The Sweetpotato Action for Security and Health in Africa (SASHA) is a five-year initiative designed to improve the food security and livelihoods of poor families in Sub-Saharan Africa by exploiting the untapped potential of sweetpotato. It will develop the essential capacities, products, and methods to reposition sweetpotato in food economies of Sub-Saharan African countries to alleviate poverty and undernutrition.

SPHI Phase 2 Purpose, Functions and Governance: Partnering for Collective Impact

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Governance Review Committee
9 Sept 2014
Two phases: Phase 2 - From proving the Potential to Achieving the Potential

Phase I (5 years)
Proving the Potential

- PoCP Action Research (2-5 countries)
- Seed Systems and Integrated Crop Management (ICM)
- Strategic Transgenic Research (1 sub-region)
- Pre-breeding (3 sub-regions)
- Breeding in National Programs (14 countries)

Phase II (5 years)
Achieving the Potential

- Market & Nutritional Delivery at Scale (14 countries)
- Seed Systems and ICM at Scale
- Breeding Systems (14 countries)
Many projects are under the SPHI umbrella.

- Uganda
- Malawi
- Zambia
- Mozambique
- Ethiopia
- Nigeria

DONATA & Agricultural Innovation System
Changing context

• Within CGIAR and CIP
  – Roots, Tubers and Bananas
  – Agriculture for Health
  – CIP SO1 resilient nutritious sweetpotato

• Emphasis on Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture (SUN) in countries, region and globally

• Calls to position SPHI in context of biofortification and “agriculture for food security and nutrition”
Key question

• As we move into proving potential….
  – Increased number of projects, partners and donors
  – Focus shifts to scaling up, while maintaining breeding programmes
  – Build Government commitment
  – Engage with Private Sector and Farmer organizations…..

• How should an African SP Platform function? What form should it take? How should it be governed?
Background

• Sept 2013 the SPHI ESC appointed a team to consult and advise on SPHI functions and governance, with goal to make the transition by 2014 meeting.
Partner survey: (early 2013)

- Commitment to continue research for development on SP in the framework of SPHI and CoP
- Continued leadership/facilitation by CIP
- Need for greater acknowledgement of partner contributions
- Address issues related to turnover in partner representation
- Acknowledge challenges of different accountability structures, organizational cultures among partner organizations
Plenary and ESC discussions- 2013, team consultations (Nov 2013, May 2014)

- Reaching and sustaining SPHI goals (10 million households in 10 years) requires a strategic shift in SPHI functioning and governance
- Calls to link SPHI to an African institution
- Engage a broader range of organizations
- Inclusive governance, shared commitment
- Co-ownership of SPHI goals
To achieve **collective impact**, SPHI should

- Build **ownership** of the initiative and commitment to the **common agenda** among a broad range of stakeholders and funding partners
- Create a **shared measurement system**, including common indicators and reporting mechanisms to track progress toward achieving the goal
- Ensure that activities across the value chain are **aligned and mutually reinforcing**
- Ensure **effective communication**, on-going **capacity strengthening** and **collective learning** among partners
- Create an effective, efficient and credible **backbone support structure** (e.g. secretariat) to facilitate these processes.

(Kania and Kramer, 2011)
SPHI: Platform for Communication, capacity building, collective learning

Technical innovation, Value chain development

Creating, sustaining commitment, enabling environment

Documentation Monitoring and Evaluation

Reaching 10 million households by 2020

Secretariat
Proposed Functions

- Advocacy and Policy Dialogue
- Resource mobilization and facilitating access to funding
- Capacity strengthening
  - Technical Backstopping
  - Building local capacity for training
- Communication and networking
  - Knowledge sharing and joint learning
  - Communities of Practice
- Monitoring and Evaluation
The Annual SPHI gathering

- Annual Forum to review progress toward SPHI targets, build coherence and synergy across the value chain, and commit to targets for following year
  - Annual report on SP in Africa
  - CoPs meet individually to review progress,
  - Plenary discussions to share insights and implications
  - Collate conclusions on achievements, gaps, constraints and recommendations for upcoming year, for further discussion and recommendations by the AB
SPHI Partners will have access to

– Networking opportunities with other members,
– Communities of Practice:
  • Breeding,
  • Seed systems and crop management,
  • Marketing, processing and utilization (incl. nutrition) and
  • Advocacy and M&E
– New M&E tools,
– Training and financing opportunities, and
– Enhanced access to technical, communication and advocacy backstopping.
SPHI Partners will

• Work to realize the SPHI vision, by
  – Committing human and financial resources to sweetpotato-related activities
  – Sharing knowledge on knowledge portal
  – Building the network by sharing information on its SP activities
  – Sharing data on reach and impact of SP-related activities
  – Participating actively in SPHI annual meeting
  – Participating in and contributing to growth of relevant CoPs

• SPHI partners could be asked to sign a letter of intent?
• Explore creating a membership structure?
Broader benefits

• SP Community of Practice can deliver
  – Knowledge on breeding, seed systems, post-harvest handling of previously neglected crops
  – Knowledge on linking agriculture and nutrition, and introducing bio-fortified crops
  – Knowledge on scaling up socio-technical interventions with multiple benefits, involving multiple actors
  – More effective and coherent documenting, monitoring, evaluation and shared learning.
Proposed SPHI Advisory Board functions

• Provide strategic guidance on progress toward target
  – Based on annual ‘Status of Sweetpotato in SSA’ report
• High-level advocacy and resource mobilization for SPHI agenda
• Review of and guidance on CoP functioning
• Review of and guidance on impact of regional technical backstopping
• Review of and guidance on communications, networking, M&E and training
Thanks for your attention!