



**International Potato Center**

**Annual Report 2013**

**Objective 2**

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## Executive summary

This report reviews objective 2 activities of the Reaching Agents of Change (RAC) project in Nigeria for year 2 (June 2012 to May 30<sup>th</sup> 2013). Farmer participatory on-farm trials were established in 28 locations in 4 states (Benue, Nasarawa/FCT, Kaduna and Kwara) as a first step in the official release of orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP). At the inception of RAC in Nigeria, there was no officially released OFSP variety. Farmers fully participated in assessment of proven varieties and field days were conducted in 3 locations each in the 4 states. The results culminated in the nomination of two Orange-fleshed sweetpotato(OFSP) genotypes (NRSP/05/022 and CIP440293) to the National variety release committee. These varieties, by far surpasses all sweetpotato varieties available to the Nigeria farmers in terms of fresh root yield and quality. Two varieties NRSP/05/022 and CIP440293 were officially released in 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012 on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 respectively. The foundation stock of the new varieties were cleaned up at KEPHIS, Nairobi Kenya and through positive selection, multiplied in 2.9 hectares at NRCRI Umudike (0.5ha), Nyanya station (2.0ha), vine multipliers in Taraba (0.2) and Kwara (0.2) states. A total of 1.45 million cuttings were generated and are presently undergoing distribution to the identified vine multipliers in the target states. Two Decentralized vine multipliers each from FCT, Abuja and Kwara state has established 0.25 hectares of 2 target OFSP varieties.

Table 1 below is a summary of the main achievements

<b>Planned activities</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actual achievements</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Build-up of initial disease free planting material	Produce between 2-3 hectares of quality, primary sweetpotato planting material annually	2.9ha 2 OFSP varieties established at NRCRI Umudike, Nyanya, Taraba and Kwara states	Clean materials established are undergoing distribution in target states
Farmer participatory on-farm trials	Establishment, maintenance of at least 26 on farm trials in target states (Benue, Nasarawa/FCT, Abuja, Kaduna and Kwara) Report writing to be completed in December, 2012	28 on-farm trials established and results submitted to National Variety Release Committee (NVRC). 2 OFSP (NRSP05/022 and CIP440293) released	The on-farm trial is aimed at selecting varieties by farmers for release.

Conduct Training of Trainers (TOT) course	16 participants drawn from public and private sectors to be trained	20 participants drawn from public (15) and private(5) trained at ARMTI Ilorin on 'Everything you ever wanted to know about sweetpotato'	Lack of fund is hindering step down training in other target states
Conduct OFSP Engendered OFSP Project Planning Management, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation (EPMIME) course	20 participants trained and funding assessed for OFSP projects	27 participants from Kwara and Nasarawa trained during step down training 30 Participants trained and full proposals developed	The proposals will be ratified by June and submitted for funding

**OBJECTIVE 2: BUILD CAPACITY OF IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT TECHNICALLY STRONG AND COST EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS THAT DRIVE UPTAKE OF OFSP**

*I.R 2.1: Improved capacity of change agents and national agricultural research and/or extension organizations to offer training courses on the implementation and management of OFSP projects*

The Training of trainers (TOT) course was conducted by Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute, Ilorin Kwara state and backstopped by CIP/HKI (RAC) on the 3<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2013. Twenty (20) participants comprising male (60%) and female (40%), drawn from public (15), and private (5) sectors were trained in 'Everything you ever wanted to know about sweetpotao". The step down training for 27 participants drawn from Nasarawa/FCT and Kwara state was conducted by the National Program for Food Security in June (11-12<sup>th</sup>), 2013 at Lafia, Nasarawa state. During the training of trainers(TOT) course, 11 national facilitators drawn from ARMTI, Ilorin(7), Ofar Polytechnic(1), NRCRI, Umudike(2) and state ministry of health(1) and 7 CIP facilitators took active part in both the pre-training(5 days) and the main training (10 days).

## **On-farm Trials and Primary multiplication**

A total of 28 farmer participatory on-farm was completed in four target states (Benue state, 6 locations, Nasarawa/FCT, 8 locations, Kwara, 6 locations and Kaduna, 8) and results on the selected varieties submitted for their release. This farmer participatory on-farm trial was researcher/farmer managed in collaboration with ADP staff that supervised day to day activities. During the harvesting and data collection, farmers did assessment of yield attributes, quality of storage roots, colour, and culinary attributes of the varieties. The results were written up by the staff of national root crops research institute, Umudike and submitted to the variety release committee for their release. The two varieties in question are NRSP/05/022 and CIP440293) which by far surpasses all sweetpotato varieties available to the Nigeria farmers in terms of fresh root yield and quality. The two varieties were officially released paving way for secondary multiplication. Other achievements include:

- Established 2.9 hectares of target OFSP varieties
- Identified 11 decentralized vine multipliers (DVMs)
- Established 4 DVMs in FCT and Kwara states with 0.25 hectares each of OFSP varieties

### ***I.R 2.2: Enhanced capacity to design & implement gender sensitive OFSP projects***

The Engendered OFSP Project Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation learning event was conducted in April 2013 and 26 participants drawn from private and public sectors participated. As a consequence, several project proposals are at different levels of development.

Also, the capacity of 225 farmers on variety assessment was built during this year

## **MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

### **Challenges**

- Inadequate facilities for the project such as screen house in Nyanya outstation and functional laboratory. Net tunnels were constructed from materials donated to the station by CIP Nairobi.

- There was persistent insecurity in the Northern part of Nigeria especially in Kaduna where some of the on-farm sites were located. Zones were divided and appropriate personnel sent for data collection during on-farm trials
- There was under budgeting for on-farm trials. The locations are very extensive in terms of distance which led to high per diem for officers and fuel consumption. The station had to argue for some of the expenses incurred.
- Delays in step-down training by the TOTs in some states due to lack of fund. However plans to source funds from the Nigeria sweetpotato rainbow project to assist the affected organization is considered.
- The distribution of vine cuttings to beneficiaries in 2012 was not feasible in 2012 because there was no officially released OFSP in Nigeria. By the time of writing this report, 2 OFSP varieties NRSP05/022 (KingJ) and CIP440293 have been released. Distribution of materials to farmers and households will therefore commence in June/July.
- Low capacity irrigation pump limited area of dry season cultivation. Farmers were contracted to multiply vines (Taraba and Kwara).

## LESSONS LEARNED

- The participatory approach of the facilitators and participants working as a team helped to achieve the training objectives. Teamwork, joint planning and developing of presentations in a participatory way is therefore considered very useful.
- The structure of the modules made the whole training appear as one holistic package. Also the mix of group work, field exercises, plenary sessions and energizers helped participants assimilate the topics covered.
- The choice of participants during the 10 day course was considered very good and all were dedicated and worked very hard. However, most participants were from the public sector (only one from private sector) and most do not have sources of funding to step down the training they received. Future trainings should target more participants from non-governmental organizations and private sector with higher chances of attracting investment.
- The pre-training made it possible for individual trainers to work as a team and move from session to session without disruption. Sessions on adult teaching methods and techniques and facilitation skills during the pre-training and learning-by-doing were considered very useful. Meanwhile, theory sessions need to be well-targeted towards the practicals.

- More time should be allocated to practical sessions that encourage skills development and affect the attitude of the participants. Practical sessions should be done early in the day before it gets too hot
- The inability of organizations to sponsor step-down training of extension workers and farmers in their respective states. Future selection should focus on private organizations that are experienced in mobilizing funds.