

**Improving the Status
of Sweetpotato
in Nigeria:
Efforts by the University of Ibadan
and N. R. C. R. I. Umudike**

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Importance of sweetpotato in Nigeria

- Grows in all agroecological zones from humid rainforest to sahel savannah**
- Is considered very important in some areas e.g. Kwara, Ebonyi, Benue, Nassarawa, Kaduna States**
- Has industrial potentials**
- Contribute significant amounts of energy, Vitamins A, C, E, K and minerals**
- Used directly(food) and indirectly (livestock feeds)**

Sweetpotato Germplasm Technologies: Assemblage, Assessment and Multi-site Banking Project (SPoGeT)

- Principal Investigator is Prof. M. O. Akoroda**
- Based in the Department of Agronomy, University of Ibadan**
- Project proposal submitted to the Competitive Agricultural Research Grant Scheme (CARGS) of the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN)**
- Seeks to provide new germplasm nominations for farmers to grow in the different agroecological zones of the nation to contribute to food, feed and cash generation to farming families.**

SPoGeT activities

- **Are centred around three main objectives:**
 - 1. Assemblage: collection of as many sweetpotato clones as possible wherever sweetpotato is grown in Nigeria;**
 - 2. Assessment: characterization, field evaluation and postharvest assessment of the assembled sweetpotato germplasm;**
 - 3. Multi-site Banking: “banking” the sweetpotato accessions in as many sites as possible, with at least one per geopolitical/ agroecological zone for easy access to farmers, researchers and all who are interested in the crop.**

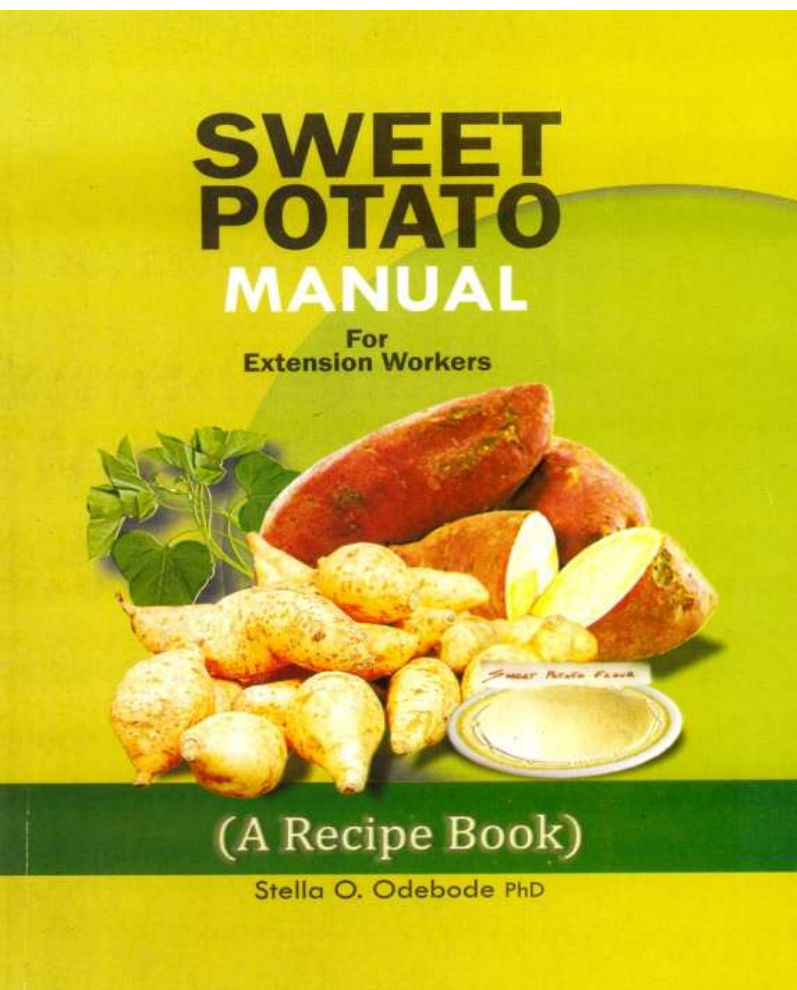
Collaborating Institutions

- 1. National Agricultural Quarantine Services (NAQS)**
- 2. National Agency for Crop Genetic Resources and Biotechnology (NACGRAB), Ibadan.**
- 3. Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB)**
- 4. Federal Polytechnic Offa, Kwara State.**
- 5. National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Nyanya Station, Abuja.**
- 6. Root and Tuber Expansion Programme (RTEP), Ijebu-Ife, Ogun State**

Achievements so far

- **A total of 220 sweetpotato accessions collected from several locations in 22 States between December 2011 and March 2012;**
- **Collections included storage root and vine samples by contact persons residing in each State;**
- **Conservation in a nursery at NACGRAB, Ibadan with the use of black nursery bags**
- **Vine cuttings have been planted in fields at NACGRAB, U. I. and FUNAAB, with ongoing plans to plant in more locations as the season progresses**
- **Characterization and evaluation.**

A Sweetpotato recipe book by Dr Stella Odebode, University of Ibadan



OFSP drink



Sweetpotato pottage



OFSP bread

Efforts by N. R. C. R. I. Umudike

- **Evaluation of OFSP lines for their agronomic traits:**
- **Six OFSP elite materials have been selected and included in pre-release trials for eventual release into the production system in Nigeria.**
 - i.CIP 440293; ii. Shaba; iii. CIP 199034.1;**
 - iv. Centennial; v. NRSP/05/022; vi. Ex-Oyunga**

Promotion Sites for Vine Multiplication and dissemination

Primary promotion sites ear marked (2012)

- 1. NRCRI Head quarters Umudike**
- 2. NRCRI Outstation, Igbariam**
- 3. NRCRI, Outstation Otobi**
- 4. NRCRI, Jos Station**
- 5. NRCRI, Outstation Nyanya, FCT**
- 6. University of Ibadan**

On-farm variety evaluation in 12 locations in Nassarawa State of Nigeria

Variety	Yield (t/ha)	Remarks
TIS 87/0087	10.0	IITA-developed white-fleshed variety which has a non-sweet (bland taste)
440293	25.9	CIP orange-fleshed variety
TIS 2532	7.9	IITA-developed white-fleshed variety
Local best	8.8	Pale yellow-skin and yellow-fleshed variety



Freshly harvested storage roots of CIP 440293 at Nyanya, Nassarawa State (close to Abuja) which has a yield potential of 45t/ha

Utilization research to enhance OFSP consumption

- **Substitution of highly seasonal and ecologically limiting carrots with cheap and easy-to-grow OFSP in fried rice (a popular dish)**



OFSP



Work carried out by Mrs. Omodamiro, R.M., a food scientist at the NRCRI, Umudike.

Efforts to popularize sweetpotato, especially OFSP:

- Introduction of 2 OFSP varieties to farmers in North Central zone (Nassarawa and FCT, Abuja) in through the farmers organizations
(POFAN & POGPMAN)**
- Organization of a Field Day for OFSP sensitization on 25th August, 2011 at N. R. C. R. I., Nyanya Station**
- Use of television(NTA, AIT) and news media.**
- Visit to the Honourable Minister of Agric.**

Promotion of Sweetpotato : A visit to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture



The main aim was to advocate for the inclusion of sweetpotato in the Honourable Minister's Agricultural Transformation Agenda

The Goal: Doubling Average Yields, Improving Incomes and Diversifying Diets

- Doubling average yields (7 to 14 tons/ha) and doubling vitamin A intakes among beneficiary households in the proposed 12 target States is using improved, disease free planting materials, the adoption of key agronomic practices, and an effective demand creation campaign. Farmers can easily share or sell planting material to their neighbors, ensuring significant spillover effects from dissemination programs.



Income Enhancement Efforts will Work at Scales to Ensure Women Benefit as Well

- Women are most involved in retail sales and small- to medium agro-processing enterprises.
- Specific interventions to improve their knowledge, negotiation, and marketing skills plus strategically placed signs & communication campaigns.
- Efforts will be made to ensure that larger-scale commercial efforts include 25% women.



We intend to build stronger links with:

- Helen Keller International**
- Nigerian sweetpotato farmers**
- Nigerian agro-processors**
- Relevant Government Agencies e.g.**

ARCN: which has will soon start a World Bank assisted Project under WAAPP (USD 5.5 million) for 5 years.

The focus is on root and tuber crops, so sweetpotato can fit in. Contact person is Mr Yarama Ndirpaya

**THANK YOU FOR
LISTENING**

