

Commitment to Mainstreaming Beta-Carotene Into Breeding Programs



Sweetpotato
Profit and Health
Initiative

Jan Low, SASHA Project Manager
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“CGIAR Research Centers, have committed to make breeding for mineral and vitamin traits in their regular food crop development programs the norm”. This is a major step forward in assuring sustained commitment to biofortification.”



CEO, CGIAR Consortium
Frank Rijsberman

What does mainstreaming mean?

- In the beginning, many breeders felt that including a biofortified trait would have a significant yield cost -- this has been disproved
- What does mainstreaming mean to you?
 - 100% integration...
 - The challenge of visible vs invisible traits...
 - All sweetpotato varieties released in SSA should be 100% orange-fleshed?...



Can the SSA Sweetpotato Community of Practice Release a Joint Statement?

We, the sweetpotato breeders active in sub-Saharan Africa that are engaged in breeding and/or varietal selection, agree that prioritizing the integration of significant levels of beta-carotene into sweetpotato cultivars is of high priority given the high levels of vitamin A deficiency on the continent. We commit to striving to assure that out of every 10 varieties released by our national programs, XX are orange-fleshed.