



SASHA



Sweetpotato Action for
Security and **Health** in **Africa**

Mama SASHA project

Progress to date

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Third SSP meeting, Kampala, May 26th, 2011

Project goal



- The overall goal is to ***assess the cost effectiveness of integrating OFSP into an existing health service delivery program to improve the health status of pregnant women and the nutritional status of children up to two years in selected districts of Western Kenya***

Project objectives



- 1. Understand the **costs and benefits** of linking an integrated OFSP agricultural-nutritional intervention to a health service delivery system serving pregnant women
- 2. Strengthen **IEC materials** at both the health facility and community levels to support OFSP production and consumption
- 3. Improve the **evidence base** of the health impacts on infants and their mothers and the use of health services by pregnant women

Partners in design and implementation



- **ARDAP & CREADIS**
 - Implements agricultural OFSP interventions
- **KARI**
 - Helps coordinate the research activities in the field
- **Ministry of Agriculture & Ministry of Health**
 - Contributes to training and supervision
- **University of Toronto**
 - Supports the intervention design and the M&E system
- **PATH**
 - Coordinates integration of PoCP activities with existing Aphia II
- **CIP**
 - Coordinates all aspects of the project

Initial design



- Higher intensity (model 1)

Health Facility level

- ANC nurses trained for improved counseling
- Voucher distribution to pregnant women attending ANC

Community level

- Community Health Workers trained
- Pregnant women clubs established
- Vine multipliers and demo plot farmers trained
- Multiplication sites established and vines accessed with vouchers, along with advice on OFSP plot management
- Demonstration plots established and field days organized

Initial design



- Lower intensity (model 2)

**Health Facility
level**

- ANC nurses trained for improved counseling

**Community
level**

- Community Health Workers trained

Changes to the initial design



- Nutrition counseling cards: a set of five counseling cards
 - Lesson 1: Healthy mothers
 - Lesson 2: Healthy eating
 - Lesson 3: Vitamin A
 - Lesson 4: Infant feeding
 - Lesson 5: Orange-Fleshed SweetPotato (OFSP)

Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3	Postnatal
Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4
Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5

Changes to the initial design



- Voucher system
 - Eligibility criteria
 - *Every pregnant woman at first antenatal visit whatever the trimester of pregnancy she is in*
 - *Every subsequent visit, provided that she has shifted to the NEXT trimester of pregnancy*
 - Number of cuttings
 - 100 cuttings (vs 150)

Changes to the initial design



- **Demonstration plots**
 - From lessons learned (feedback mtgs, routine data, OR)
 - *Problem of demo plot management*
 - *Lack of advice on OFSP agronomy during vines pick up*
 - Hence,
 - *Link the demo plot to VM*
 - *Redesign demo plot to allow demonstration of higher productivity of OFSP and to highlight importance of planting mode*

Changes to the initial design



- **Evaluation design (models)**
 - Need to have a control group for a better contrast
 - Including a third group?
 - True control group, without nutrition intervention
 - Do we have enough health facilities to serve as control?
 - Would a “control group” with AphiaPlus traditional IYCN activities be different from model 2
 - Hence,
 - Intervention group (ex model 1)
 - “control group” (with AphiaPlus traditional IYCN)

Achievements so far



- **Baseline survey**

- Households' enumeration (February-March 2011)
 - *Training of 46 enumerators*
 - *Selection of 104 villages within the catchment areas of the facilities*
 - *Visit to 11,207 households and identification of 2926 eligible*
- Main survey (March-May 2011)
 - *Training of 22 interviewers, 8 anthropometrists, and 4 lab technicians*
 - *Field work*

	Intervention	Control	Total
No Pregnant women interviewed	486	482	968
No Mothers interviewed	977	941	1918
No Blood samples collected from children	917	933	1850

Achievements so far



- **Health activities**

- Community sensitization meetings (21), Feb. 2011
- Review of the IEC material, Feb. 2011
- Training of 30 health workers and 140 CHWs and CHEWs, Mar. 2011
- Voucher distribution to 247 pregnant women, Apr. & May 2011

- **Agriculture activities**

- Selection and training of 14 farmers in rapid multiplication, Nov. 2011
- First planting: 4 beds of 1x 20 m (2 of each variety), Jan. 2011
- Second planting, May 2011
- Demonstration plots establishment, May 2011
- OFSP vines provision to 192 voucher recipients, Apr. & May 2011

Main challenges



- **Delay in getting ethical approval for the survey, therefore in blood sampling**
- **Unexpected drought in April**
 - Affected first planting and delayed second planting and demo plot establishment
 - Ongoing discussion on improved irrigation system
- **Low vines pick up in April**
- **Transition at PATH (Aphia II to AphiaPlus) with changes in personnel and logistics allocation**
 - Delay in printing the final version of the IEC material
 - Lack of supervision of the health activities by the AphiaPlus team