 Project Activities**

Currently, we have registered 4500 household beneficiaries. The detailed figures for the vouchers will be submitted to CIP in the third week of December 2012.

### **IV. Stories of change Collection Form**

#### **Contact details:**

**Name of person recording the story:** Michael Buleya

**Location:** Dedza – Mkungumbe VDC, Mkungumbe village

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

#### **Confidentiality**

We may like to share your stories with other people within and outside of CU.

Do you the story teller:

Consent to Concern Universal using your story for publication and sharing: Yes

Permit Concern Universal to include your name if we share the story: Yes

The story teller understands that no payments or incentives will be provided by Concern Universal for the use of their stories or their names. Yes

Name of story teller: Edward Sunge

### **Local Development Support Programme**

*Short profile of the story teller e.g. age, occupation, family circumstance, health, etc.*

Edward Sunge lives in Mkungumbe village, in group village headman Mkungumbe, Traditional Authority Kamenyagwaza. He is 55 years old; married with a son. His son is 26 years old and working in town after completing his secondary education. Edward's main occupation is farming and he mainly grows maize, soyabeans, vegetables, orange fleshed sweet potatoes but also keeps chickens, pigs and doves.

### *How did you become involved in the OFSP production {LDSP}?*

Edward Sunge knew about the production of the orange fleshed sweet potatoes as a result of the awareness meeting that was conducted by the agriculture extension worker for the area during the 2010/11 season. During that time 10 interested farmers were identified (6 men and 4 women). He continued to say that he was also elected as the chairperson of the group. Each farmer was asked to prepare his or her piece of land with the aim of multiplying OFSP vines as one of decentralised vine multipliers.

### *What is your involvement in the programme?*

In the programme Edward is multiplying the vines in secondary and tertiary nurseries. He started the programme with 12 beds of 3 metres and 1 metre each in first year. He multiplied the vines as a secondary vine multiplier using 50 kg bag equivalent volume of vines he received from CIP through Concern Universal and agriculture



*OFSP-Secondary Nursery*



extension worker as a starter up material. He is currently multiplying the vines as both a secondary and a tertiary vine multiplier. He is currently planting an area that is ten times the area that he initially started with in first year. Edward was trained on the nursery establishment and general management of the OFSP crop by the agriculture extension worker. In preparation for 2012/2013 season, Edward has reserved and prepared 0.8 ha (2 acres) to plant OFSP because of the benefits he had realized last season whereby he got K27,900.00 from the sales of the vines. He got K22,900.00 through coupon system and

K5,000.00 through direct sales to his fellow farmers within the area.

*In your opinion what has changed in your life/household as a result of this project (or since the last interview if appropriate) positive or negative?*

Three things have changed in my life. Having K27, 900.00 from the sales of the vines through coupon system and direct sales in February the time when most farmers find it difficult to get money. He used the money to hire casual labour a thing that he never dreamt of before. He also indicated that as a family they are able to take different OFSP recipes such as sweet beer, cakes, biscuits, scones, meat balls, doughnuts and relish from OFSP leaves and this has assisted in improving their nutritional status. He indicated that he was also popular in the area as a result of the visitors who visit him due to the OFSP nurseries which are just near his house.

*From your point of view, please describe the most significant change in your family that has resulted from your involvement with the LDSP?*

Availability of cash in February a period when money is so scarce is the most significant change to him since it was the first time in his life to have that experience.



OFSP root storage structure (Mjinge) for Sunge family that can store tubers for seven months without rotting



A display of recipes from OFSP

*Why is that change the most important (please be specific)?*  
*Interview to probe into the response if necessary.*

He said that he was able to hire casual labour for cultivating in his field because of the money that he obtained from sales of vines. He was able to buy a bag of fertilizer using money which he is going to apply to his maize crop this season.

## Agricultural practices

What agricultural techniques do you follow e.g. conservation agriculture, traditional agriculture, other? Conservation agriculture, fruit tree production, soil and water conservation, livestock production afforestation and improved storage of Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes (OFSP) tubers.

*Have you elected to apply a conservation agriculture approach? What informed your decision?*

He has also chosen to follow conservation agriculture because he has been oriented by agriculture extension worker about its benefits. He said that he is able to try the technology because he wants to experience new interventions after seeing the benefits of OFSP which was just a new intervention in the area. He said that when he was adopting growing of OFSP some farmers including his wife were laughing at him for adopting the thing that was very new in the area but he has realised that adopting new technologies has more benefits as seen with OFSP whereby he is projecting to get a minimum of K100,000.00 from vine sales in 2012/2013 season.

*How is what you are doing now different from what you did before the LDSP?*

Before the OFSP intervention came in he was unable to have money in February and also he was not able to diversify his meals but he is now able to do so because of this crop.