



*Evaluation and promotion of  
existing Seed Supply systems  
for Vegetatively Propagated  
Crops In Central and Eastern  
Kenya*

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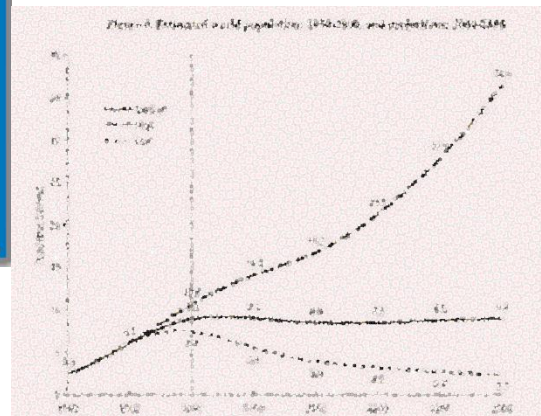
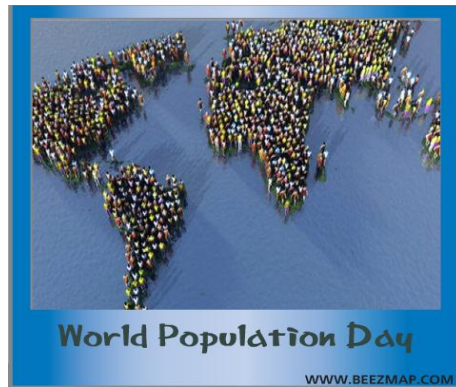
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# Introduction



- Food insecurity and poverty are increasingly becoming the world's biggest challenges with an increasingly growing population, land degradation, climate change among others



Source: Internet



# Importance of Vegetative Crops



- Vegetatively propagated crops (potato, sweetpotato, cassava and yams) play an important role in addressing food security and poverty in Africa
- 80% pro-poor smallholder farmers depend on agriculture in Kenya (contribution of veg in Kenya)

# Challenges in the sweetpotato value chain



- **Farmers are faced with many challenges including:**
  - ❑ Lack of access quality seed of improved varieties
  - ❑ Timely availability (planting time)
  - ❑ Poor product value addition
  - ❑ Poor market and market linkages for products

# Objective



- Identify existing seed supply systems for vegetatively propagated crops in Central and Eastern Kenya
- Promote the most efficient and sustainable seed supply system for improved crop productivity and marketing
- **The study focused on sweetpotato (*Ipomoea batatas*) as one of widely grown vegetatively propagated crop**



# How was this done?



- **Sites:**

- ❑ Central (Nyeri, Mukurweini and Nkubu) areas
- ❑ Eastern (Kitui, Matuu and Yatta areas) regions of Kenya

**Selection:** based on previous participation on research and extension activities on sweetpotato

## ***Data Collection***

- **Secondary data-** Literature review
- **Primary data** – Individual and key informant interviews



# Data Collection



- Individual household questionnaires



- Focus group discussions
  - Gender considerations were put in place



**Data analysis:** SPSS and Excel

Data analysis was disaggregated by gender and descriptives - frequency

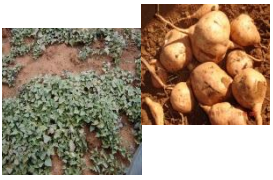


# Data Analysis



- ❑ Data was analysed using SPSS and Excel
- ❑ The results were disaggregated by gender and descriptives - frequency





# Demographic information



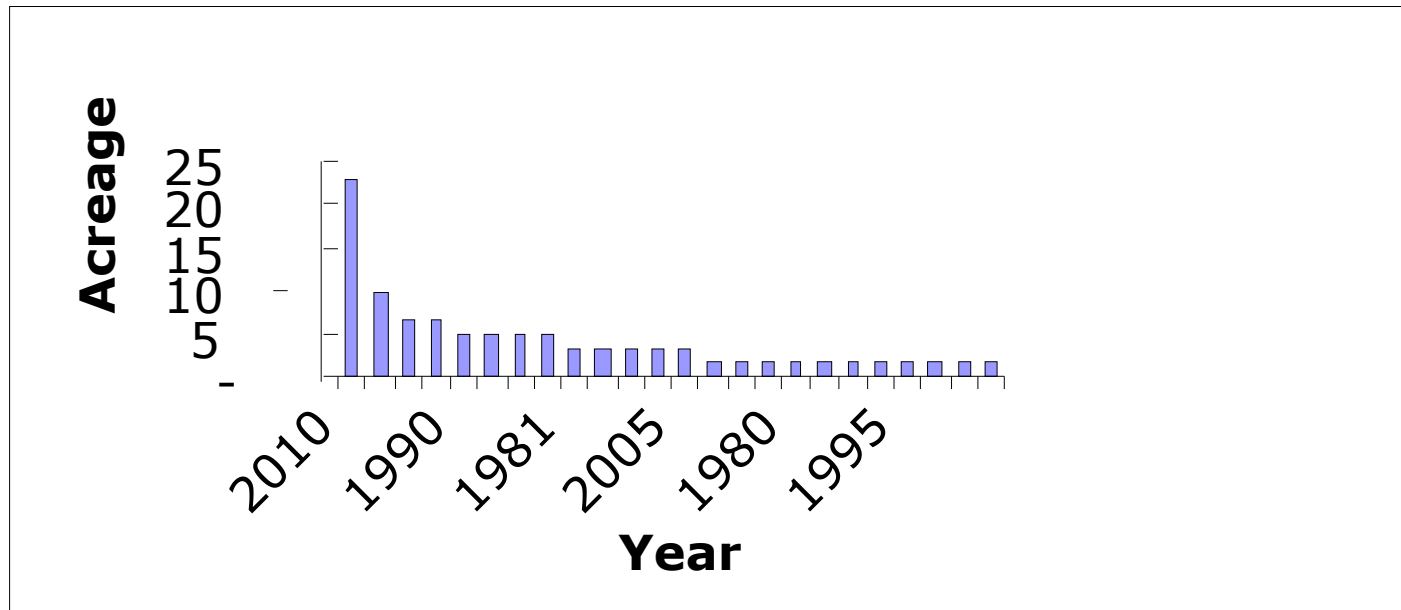
Gender	% Responses	Average age (Years)	Level of Education (%)			
			Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	None
Male	36	49	13.6	20.3	1.7	0.0
Female	64	39	39	15.3	5.1	5.1
Mean (%)	50	44	26.3	17.8	3.4	2.6



# Farmers perceptions of sweetpotato



- Out of 207 respondents, 97.1% appreciated the crop as a solution to food security and poverty alleviation
- Upwards trend in sweetpotato production in terms of acreage



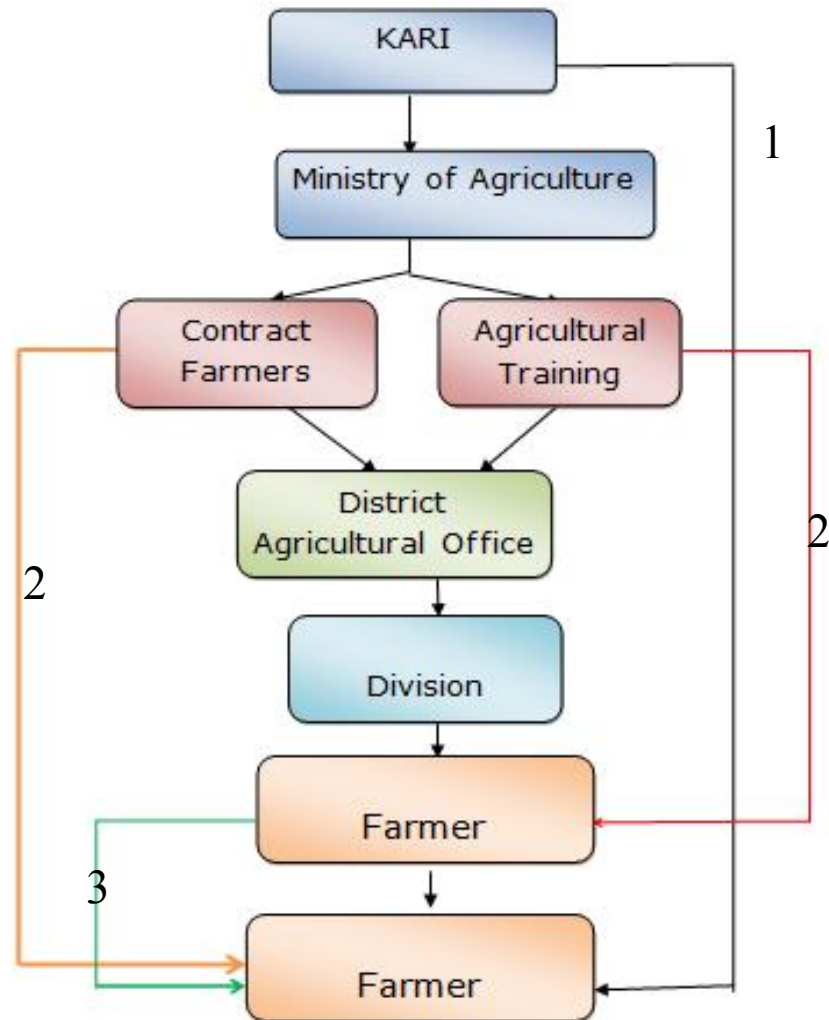


# Seed delivery model



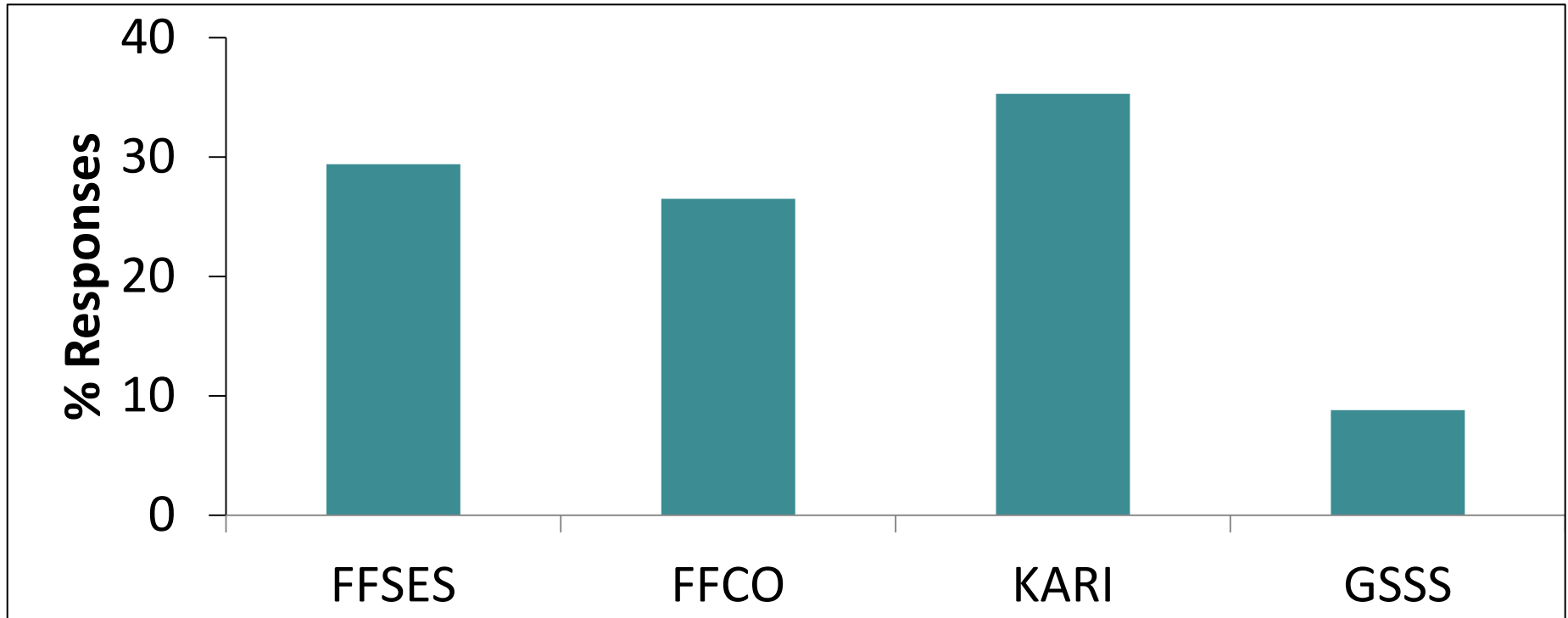
Three key seed delivery systems were identified

1. Research to farmer
2. Research to Ministry to farmer
3. Farmer to farmer exchange





# Farmers sources of seed



**Figure 1:** Main Sources of seed/planting materials at farm level

- Key:**
- FFSES-Farmer seed Exchange (Traditional )
  - FFCO- Farmer to farmer Commercial orientation
  - KARI- Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
  - GSSS- Government (MoA)



# Conclusion



- The farmers have good levels of education which make communicating issues of seed manageable
- Vegetatively propagated crop (sweetpotato) production and use has been on increase from less than 5 to above 20 acres per household
- The fact that farmers are willing to pay for seed also indicates its importance

# Conclusion cont.....



- Most (97.1%) of the farmers indicated the need to have a commercial oriented seed system based on identified challenges from other systems
- Research (KARI) so far remains the major source of seed for the farmers



# Recommendations



- Seed impacts on every segment of the value chain
- Farmer to farmer seed supply system with commercial orientation has exhibited a successful story



**Figure 3:** Examples of farmer seed plots



# Recommendations cont.....



- Capacity building for farmers on seed management, marketing and market linkages has to be enhanced
- Well organised check-off systems need to be put in place as farmers embrace seed production and distribution
- Seed policing to be put established for reduced pests and diseases incidences



# Well fed Nation is a Happy Nation



*Thank you for Listening*