

Farmers experiences in promoting sweetpotato production and productivity in Uganda: A case of Soroti Sweetpotato Producers and Processors Association (SOSPPA)



Presented by

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SOSPPA PROFILE

- Soroti Sweetpotato Producers and Processors Association (SOSPPA) is community farmer-based initiative
- Registered in 2006 as with the objective of integrating farmer training and commercial production vines and roots, and processing
- Evolved from Abuket farmer facilitator association which was formed in 2004 by the sweetpotato farmer field school graduates with objective of promoting farmer to farmer training
- SOSPPA is composed of members from 13 graduate Sweetpotato ICM FFS with adaptors
- Elected executive committee serves a period of 3 years during the general assembly of representative members from the different FFS
- Working committees include: training and publicity, production, processing/value addition, savings and credit, and marketing

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Organization	Importance of collaboration
International Potato Center (CIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technical empowerment through farmer field school training ● Variety validation ● Logistical support during trainings and public exposure during conferences and meetings ● Source of improved planting material ● Provision of up to date technical information in form of leaflets, charts and manuals
National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Source of breeder's material for conservation ● Variety validation ● Training of Trainers (TOTs) on improved farm practices and processing and post harvest handling ● Provision of up to date technical information in form of leaflets, charts and manuals
Natural Research Institute (NRI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technical empowerment through farmer field school training ● Provision of training field manuals ● Facilitation of evaluation and planning workshops

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS CONTINUED

Organization	Importance of collaboration
Vitamin A for Africa (VITAA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promotion of Orange-fleshed Sweetpotato (OFSP) varieties ● Facilitation of planning meetings and workshops for OFSP ● Linkage to Slow Food International for World Food community meetings (Terra Madre) and other development partners
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training of farmers under the Integrated Production and Pest Management (IPPM) ● Contract supply and linkage to FAO-affiliated NGOs for clean planting material
PRAPACE /Harvest Plus/REU-OFSP project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contract supply of high Vitamin A Sweetpotato clean planting material ● Backstopping farmers' capacity to commercially produce clean planting material during dry season

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS CONTINUED

Organization	Importance of collaboration
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Technology development and farmer training (NAADS)● Infrastructural support e.g. construction of farmers storage warehouse (NUSAF)● Supportive agricultural policies
Grain Millers/Traders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provision of market for chips and roots
Others: World Vision, CRS, Food for Hungry International, APEP, SOCADIDO, TEDDO, Africa 2000 and Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provision of market for sweetpotato planting material

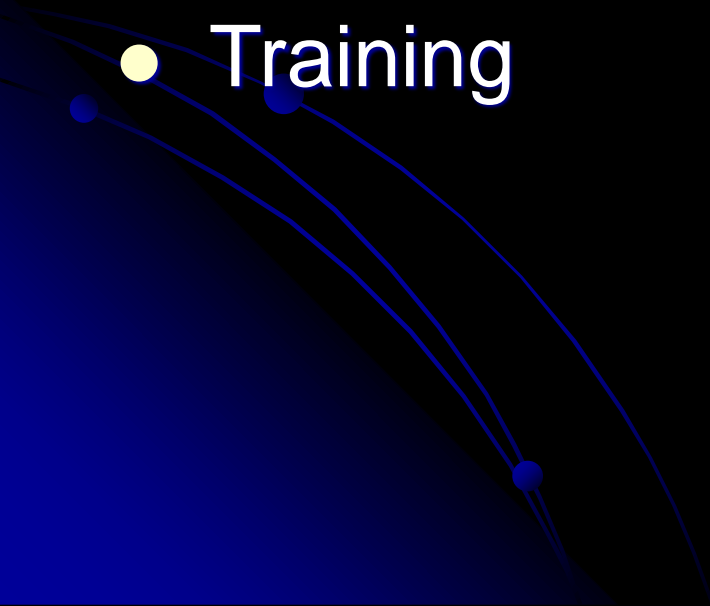
ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS 2004 - 2008

ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS
Conservation of researcher's materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Over 150 types have been successfully conserved during dry season
On-farm variety evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Out of the 20 varieties evaluated, 6 i.e. Kakamega, Ejumula, Kabode, Vita (OFSP), and Naspot 1 and Kala (NON- OFSP) have been released
Multiplication and supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A total of 26,775 bags of 1,200 cuttings each have been supplied at an average cost of 1UGSH. 0,000 (US\$ 7)

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS 2004 – 2008 (Continued)

ACTIVITY	HIGHLIGHTS
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SOSPPA has trained 14 groups each with 25 members within Soroti district ● Through contractual arrangement, SOSPPA has trained 60, 300, 100 for Health Need Uganda, NAADS in Moyo district and Food for Hungry International, Pader district, respectively ● Participated in pre-testing training materials developed by CIP
Production roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Productivity has increased from less than 5 up to 8 – 10 tonnes per acre on farmers' fields ● Area under sweetpotato production has increased from 0.5 to >1 area per household
Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual chips production is about 10 tonnes but less than 3 tonnes is marketed ● Sweetpotato location specific products developed by SOSPPA

ACTIVITIES (CONTNUED)

- On-farm variety evaluation
 - Multiplication and conservation
 - Root production and marketing
 - Processing and product development
 - Training
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Processes of vine multiplication

- Primary multipliers
- Secondary multipliers
- Quality approval by NARO



ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)



Emerging issues

- Institutional : Farmer partnership. What is the adequate lifespan to sustain the created farmer-based initiatives?
- Are the existing developed varieties addressing the diverse and dynamic producer and consumer concerns?
- Improvement of the informal seed system by irrigation/water management, perishability and bulkiness of vines
- Improvement of processing and storage facilities
- How should sweetpotato competitiveness for the market share be improved?

Who is a farmer?

“Gifted Creature in whose hands this planet lies under”

- Masters of environment and life resources
- Judges domestic and wild life
- Fights food terrorism

Therefore the enlightened farmer's sentence is

- Live positive with the environment
- Consciously utilise the surrounding to fight disaster, famine poverty disease and ignorance
- Introduction of FFS was timely
- Trained farmers share skills and knowledge
- The goal is better living conditions
- Wonderful to be a trained farmer

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