

**Summary notes for the Third Meeting of the
Sweetpotato Support Platform for West Africa,
July 12 and 13, 2011
Training Centre, CSIR-Crops Research Institute, Kumasi
Ted Carey**

The summary notes in this document include the program, list of participants and participant evaluations from the third meeting of the SSP-WA. This was the second platform meeting held at CSIR-CRI, and was opened by the Center Director, Hans Adu-Dapaah, who warmly welcomed participants. The new Reaching Agents of Change project was introduced through the participation of Kabba Joiner, MD. The meeting also featured sessions on breeding, value chains and communicating effectively to diverse audiences. The meeting included a field trip to the sweetpotato breeding program facilities at CSIR-CRI, and a demonstration of the “Triple-S” technique for storing sweetpotatoes in dry sand under ambient conditions.

The meeting was largely appreciated by participants who contributed actively to discussions. Considerable discussion centered around getting sweetpotato production and markets moving in Ghana and the region. There was continuing recognition that sweetpotato needed champions to help it reach its potential in this region. There was also continuing discussion around ensuring that the SSP-WA can be the most effective platform possible for helping to build a regional community of sweetpotato practice, facilitating information exchange and helping to catalyze new efforts and activities under the Sweetpotato for Profit and Health Initiative.

Participants were encouraged to undertake sweetpotato-related activities as a follow up to the workshop, and to plan to report progress on these activities at upcoming meetings of the SSP-WA.

**Agenda for the Third Meeting of the
Sweetpotato Support Platform for West Africa,
July 12 and 13, 2011
Training Centre, CSIR-Crops Research Institute, Kumasi**



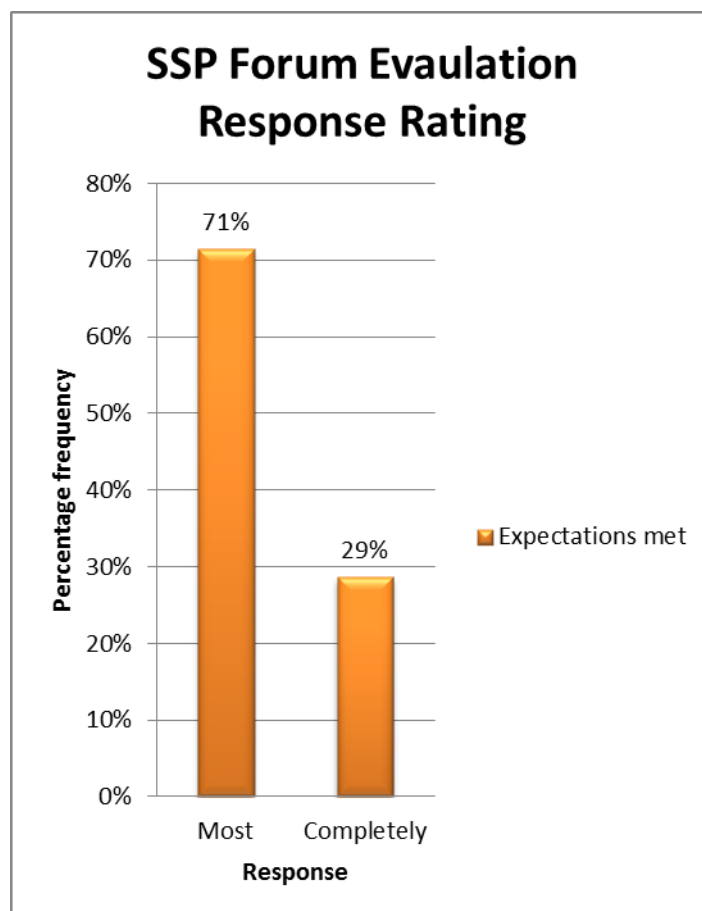
	Activity	Venue/Presenter
Tuesday, July 12		
8:30 a.m.	Registration	CRI Training Center
9:00	Introduction of the participants	
9:15	Welcome Remarks	CRI Center Director, H.K. Adu-Dapaah
9:30	Objectives and Expectations for the meeting (10 min presentation followed by 5 min discussion)	Ted Carey
9:45	SPHI report – Activities and lessons learned	Ted Carey
10:15	Reaching Agents of Change – New Project	Lone Badstue
10:45	Coffee/tea break	
11:15	Demonstration of Triple S seed technique and discussion of seed systems	Ebenezer Obeng-Bio
11:45	Session Theme: Breeding at SSP-WA and regional integration (brief presentations; discussion after lunch)	Facilitator: Esi Amoaful
	Sweetpotato crop improvement in Ghana	J.N. Asafu-Agyei, CSIR-CRI
	Sweetpotato crop improvement in Nigeria	Solomon Afuape, NRCRI
	Sweetpotato crop improvement in Burkina Faso	Koussao Some, INERA
	SSP-WA breeding and germplasm movement to serve the region	Ted Carey, CIP
12:45	Field and lab visit	Participants
1:45 p.m.	Lunch Break	CRI Canteen
2:45	Panel Discussion: Breeding at SSP-WA and regional integration	Facilitator: Esi Amoaful
3:15	Session Theme: Sweetpotato value chain development experiences (brief presentations followed by discussion)	Facilitator: J.N. Asafu-Agyei
	Recent sweetpotato efforts to develop the export and other sweetpotato value chains	A. Adjekum, RTIMP
	New opportunities and approaches to improving sweet potato value chains in Ghana"	Cecil Osei, Catholic Relief Service
	Recent sweetpotato product development and dissemination efforts at CSIR-CRI	Evelyn Adu-Kwarteng,
	Recent product development and value chain experiences – Burkina Faso	Some Koussao
5:00	Close	
Wednesday, July 13		
8:30 a.m.	Sweetpotato Knowledge Portal Update	Ted Carey
9:00	Workshop on communicating Effectively to Different Audiences	Lone Badstue and Isaac O.O. Ansah, CRI Training Officer
10:30	Coffee/tea break	
11:00	Workshop on communicating Effectively to Different Audiences	“
1:00 p.m.	Evaluation/discussion/wrap-up	Participants
1:30 p.m.	Lunch and departure	

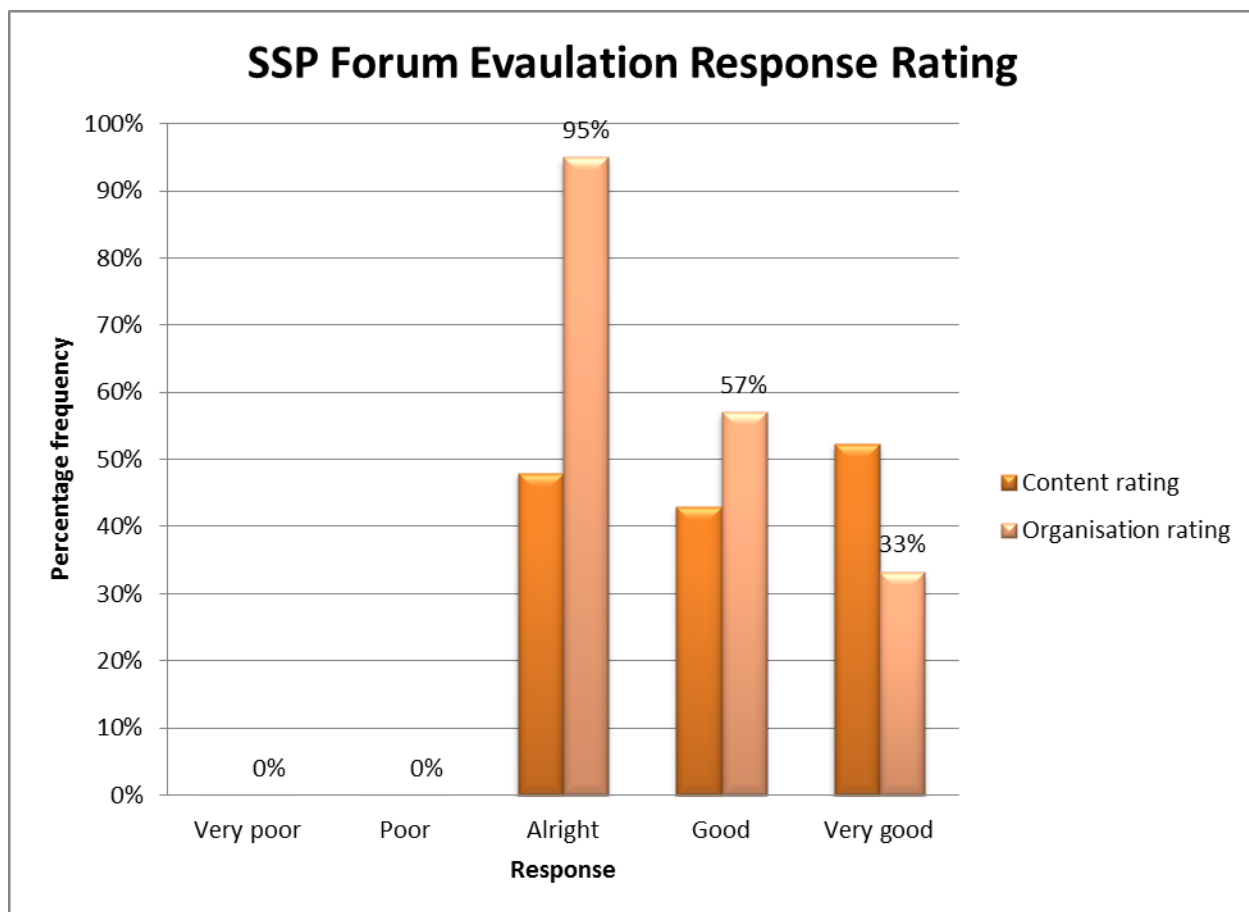
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SWEET POTATO SUPPORT PLATFORM FOR WEST AFRICA					
THE REGISTRATION LIST					
	First Name	Last Name	Title	Institution	Country
1	Felix	Ababio	Soil Scientist	CSIR-Soils Research Institute	Ghana
2	Akwasi	Adjei. Adjekum	National Prog. Coordinator	RTIMP-MOFA	Ghana
3	Hans	Adu-Dapaah	Director	CSIR-Crops Research Institute	Ghana
4	Evelyn	Adu-Kwarteng	Postharvest specialist	CSIR-Crops Research Institute	Ghana
5	Solomon	Afuape	Sweetpotato Breeder	National Root Crops Research Institute	Nigeria
6	Yusif	Alhassan	Trainee	CIP	Ghana
7	Victor	Amankwaah	AGRA Student	CSIR-CRI	
8	Esi	Amoaful	Vitamin A Program Coordinator	Ghana Health Service	Ghana
9	Agnes A.	Ankomah	Statistician	CRI-Kumasi	Ghana
10	Isaac O.	Ansah	Training Officer	CRI-Kumasi	Ghana
11	J.N.	Asafu-Agyei	Sweetpotato Program Leader, Agronomist	CSIR-Crops Research Institute	Ghana
14	Henry	Asumadu	Agronomist	CSIR-CRI	Ghana
15	Joseph	Awoodzie	Technician	CSIR-CRI	Ghana
16	Ernest	Baafi	Sweetpotato breeder	CSIR-CRI	Ghana
17	Lone	Badstue		Hellen Keller International	Kenya
18	Isaac	Banning	Scientific Secretary	CSIR-CRI	Ghana
20	Haruna	Braimah	Entomologist	CSIR-CRI	Ghana
21	Ted	Carey	Regional Sweetpotato Breeder	CRI-Kumasi	Ghana
24	Nanam	Dzedzoave	Postharvest specialist	CSIR-FRI	Ghana

26	Mamaa	Entsua-Mensah	Deputy Director General	CSIR	Ghana
27	Tom	Gambrah	Managing Director	Premium Foods	Ghana
28	Kabba	Joiner		Hellen Keller International	Burkina Faso
29	J. Nii	Lamptey	Virologist	CSIR-CRI	Ghana
30	Joe	Manu	WAAPP Coordinator/cassava breeder	CSIR-CRI	Ghana
31	Eric	Mensah	Trainee	CIP	Ghana
32	Yarama	Ndirpaya	Assist. Director	Agric. Res. Council of Nigeria	Nigeria
33	Asamoah	Obeng	SP Technician	CRI-Kumasi	Ghana
34	Ebenezer	Obeng-Bio	Sweetpotato Breeder	CIP	Ghana
36	Cecil	Osei	Agronomist	CRS-Ghana	Ghana
40	Marian	Quain	Biotechnologist	CRI-Kumasi	Ghana
41	Lydia	Sasu	Farmer	FARMER	Ghana
42	Koussao	Some	Sweetpotato Breeder	INERA - Kamboinse	Burkina Faso
43	M.Awal	Zakaria	Admin/Finance officer	CIP	Ghana

PARTICIPANTS SURVEY OUTPUT

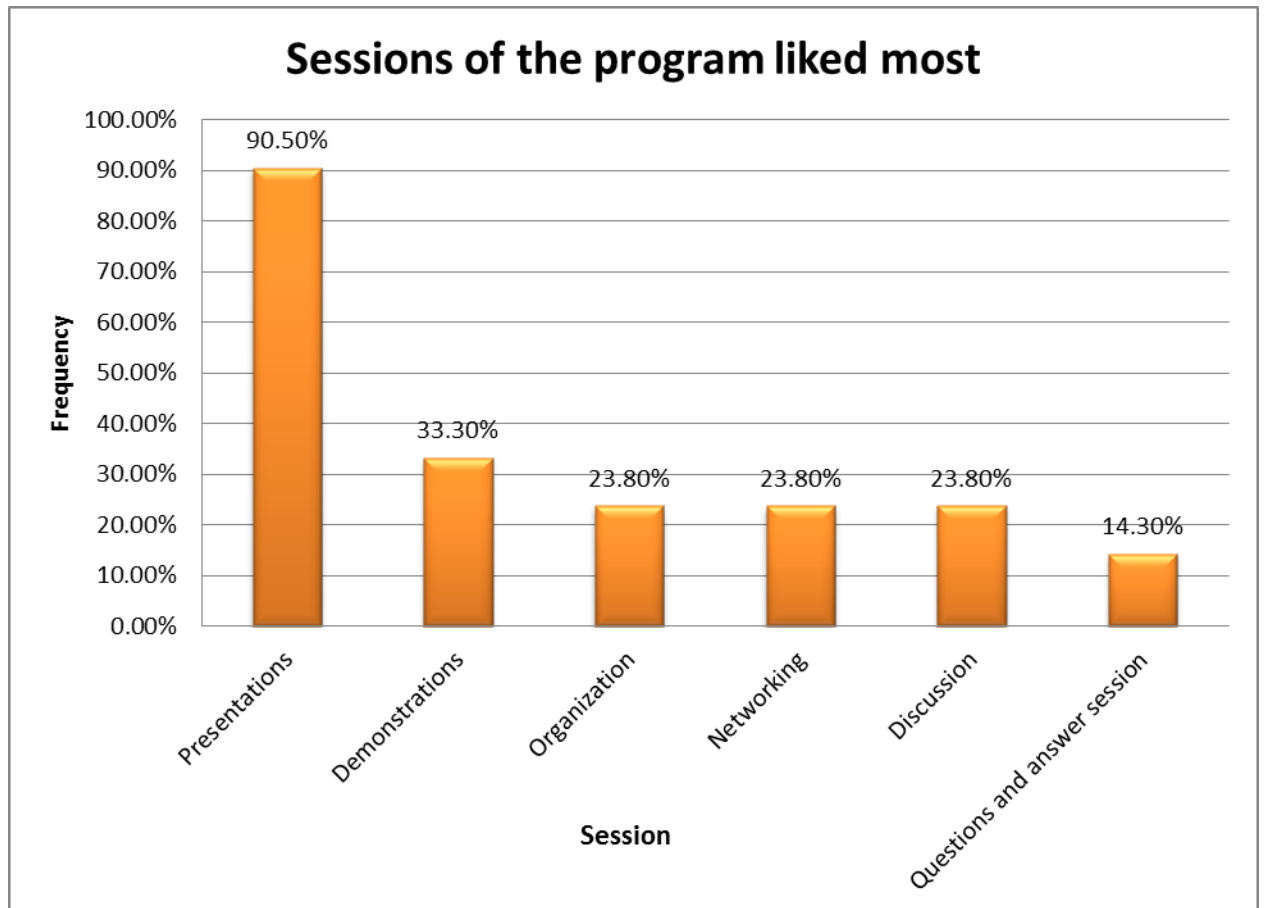
	Frequency	Percent
Expectations met		
Most	15	71.4
Completely	6	28.6
Total	21	100
Content rating		
Alright	1	4.8
Good	9	42.9
Very good	11	52.4
Total	21	100
Organisation rating		
Alright	2	9.5
Good	12	57.1
Very Good	7	33.3
Total	21	100





Sessions of the program liked most

Presentations	19	90.5%
Demonstrations	7	33.3%
Organization	5	23.8%
Networking	5	23.8%
Discussion	5	23.8%
Questions and answer session	3	14.3%
Total	44	209.5%



Comments and suggestions made by participants	
• Include policy makers	• Levels of adoption of orange flesh varieties
• Molecular markers in sweet potatoes improvement should looked at	• Include crop protection
• Sweet potato advocacy necessary	• Sweet potato virus indexing
• Include policy makers	• Engage private sector
• Prove SSP continued utility	• Add farmer field visits
• Include policy makers	• Consider gender and farmer perspectives
• Characterization of sweet potatoes varieties	• Invite policy makers
• More breakout sessions	• Increase per diem
• Impact of technical output	• Program was immensely beneficial
• Bring in MoFA	• Participants should sponsor their T&T
• Invite farmers	• Give presenters time allocation
• Widen stake holders participating	• The meeting was very useful meeting
• Tools and products advances of sweet potatoes	• Include policy makers
• Quality attributes of sweet potato carbohydrates	• Robe in farmers
• Look at advocacy and market issues	• And engage them
• Add more interactive sessions	• Full 2 day activity better
• Some par may participants need training on the use of the portal	• Invite policy makers
• Improve dissemination	• Important workshop
• Include advocacy package	• Volunteer participants should be given tasks to report on
• Breeding status of disease resistant varieties	• Value chain analysis
• Include policy makers	• Make meeting semiannual
• In vitro propagation of sweet potatoes	• Include farmers, policy makers and investors
• Include knowledge fair	• Eye-opening workshop
• Include farmer and processors	• Prompt start and close
• Presentation on postharvest and market	• Include policy makers
• Clarify SSP and SPHI roles	• Use media coverage
• Include site seeing	• Engage other value chain operators