

PROGRESS ON SWEETPOTATO RESEARCH IN BURKINA FASO

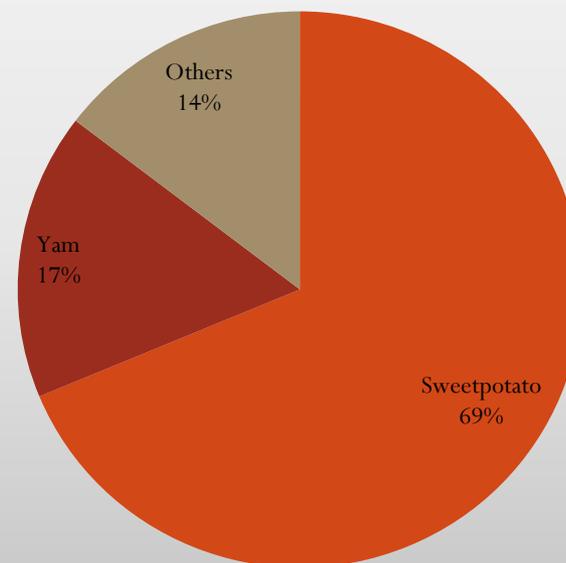
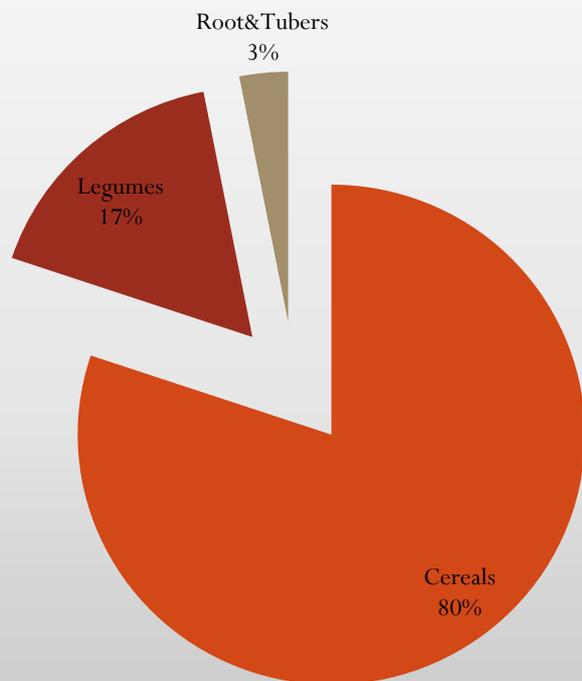
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INTRODUCTION

- Since a number of years weetpotato is grown in Burkina Faso along with cereals and legumes
- However, its important is still limited compared to the other crops.
- It is a staple in the rural areas where it is grown abundantly and cash crop especially for women in the urban centers.
- The production is dominated by the white flesh sweetpotato but some farmer's OFSP are also grown among them Tiébélé 1 et Gaoualè.

Sweetpotato in Burkina Faso

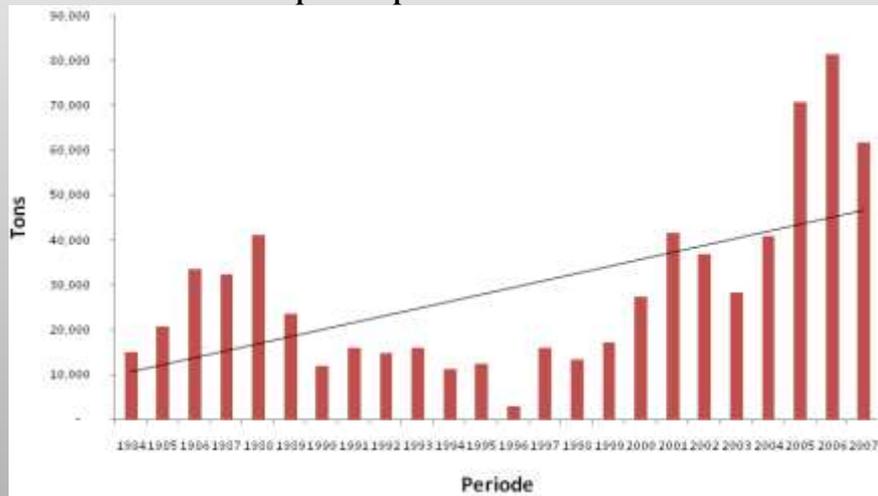


In 2008 sweetpotato production was 81 984 t

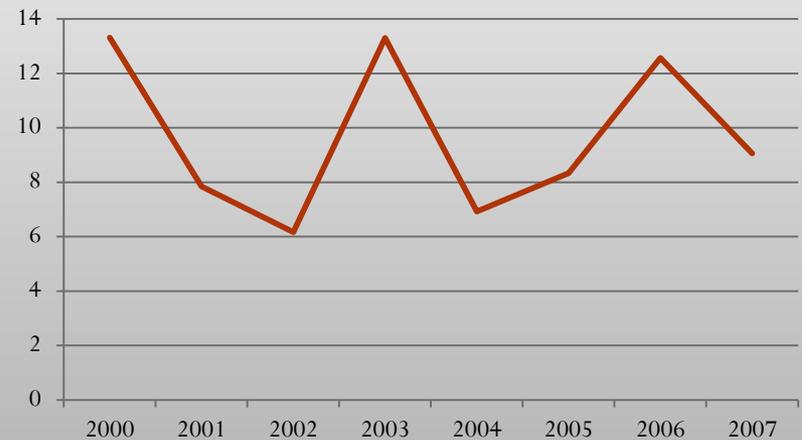
Sweetpotato production areas (green)



Evolution of sweetpotato production from 1984 to 2007



Yield evolution in the last 10 years



CONSTRAINTS LINKED TO SWEETPOTATO PROMOTION

- Production constraints :

- ☹ Lack of improved control of weevil

- ☹ short storage ability duration

- ☹ poor availability of quality planting materials

- ☹ prevalence of viral diseases,

- ☹ **lack of improved varieties with high, early and stable yield.**

and unavailability of varieties with high beta-carotene content which could help to address VAD.

SWEETPOTATO BREEDING

- Established since 2008

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- **Development of high beta-carotene content and high yielding sweetpotato in Burkina Faso**

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Collection, characterisation (morphological and molecular) and evaluation of local material, and introduction of beta-carotene rich varieties
- Identification the main production constraints and understand farmer's and consumer's preferences through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) .
- Selection of superior parents to be used in a basic breeding program.
- Development of population, evaluation and selection for yield, beta-carotene and earliness

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- Germplasm (120 accessions) is morphologically characterised and the molecular characterisation is under going
- Germplasm will go for the second year of evaluation
- Crossing block established since 2009
- Population is generated and is on observational trial (189 entries)
- Seed production is undergoing (control seeds and polycross seeds) and between november 2010 and february 2011 more than 3000 seeds have been produced
- Quality study will be done soon with the support of CIP (use of NIRS technology)
- Development of protocols for virus and weevil testing

Weevil rearing protocol development at INERA





THANK YOU