

Report PoCP Agriculture Health SASHA Kenya 22 September – 7 October 2010

Graham Thiele and Hermann Ouedrago

The purpose of the visit was to review progress with the PoCP and take part in field day.

1. Visit to Western Kenya Health-Ag PoCP Busia District 23 September

ARDAP

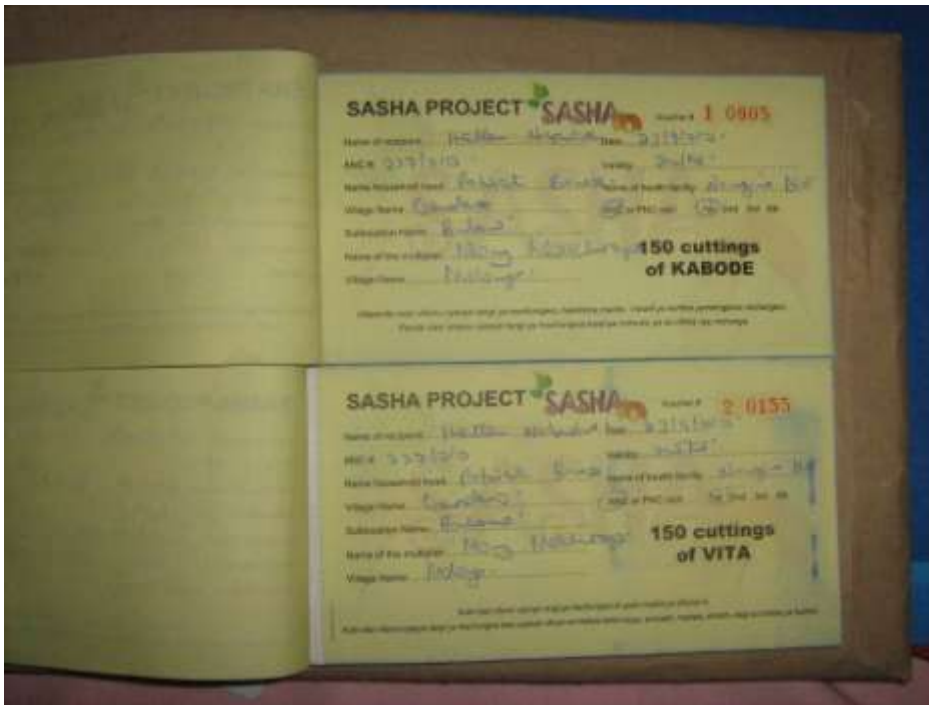
Mildred Anyango explained that for the pilot area, ARDAP trained 13 vine multipliers at a 2 day workshop in March (draft training manual). Then selected 4 multipliers, 2 for each health facility in Model 1:

- Nangina Dispensary (Govt) and Nangina Mission Hospital
- Namboboto Mission Dispensary

Model 2 facilities were:

- Rumbiye Dispensary
- Agenga Dispensary

Planting material of Kabode and Vita was distributed to vine multipliers in February-March. Each multiplier established 4 beds in March 20mx1m, each meter can give about 500 vines (10,000 per bed).



Copy of vouchers retained in the health facility with client information

Each client making first ANC visit and for subsequent visits received 2 vouchers for 150 cuttings of Kabode and Vita. They take this to multiplier who provides cuttings. Vines available for mothers who received vouchers in early May. But because of drought from May to June, women didn't collect vines.

Drought led to outbreak of sweetpotato butterfly. ARDAP encouraged manual collection of eggs using recommendations adapted from REU. Multipliers waited up to 5 months before harvesting vines instead of recommended 2-3 months.

Multipliers have an MOU with the NGO, they receive 60shs per voucher redeemed and are paid monthly. Mildred said multipliers are happy with arrangement.

In April, a demonstration plot was set up in each site near to roads, included OFSP with indigenous vegetables as part of kitchen garden. A field day was organized on August 13th including nurses, health workers, agricultural extension officers, pregnant womens' clubs, vine multipliers and demonstration plot farmers.

Mildred explained that only one nurse was trained in each facility, and when the nurse travels she delegates. Hermann suggested that *it would be a good idea to organize additional training for the other nurses.*



Nangina Dispensary Nurses Mary Napunyi Maureen Lubale Sarah Muthoni and Hermann Ouedrago

We visited the Nangina Dispensary and spoke with three of the nurses present, none of whom had been trained. Mary Napunyi explained that the training had taken two complete days and it was difficult to train more than one at a time because nobody would be left to attend to clients. She said that Joyce who had been trained was very motivated and had commented that they “Took us to see shamba with our own eyes”. Mary noted that Thursday is a market day and more women come, this is an opportunity for a group talk, or for breast feeding day. Mary said that women who came were very interested in the vines and were interested to plant more, she noted “They ask you: Sister, what you have forgotten? – a voucher”. Mary also thought that the introduction of the vines was helping raise ANC numbers.



Moses Wamalwa (CIP agronomist) with SASHA flipchart

Mary said “these days we get men in the clinic”. She pointed to the “Guide to Producing Quality OFSP” – SASHA flipchart which was hanging on the wall inside the office and explained that men would come in and start reading it. Mary told us that we had just missed the vine multiplier who had taken their vines to the dispensary so that women could collect them.

We visited Mary Makhwogo and her husband Jerry (also a CHW) who are vine multipliers in Sirekeresi village about 1.5km from the dispensary. Although Mary is multiplier it was clear that Jerry was very actively involved. They have planted about 30x30m of vines in two plantings in March and May. They were using valley bottom land part of which was very wet as this had been a condition for selecting vine multipliers. When their vines became available in May there had initially been little demand because of drought conditions. They had let vines grow long and harvested at 5 months, taken long cuttings rather than the final 25-30cm as recommended (Philip Ndolo had pointed out this problem with the multipliers during an earlier visit). Jerry said that redemptions had increased and that in September they had had 51 clients (102 vouchers).

They used to plant the Kaduku white fleshed sweetpotato and this was the first time they had seen orange fleshed.



Mary and Jerry Makhwogo with their vine multiplication beds

We also spoke to Patrick another vine multiplier, also with valley bottom land (he had trouble with flooding in part of it). He told us that on Mondays and Thursdays (the market day) he takes vines to the dispensary. On other days people collected from his farm. He estimated that of the 250 vouchers he had received about 200 had been redeemed at the dispensary.



Mildred counted the vouchers

We visited the Namboboto demonstration plot located by the road which had been used for the field day to illustrate consumption of leafy vegetables (beds of cowpea, black nightshade, crotolaria, jute, amaranthum), how sweetpotato could form part of a home garden and planting options for ofsp (mounds, ridges and flat). It didn't appear that the demonstration plot was being actively managed as a home garden and the amaranthum plot was setting seed. Moses pointed out that *it might be better to have a smaller plot and use staggered planting so that it could be maintained as a home garden for whole year.*

Although this was a short visit there was good evidence that the voucher system is dynamic with real demand for OFSP vines from clients. The multipliers appeared highly motivated, after demand had picked up with the rain, and they are making some money and seeking to expand their business. We observed that the monitoring system (with vouchers and forms for completion at facilities and by multipliers) for providing and redeeming vouchers is functioning smoothly.

3. SASHA Project Farmers' Field Day at Tamlega Demo Site, Bungoma District 24th September

We travelled up to the Field Day with a group of guests of honour including Ellah Kedera (coordinates PoCP in APHIA II), Gladys Nabiswa (Director CREADIS who lead PoCP Bungoma), Alice Dok (KARI Kakamega) and met Sammy Agili (CIP) in Tamlega.

Ellah has followed up on completion of forms at health facility which is generally fine although sometimes column for repeat visits has not been completed and some nurses have handwriting which is too big to easily complete forms. Ellah follows up with lead CHW who does most monitoring of pregnant mother clubs (30 in Bungoma) and home visits.

Gladys explained the criteria for the selection of vine multipliers (jointly selected with Min Ag) were near to water source, interest in farming/sweetpotato, respected in community and literacy (for form completion). As in Busia 2 multipliers had been selected in 2 health facilities. CREADIS had trained farmers in agronomic practices (training manual in preparation) and supported them. CREADIS also provided training in M&E to multipliers, Min Ag Extension staff, and CREADIS field staff. Gladys also thought that ANC attendance was increasing because of project. She explained that not all women who received vouchers had redeemed them because a) lack of rain b) lack of suitable prepared land to plant.



Rose Nantama of Kamnoyngole Village receives vouchers from Philomena Sande at Tamlega Dispensary

We visited the Tamlega Dispensary and heard Philomena Sande who had received training give a clear explanation of the use of the vouchers and the value of ofsp to a client.



Charity Ojuma with cuttings in her multiplication beds in Tamega

Charity Ojuma the vine multiplier in Tamega has her field less than 1km from the facility. She said “I like this work. My husband gives me support. I use his land”. Mothers normally collected the vines from her farm where she is available for vine collection on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 06-14.00. She is paid monthly 80 shillings per voucher. She had made several cuttings and we saw beds with their second and third flush. She had planted Kabode and Vita in 6 beds about 20m long, most were wider than recommended 1m (to facilitate weeding and harvest without treading on the bed) and one was 3m wide (hard to manage without treading on bed). Alice Dok explained that it is possible to use farmyard manure as well as chemical fertilizer after cutting vines. She pointed out that some plants were yellowing because of weevil damage to the stems and that Charity should use insecticide when making cuttings to avoid transferring these to other fields.



Chrysostim Wanyonyi, Ministry of Agriculture Extensionist explaining Rapid Multiplication in field day.

As part of the Field Day we visited the demonstration plot and heard explanations of rapid multiplication technology (high density planting), use of green leafy vegetables, ofsp in home gardens and planting methods similar to what we had seen in Namboboto.



Anthony Juma of CREADIS explaining about Vita and Kabode varieties.



Mary Wamalwa, Ministry of Agriculture home economist showing preparation of OFSP



Wycliffe Chele explained that he had been so impressed by project that he had taken up farming again to host the demonstration plot.

The Field Day was very well organized by CREADIS. It included speeches, poems and songs from schoolchildren organized by Iddi Juma (lead CHW) and role plays.

4. Suggestions from visits to Nandina and Tamlega

- 1. After women have had opportunity to taste roots consider the option to give them more flexibility in terms of variety choice ie to select voucher for specific variety.*
- 2. Men sometimes visit the dispensary with their wives and sometimes collect the vines on behalf of their wives. Under these conditions they should also be considered as “clients” and potential recipients of extension and nutrition information.*
- 3. Review counseling cards and check key messages are clearly identified in them (bullet points?) Evaluation of learning of key messages by women after counseling*
- 4. Consider training two nurses per health facility*
- 5. Ensure that farmers who are multipliers and hosts of demonstration plots fully meet all the selection criteria (eg that they are currently farmers, hosts of demonstration plots should be representative of the broader farmer population)*
- 6. More opportunity for integration between guests of honor and ordinary participants in the field day so that the guests of honor can see the interaction between the different participants and the extensionists.,*

7. Review of M&E arrangements with Hermann

Jecinter Oketch of Path South Africa (mentored by Carol Levin) prepared a protocol for the assessment of IEC materials protocol. This includes a semi-structured interview format with open ended questions for an exit interview with ANC clients. Jecinter should come in October, she would handle exit interviews as part of operations research.

Suggestions:

1. *Review and adjust the impact pathway, and the linked set of outcomes, on the basis of the experience during the pilot. There should be a two way consistency check between the impact pathway and the data collection instruments. Check that all the relevant information stipulated in the impact pathway will be registered by the forms and data collection instruments, and that no additional relevant information in these forms and data collection instruments has been missed. It is probable that there is also some unnecessary information being collected and that some parts of the data collection instruments could be eliminated or simplified to reduce cost of data collection.*
2. *Identify key messages for ante-natal and post-partum visits. For example, ante natal visits should include information about obtaining and planting vine, post partum visits about when to begin weaning foods with OFSP. Consider potential for more structured counseling based upon these messages.*
3. *The key messages could be listed on the exit interview schedule, perhaps differentiated by ante natal and post partum and clients asked (with probes) about what they had been told by the nurse during the visit. Improve questions on valuing of training. This is a weak indicator of knowledge transmitted.*
4. *Monitoring indicators. Include % of women making first visit in first trimester. Need to make sure data on attendance captured in model 2 as well as model 1.*
5. *PoCP has a comprehensive set of monitoring forms for different users, which are well designed and structured. Hermann and I reviewed them and found some areas for improvement. Further quality control should be considered*

Form	User	Comment/Suggestion
Health Service Delivery Tracking of Pregnant Women who Receive Vouchers.	ANC Nurse	Very clear
SASHA Pregnant Women Clubs – Attendance Tracking	CHWs	To be done in both models
Observation Check List Pregnant Womens Clubs	Spot checks by District Nutritionist (who trained CHWs).	Has open-ended space for topics at front but specific questions on OFSP could be included, perhaps provided. Suggest precoding topics at the beginning so they could be ticked off or perhaps given score according to importance in the session. “Correctly provide training in OFSP production” “% who

		demonstrate good technical and facilitation skills” are subjective and difficult to assess and interpret and of limited use. Should identify which messages were communicated correctly eg two nodes should be buried.
Observation Checklist ANC Service Delivery	District Nutritionist	Question “Informed about OFSP benefits” is vague. Need to identify exact key messages to be communicated. These could be made specific for each session or groups of session ie different messages for sessions linked to pregnancy and lactation. This could be evaluated in Observation Checklist
Voucher redemption tracking	Vine multiplier	Excellent very clear
Follow-up of voucher beneficiaries on OFSP production through home visits, (Women taking vines should be visited within month of taking vines by either agric extension officer or CHW, sharing number of women).	CHW or agric extension officers	Include separate questions for area in kitchen garden and area in home field.
Observation checklist. Advice on OFSP agronomy in a group setting or individually	Moses	Should have more detailed questions about topics related to OFSP agronomy and how this was covered. Link to production conditions in the plot, Eg presence of pests
Monitoring of Agricultural Officers. Agric Extension plots.	Moses	“number of visits” is ambiguous, indicate number of people visiting.
Monitoring agricultural extension staff field visits	Moses or Hermann.	OK
Assessment of Knowledge Transmission and Adoption in Voucher Beneficiaries Fields – Information collected for one women randomly selected per multiplier per month (use random number generator)	Moses and Hermann	Include area in home garden and main field separately. Include planting dates by plot. Its possible with several vine distributions that there could be more than two plots and this information should be captured. Important to know how planting is distributed in time. Q16. Make a list of foods

Food frequency with focus on Vitamin A and fat sources (collect during follow up visits to voucher recipients)	Moses and Hermann	Linking to follow up visits will generate a small sample for food frequency. Consider linking to ANC visits perhaps picking one day a week when attendance is higher (eg market days) Include an exit survey of key messages To be done for both models
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6. Key people met and places visited

Who	With	Where	When
Moses Wamalwa	CIP agronomist	Kisumu, Butula, Funyula	23 Sept
Edelinda	Intern with Aphia II	Kisumu, Butula, Funyula	23 Sept
Mildred Anyango (met first at stakeholders meeting Dec 2009)	Head of Food Security Programme at ARDAP – Appropriate Rural Development Agricultural Program. Project officer for SASHA	ARDAP Center (guesthouse for farmers) and Nangina Dispensary	23 Sept
Mary Napunyi Maureen Lubale Sarah Muthoni	Nangina Govt Dispensary Nurses	Nangina Disp	23 Sept
Jerry and Mary Makhwogo	Vine Multipliers SASHA	Sirekeresi Village 1.5km Nangina Disp	23 Sept
Patrick Wanyama	Vine Multiplier SASHA		23 Sept
Ellah Kedera	Aphia II	Tamlega Field Day	24 Sept
Philip Ndolo	Kari Kakamega	Kakamega station	24 Sept
Alice Dok	Kari Kakamega	Tamlega Field Day	24 Sept
Gladys Nabiswa	Director CREADIS	CREADIS office and Tamlega Field Day	24 Sept
Dismas Paul Nyongeza	CREADIS Board Member, treasurer	CREADIS office	24 Sept
Philomena Sande	Nurse at Tamlega Dispensary - 0728031980	Tamlega Disp	24 Sept

Rose Nantama	Lactating mother Kamnyongole Village	Collecting vines Tamlega Disp	24 Sept
Charity Ojuma (wife of chief)	Vine multiplier	Tamlega	24 Sept
Frederick Wotia	District Agricultural Officer Bungoma West district	Tamlega	24 Sept