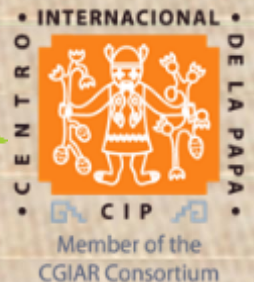


Where we are, and what we expect to achieve with OFSP Rwanda: Nutrition focus

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Background

- Sweetpotato (SP) is widely consumed in Rwanda as a major household crop.
- It is mainly relied on as a food security crop and popularly called “local defense” for its resilience
- SP is not considered an important national food security crop or major income crop
- SP was not included in any of the last government policies on nutrition or food security
- OFSP have been introduced, bred and released by national research stations (RAB)-mainly with support of CIP/SAHSA projects and beginning to gain popularity and coverage through new scaling up efforts by CIP projects e.g. SUSTAIN (learning from MAMA SAHSA)

Progress

“USE OF BIOFORTIFIED CROPS:

Rwanda has moved forward with research and trials of biofortified agricultural crops including biofortified beans. The bean varieties have been shown to be acceptable to farmers, have substantially higher yields and high levels of iron. Broad sales of these beans in Rwanda began in 2013 and other biofortified crops are also being promoted including varieties of cassava and **sweet potatoes**”. p13

- Through awareness creation of the benefits of OFSP, adoption and use are gradually increasing.
- Rwandan household, local government, and policy makers are recognizing the important contribution OFSP can make to fighting malnutrition and increasing income

- OFSP now considered as part of biofortification initiative in the National Food and Nutrition Policy (NFNP) and National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan (NFNSP) coordinated by the Social Cluster Ministries

SOURCE: Rwanda National Food and Nutrition Policy

National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan: Draft Nutrition Action Plan 2013 - 2018

To better address micronutrient deficiencies the work required include relatively diverse strategies that will be carried out simultaneously and

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biof
The Social Cluster Ministries include Ministry of Health (MINISANTE) Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resources (MINAGRI), Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA), Ministry of Public Service and Labor MINFOTRA

“INTERVENTIONS TO SUPPORT IMPROVED AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY AND QUALITY OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD: including extension and input support to producers of bio-fortified bean and maize seeds and **sweet potato vines** as well as communication campaigns to promote planting and consuming of bio-fortified foods, the benefits of milk consumption for children”. p28

AGRICULTURAL & DIETARY DIVERSITY

“The most important commodities for consumption are **sweet potatoes**, cooking bananas, beans, maize, cassava and Irish potatoes”

Progress

- Through awareness creation of the benefits of OFSP, adoption and use are gradually increasing.
- Rwandan household, local government, and policy makers are recognizing the important contribution OFSP can make to fighting malnutrition and increasing income
- OFSP now considered as part of biofortification initiative in the NFNP of the MINISANTE and NFNSP plan of the MINAGRI
- Several international and local NGO's are beginning to add OFSP to their programs.

- **CARITAS, CRS**
- **Concern Worldwide**
- **FHI 360**

- **World Relief Rwanda**
- **Partners in Health**
- **World Vision**
- **One Acre Fund.**

- **Imbaraga**
- **YWCA**
- **DERN...etc.**



CIP's role in Rwanda OFSP landscape

- SASHA served as a good basis/baseline for introduction of OFSP
- CIP together with Rwanda Agricultural Board is acting as a coordinator for all OFSP produced, brought in and distributed in country
- Establishing partnerships with major donors (UNICEF, USAID, DFID, EU) to fund /coordinate funded activities related to OFSP
- Contributing to fighting micronutrient malnutrition/maintaining micronutrient status (vitamin A)
- Contributing to training and supporting NFNP activities through training of community health workers and provision of clean planting material to implementing partner, VM and NGO

CIP's current activities

- Scaling up OFSP nutrition through SUSTAIN project
 - Focus is on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) and SUN activities related to first 1000 days
 - Emphasis is on **maternal nutrition during pregnancy and lactation** and on **complementary feeding** as entry for OFSP in a diversified food system within households
 - Feeding frequency and consistency/energy density
 - Dietary diversification (link to national kitchen gardens policy)
 - Cooking demonstrations
- Training key national, partner and NGO staff on basic MIYCF and for consistency of nutrition messages related to OFSP
- Provision of nutrition messaging materials during vine distribution /dissemination



CIP's Activities

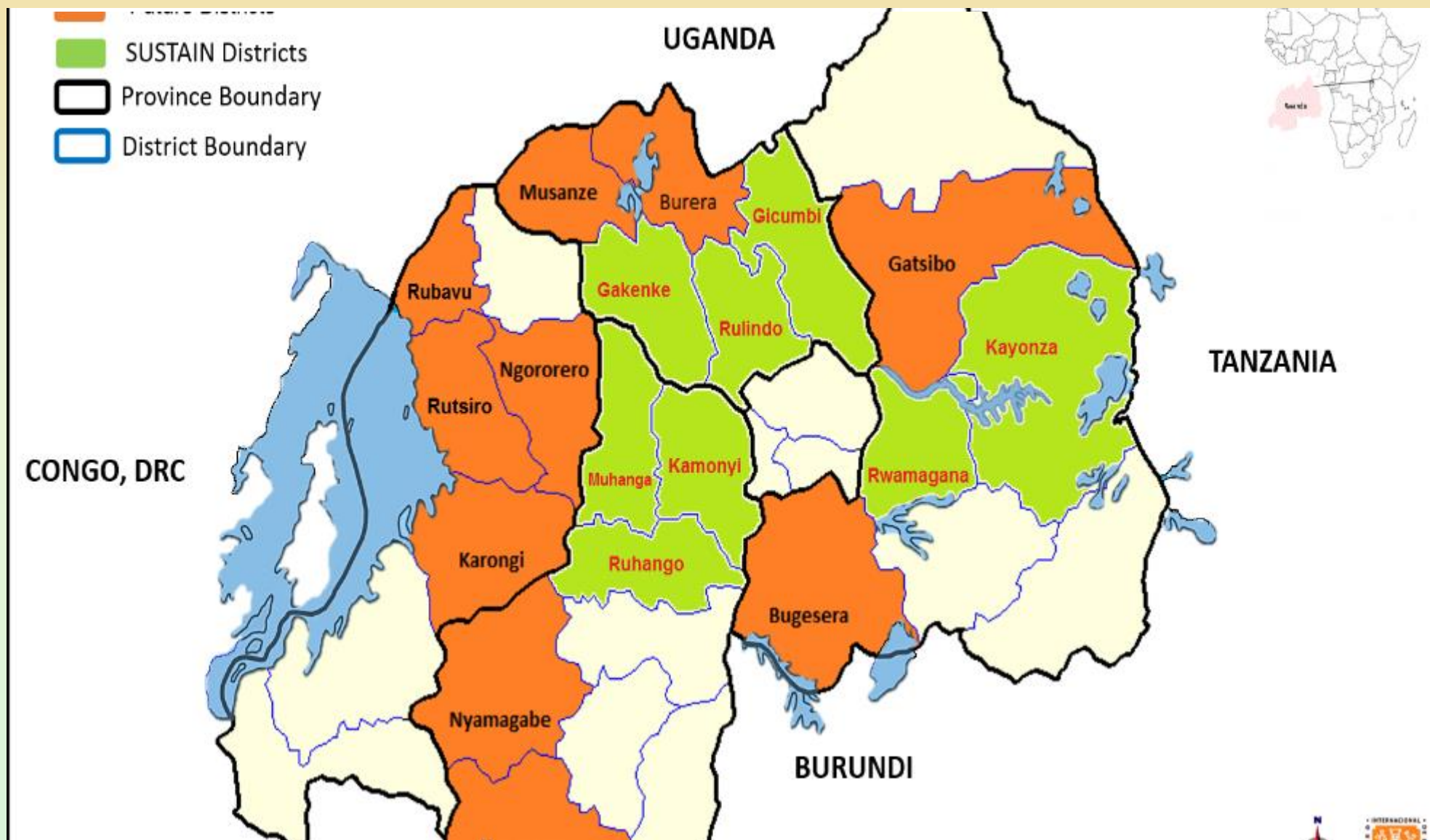
- Supporting farmer cooperatives and private sector to improve nutritional quality of processed foods- already on market (*wheat substitution with OFSP puree*)
- Provision of technical support in the areas of processing of OFSP roots into puree as ingredient for baked products in **ensuring improved nutrition and income**
- In future will provide nutritional analysis of all products support through or in partnership with CIP
- Managing consumer acceptance of OFSP roots and health concerns about OFSP processed products



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CIP's current/future project locations



Snapshot: December-APRIL, 2015

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF HH REACHED	TOTAL VINES
SUSTAIN and Partners		
MUHANGA	3528	529,200
GAKENKE	3004	432600
KAMONYI	817	112,550
RUHANGO	701	105150
RULINDO	1,030	154,500
KAYONZA	1,906	350,100
GICUMBI	1502	225,300
RWAMAGANA	436	65400
TOTAL	9315	1533750

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF HH REACHED	TOTAL VINES
CARITAS		
MUHANGA	681	266801
KAMONYI	690	254187
NYAMAGABE	680	257187
NYARUGURU	1259	254187
RUHANGO	683	258354
SUB-TOTAL	3993	1290703
WORLD VISION	-	400000
GARDENS FOR HEALTH	1600	200000

Training conducted: **Health Promoters (10)**
Community Health workers (35)

What we expect to achieve with OFSP

- Expect to have increased adoption and consumption as “local defense” image improves based on its contributions to nutrition and income
- Expect to have government and NGO promote OFSP as a major bioavailable sustainable source of vitamin A ... as much as they promote “iron beans” for iron
- Expect to have OFSP as a major complementary base food based on attributes
- Expect to improve OFSP and general nutrition knowledge of community health staff, pregnant and lactating mothers and households with children under 5
- Expect to see an increase in minimum meal frequency and minimal acceptable diet in project areas based on capacity building of frontline workers and partner staff



Thank You

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