

INTEGRATION IN RESEARCH TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY OF SWEETPOTATO: ROLES OF WAAPP, SASHA AND RTIMP

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Introduction

- Agricultural productivity in sub-Saharan Africa had declined in the past due to:
- Low level of public expenditure and private funding for research
- Low level and in some cases lack of linkages between research systems, extension services, producers and agribusiness

Agricultural productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa had declined in the past years due to:

- Non-existence of appropriate mechanism for dissemination of technologies and best-fit practices
- Lack of integration and harmonization of national agricultural policies resulting in high tendency for countries to work in isolation in spite of limited capacity and resources

Sensing that Sub-Saharan African countries might not attain MDG-1

- NEPAD called for 6% growth in agricultural GDP
- NEPAD designed Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP)
- CAADP pillar IV calls for revitalizing, expanding and reforming agricultural research technology dissemination and adoption

Sensing that Sub-Saharan African countries might not attain MDG-1

- FARA at request of NEPAD developed Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) to provide guiding principles for implementing CAADP Pillar IV
- Sub-Regional Organizations eg., CORAF or WECARD are to design specific framework for achieving set objectives of FAAP
- WAAPP is one such program developed by CORAF/WECARD for ECOWAS countries

Why use integration in research approach

- Integration in research is one of several kinds of integration. When we read about something we immediately tag it to something we already know
- Integration in research has two overarching aims: (i) to improve understanding by synthesising number of different perspectives (ii) to improve application or implementation of research knowledge

What is to be integrated and by whom

- In the proposed integration, research knowledge from SASHA and WAAPP has to be integrated with specific application knowledge developed. Eg., RTIMPs FFF
- RELCs Regional Planning Sessions?
- Sweet potato Support Platform for West Africa of SASHA can be used to conduct the integration process aimed at improving application of knowledge

Briefs on the Research Projects

- WAAPP is a two-phase, 10-year regional program. Each phase is of 5 years duration. Phase I started in 2008 and will close June 2012
- Funding is by IDA & implementing countries
- WAAPPs development objective is to generate and disseminate improved technologies in participating countries' high priority areas
- Priority commodities: roots & tubers for Ghana; rice for Mali; cereals for Senegal

WAAPP comprise following four components

- Component 1: Enabling conditions for regional cooperation in technology generation and dissemination
- Component 1A: support for harmonization of regulations related to genetic materials and pesticides. Also support development of framework for common intellectual property rights

WAAPP comprise following four components

- Component 1B: support for National Release or Registration Committees to: (i) revise national procedures and align with sub-regional guidelines (ii) identify technologies developed but not released (iii) document characteristics of improved technologies (iv) catalogue the released technologies (v) promote adoption of technologies using the media

WAAPP comprise following four components

- Component 1C: support strengthening of scientific information system developed by CORAF/WECARD in order to consolidate databases on technologies, best-bet/fit practices and skills in agriculture

WAAPP comprise following four components

- Component 2: National Centre of Specialization
- Aims at strengthening alignment of national priorities with regional priorities
- Specific objectives are: (i) upgrade core infra-structural facilities and equipment (ii) build capacity of researchers and technicians (iii) support centre's R&D programmes

WAAPP comprise following four components

- Component 3: Funding demand-driven technology generation and adoption
- Aim to strengthen more priority-focused transparent funding mechanism for demand-driven R&D using CARGS
- Support transfer of on-the-shelf technologies
- RELCs are used as vehicle to arrive at demand-driven research problems

SASHA=Sweet potato Action for Security and Health in Africa

- Project is being implemented in West, East, Southern and Central Africa
- Project is of 5 years duration; funded by Bill & Melinda Gates foundation
- Project is to develop new sweet potato varieties that meet the needs of vulnerable groups and preferences of consumers in growing urban markets

SASHA=Sweet-potato Action for Security & Health in Africa

- Project is to promote orange-fleshed, pro-vitamin A rich varieties to combat vitamin A deficiency among children and mothers
- Project will also develop non-sweet potato for the West African consumers

Specific areas for integration in research

- Develop wide range sweet potato varieties that combine different quality characteristics with high yielding traits. Eg., virus and drought resistant orange-fleshed varieties
- Sweet potato weevil is a serious threat to food security. Use biotechnology tools in combination with conventional breeding techniques to develop weevil resistant varieties

Specific areas for integration in research

- Availability of adequate amount of disease-free vines for planting at start of rains has been major constraint to expansion of areas cultivated to sweet potato. Develop and test techniques to multiply and distribute disease-free planting materials.
- Develop technologies that will enhance use of sweet potato as an ingredient in processed food products and animal feeds

Specific areas for integration in research

- Currently mechanism for dissemination of improved technologies and best-fit practices are ineffective. Evaluate best means to deliver new, improved sweet potato technologies
- Evaluate potential for using West African sub-regional support platform for building capacity of stakeholders

Conclusion

- Implementation of above-mentioned proposition will reposition sweet potato in African food economies particularly, expanding urban markets
- This will directly improve food security, nutrition and livelihoods of millions of people

- **Thank You for Your Attention**