

Annex 6



CONCERN UNIVERSAL and CIP PROJECT PARTNERSHIP: ROOTING OUT HUNGER IN MALAWI

Quarterly report for the period October 2010 to September 2011 for Dedza

1. SUMMARY.

Concern Universal signed a Letter of Memorandum of Understanding with the International Potato Centre (CIP) for the implementation of the ‘**Rooting out Hunger in Malawi**’ project. Concern Universal is implementing its part of the project in Dedza and Phalombe districts. The intervention is being implemented in partnership with the Dedza and Phalombe RDPs, DARS and CIP. Table 1 (below) gives a summary of achievements against set targets in the reporting period for Dedza.

Table 1 Summary of achievements (October 2010 – September 2011)

Activity	Target	Achievement
Objective 2:		
2.1 Distribute Zondeni OFSP vines to at least 2000 households using subsidized vouchers and permit multipliers to sell to additional producers, recording their sales		
2.1.1 Facilitate distribution of planting materials to 2,000 households with young children by January ensuring quality control and recording of recipient names and location.	2,000 bundles of 4kg each	3000bundles of Zondeni sweet potato vines were distributed to 919 households with young children. Demand for the vines was much hire than the quantities supplied.
2.1.3 Follow up visit and sales recording.	12 visits	24 visits were conducted to 2956 households. The voucher system has helped the poor households to access Zondeni vines. During the visits pests and diseases were identified and farmers were advised on how to mange the crops.
2.2 Conduct assessment meetings and documentation on the use of subsidized vouchers and vine sales		

2.2.1 Conduct community meetings on the use of vouchers and document	5	5 community meetings on the use of vouchers were conducted and 2,013 people (871 males and 1,143 females) attended. Names of farmers who sold the vines through vouchers were documented.
2.3 Identify and establish additional DVMs (Secondary and tertiary, multipliers)		
2.3.1 Identify and establish at least 6 additional decentralized secondary vine multipliers (secondary multiplication sites)	6 multipliers	21 vine multipliers were identified and given planting materials.
2.3.4 Sourcing of materials and planting (fertilizer, vines, watering cans, hard covers)	27 multipliers	3059 farmers (592 males and 2467 females) benefited from secondary vine multipliers. The farmers planted the vines for production instead of vine multiplication because they wanted to taste the root tubers.
2.3.3 Facilitate land preparation	10 sites	Land preparation was done to 26 sites for farmers multiplying the sweet potato vines.
2.3.4 Sourcing of materials and planting (fertilizers, vines, watering cans, hard covers)	Fertilizer, vines, hard covers & water cans	6,842kg of vines on voucher system were sourced and planted by farmers. CIP also supplied 24,252kg of vines from Bvumbwe (not on voucher) which were distributed to 4515 farmers who planted a total of 22.03 ha (see Table 3 below)12 hard covers were given to farmers with trial sites for recording their observations.45 watering cans were given. Other materials such as cement, 6pipes, 65 reinforcement wire pail 30, watering canes and 100 bags of cement for construction of irrigation schemes.
2.3.5 Planting	2000 farmers	5,397 farmers planted Zondeni OFSP this summer.
2.3.6 Rouging	2000 fields	33 fields had some of the vines rouged off due to virus and alternaria attacks.
2.3.7 Certifying the planting materials	Kgs of certified plant materials	6332 kgs were certified as planting materials
2.3.8 Open/field day	3	2 field days were conducted and a total of 102 people (41 males and 61 females). The objective of all the field days was to identify pests and diseases in potato fields and to carry out leaf tasting for selecting the best type of sweet potatoes.
2.3.9.1 Harvesting	2 demos	7 demonstrations were conducted the results showed that 2m x 2m plot weigh 4.5 KGs. Farmers observed that when we cover the s/potato with soils, the crop is

		<p>free from weevils damage. 55 farmers 17 males and 38 females attended the demonstrations.</p> <p>Sweet potato nurseries development through tubers</p> <p>THE TABLE BELOW SHOWS SWEET POTATO YIELDS</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LOCATION</th> <th>AREA (ha)</th> <th>YIELD (kg/ha)</th> <th>PRODUCTION (Ton)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Kasumbu</td> <td>3.9</td> <td>15,6</td> <td>61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bembeke</td> <td>5.01</td> <td>17,6</td> <td>78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chafumbwa</td> <td>2.012</td> <td>10,4</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTALS</td> <td>10.922</td> <td>42,7</td> <td>170</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	LOCATION	AREA (ha)	YIELD (kg/ha)	PRODUCTION (Ton)	Kasumbu	3.9	15,6	61	Bembeke	5.01	17,6	78	Chafumbwa	2.012	10,4	31	TOTALS	10.922	42,7	170
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2.3.9.2 Sweet potato storage (Mjinge)		<p>The project trained 39 farmers in Mjinge making. The technology was once promoted by Ministry of Agriculture to assist farmers keep sweet potato tubers to last them long. Mjinge is said to keep sweet potato vines for six months. The tubers in Mjinge did well because it minimized the crop damage through storage. The technology has generated a lot of interest in most farmers and they promised to establish their individual storage facility.</p>																				
2.3.10 Field monitoring	16	17 monitoring visits were done. It was observed during the visits that some varieties were attacked by viruses and alternaria. Rouging of the damaged crop was done to avoid disease and pests spread.																				
2.4 Train staff and new vine multipliers and re-train year 1 multipliers in quality vine multiplication and use of vouchers and record keeping																						
2.4.1. Conduct TOT training for staff in OFSP food processing, quality and storage.	20 staff	20 staff (13males and 7females) attended TOT training in OFSP food processing, quality and storage.29 females and 54 females attended the trainings.																				
2.4.2 Train staff in pest and disease management	20	38 staffs were trained in pest and disease management and group dynamics.																				
2.4.3 Sensitise farmers on the use of vouchers	6,000 HHs	5 campaign meetings were conducted and 2,013 (871 males and 1,143 females) people attended the meetings. After the campaign meetings demand for Zondenii sweet potato vines was very high from both operational and outside project area. The vines which were distributed did not meet the demand. The activity is ongoing.																				
2.4.4. Sensitise vine multipliers on the use of vouchers	6 DVMs	Sensitization meeting were done to 21 DVMs. The DVMs were encouraged to strictly follow good management practices to produce disease free potato vines for planting.																				
2.4.5 Conduct field tour to Millennium Village	5 staff & 10 farmers	One tour was organised where 5 staff and 10 farmers participated. During the visit, participants managed to visit																				

		Zondeni fields and learn the best agronomic practices for Zondeni
2.4.6. Report writing	Monthly	This activity was done and it was submitted on time.
2.4.7. Data entry	Ongoing	Done by CIP
2.5 Coordinate distribution of materials by partners to 1,000 HH with young children, assuring quality control & recording of recipient names and locations		
2.5.1 Identification of HH with young children	600 HH with young children	919 households with under five children were identified for Zondeni vine distribution and they were given Zondeni vines.
2.5.2 Sensitization of farmers/ communities about Zondeni OFSP	5 sites	5 campaign meetings were conducted and 2,013 (871 males and 1,143 females) people attended the meetings. After the campaign meetings demand for Zondeni sweet potato vines was very high from both operational and outside project area.
2.5.3 Formation of farmers groups (pregnant, lactating & U5 children)	26 groups	32 farmer groups were formed and given planting materials.
2.5.4 Training of farmers in group dynamics	52 farmers	261 farmers (91 males and 170 females) were trained in group dynamics and sweet potato diseases identification and control methods.
2.5.5 Sensitise the HH with young children in sweet potato growing, product development and utilisation	6000 HH with young children	8 campaign meetings were conducted and 3,141 (1073 males and 2069 females) people attended the meetings.
2.5.6 Distribution of planting materials to HH with young children	6000 HH with young children	919 farmers with under five children were identified and given Zondeni vines
2.5.7 Monitoring visits	3 Monitoring visits	12 monitoring visits were done. During the visits, farmers were being assisted to ensure that they are abiding by the requirements for them to produce healthy vines.
3.1 Conduct demand creation campaigns on importance of OFSP through Drama performances, demonstrations, poems and songs.		
3.1.1 Conduct awareness campaign meetings on importance of OFSP	4 awareness campaign meetings	6 awareness campaign meetings were conducted where drama performances, poems and songs on Zondeni OFSP were featured as conduits for message dissemination.
Objective 5		

3.6.1 Year-2 review and year-3 work plan development	Year-3 work plan developed	The project managed to conduct 3 review meetings and developed quarterly work plans for year two and year three annual work plan and 8 staff attended the meeting with 3 ladies.
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Sources of seed and nursery development

VINES FROM BVUMBWE (Standard)

KASUMBU				BEMBEKE				CHAFUMBWA			
Bundles	T/B ¹	FHH ²	MH ³	Bundles	T/B	FHH	MHH	Bundles	T/ B	FHH	MHH
2000	83	51	32	500	15	9	6	500	72	42	30

¹ Total Beneficiary. ² Female Headed Household. ³ Male Headed Household

VINES FROM FARMER TO FARMER REPAYMENT (standard)

KANYAMA				BEMBEKE				CHAFUMBWA			
Bundles	T/B	FHH	MHH	Bundles	T/B	FHH	MHH	Bundles	T/ B	FHH	MHH
267	107	63	27	1224	30	17	13	100	74	46	28

¹ Total Beneficiary. ² Female Headed Household. ³ Male Headed Household

The project also included vine transfer to relations and friends as indicated in the report below.

Number of Nurseries Established

EPA	Number of nurseries established			Number of beneficiaries		
	Tertiary	Secondary	Local	F	M	Total
Kanyama	83	107	215	267	98	169
Bembeke	15	30	131	107	69	176
Chafumbwa	72	74	96	187	95	282

Total	170	211	442	581	282	863
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Bembeke = 2.76 Ha for standard and 3.2 Ha for local, Kanyama = 4.5Ha for standard and 2.8 Ha for local, Chafumbwa = 1.3 Ha for standard and 1.1 for local.

BENEFITS

1. 5 Farmers managed to pay school fees after selling sweet potato roots as well as vines
2. One farmer bought iron sheet for her house
3. 11 farmers bought small scale livestock such as goats and chickens.
4. Most farmers managed to buy house hold utilities.
5. All farmers who took part in zondeni sweet potato production managed to diversify their diets.
6. Nutrition status for the under five children and of the grown up people has improved due to high Vit.A intake in Zondeni sweet potatoes.

Irish aid visitors

3 field visits were conducted and video shooting was done for the promotion of the zondeni sweet potato variety. The visitor expressed satisfaction with the initiative and that some farmers in the area have received a grant amounting to K400, 000 to assist them establish piggery project. There are 40 female farmers to benefit from the initiative.

On benefits, the project has received reports that more farmers have sold and realized Mk120, 000 after selling sweet potato tubers. One farmer has won contract in South African to supply sweet potatoes and have agreed to buy each bag of 50kgs at K8000. As a result, Mr. Chimpikizo has planned to increase his production to meet the market requirement.

The project issued sweet potato vines to over 3000hhs in Kasumbu, Chafumbwa and Bembeke EPAs. The project estimated a total of 918 as indirect beneficiaries who got seed through sharing with relations and friends. Currently, the project has raised 618 and out of the number, 217 are tertiary and the rest are secondary multipliers for 2011/12 growing season. Many farmers have opted for individual nursery development rather than the group as some members do not show much commitment to group nursery development. At Nangantani, the group planted 3.5 ha of land of sweet potatoes for both seed and food production

Weir construction

CIP has supported the construction of 6 irrigation sites in Kasumbu thus Themba, Malajira, Mbimbi, Mzungu, Sosola and Chimwanjoka in KFSIP project site. The total value for all materials is K800, 000. Currently, the work is in progress where two sites have been completed already that is at Themba and Malajira irrigation sites. CIP also supported the project with 60 watering canes and have been

distributed in all the 3 project sites (10 Bembeke, 40 Kasumbu and 10 LDSP. Farmers are very grateful for the timely support rendered by CIP.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Frost has damaged a great number of farmers' nurseries that has forced them to replant the sweet potato vines. The project needs to look into the issue and to possibly come up with an alternative variety that is frost resistant. At Nangantani irrigation site, farmers failed to control goats as a result, have destroyed the all 3.5 hectares of land planted with Zondeni sweet potatoes. Communities failed to tie goats as they are tethered to ropes during rainy season. Efforts to resolve the issue was done but failed due to lack of cooperation the surrounding village leaders who do not participate in the initiative.

Lessons learnt

Most farmers have just realized that selling of Zondeni sweet potato vines is one way of generating income. Most vine multipliers' have doubled the size of their nurseries as compared to last year. It was also pleasing to note that although most of them had faced frost, and seeing its benefits forced them to re establish their nurseries after the frost damage.

On the other hand, the project has noted that Zondeni is selling like hot cakes at the markets. Most people prefer using Zondeni tubers and leaves as compared to other varieties.