During the third year of operation, the project continued to work in eight districts, where we implemented a new nutrition training approach, distributed small quantities of vines for multiplication and promoted fresh root and orange-fleshed sweetpotato bread commercialization. By the end of July 2016, we had reached 31,737 households directly with orange-fleshed sweetpotato, with 52% of those receiving vines being women; and 18,784 households (91% represented by women) participated in nutrition training in three districts.
government’s Serviço Distrital de Actividade Economicas (SDAEs) in all of the eight districts, with their extension agents participating in mass vine dissemination and data collection. The NGO Ajuda de Desenvolvimento do Povo para Povo (ADPP) also collaborated. The Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN) distributed OFSP vines to all districts not covered by the project from April 2016. Three bakeries - Padaria Sanjala, Abass and Cuamba, produced OFSP power bread in 2016.

What have we learned so far?

• From 2013 to date, eight OFSP varieties were considered for distribution in eight districts. Delvia and Irene varieties were distributed in eight districts, while Gloria, Bela and Jane varieties were distributed in four district. In terms of importance, around 67% of households received Delvia and Gloria varieties. Delvia, Irene and Gloria varieties were mentioned by 43%, 21% and 20% of households, respectively, as their preferred varieties.

• The project distributed small quantities of vines to households to create a mindset to self-multiply vines from the outset and conserve one’s own vines after each harvest. The best performing DVMs started with a small quantity of OFSP vines, received during the off-season.

• From 2013 to 2015, households conserving vines in the lowland increased from 41% to 58% and in the house garden from 14% to 26%. However, households conserving vines in upland fields dropped from 56% to 7%.

• Until the end of July 2016, about 71,307 kg of OFSP vines, mainly Delvia, Gloria, Irene, Bela, Jane and Samaia varieties, were distributed to about 31,737 households (52% of recipients being women) at 25 administrative posts, 87 localities and 388 villages.

• About 18,784 households (91% represented by women) participated in nutrition training at three districts, seven administrative posts, 18 localities and 45 villages.

• The rapid impact of the project led the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture (DPA) to demand through SETSAN (Fig. 3) that we supply vines to all districts outside of the project intervention area. This resulted in the distribution of about 9,000 kg of vines of Delvia, Gloria, Irene and Bela. In addition, four districts in the adjacent province of Cabo Delgado multiplied about 4,500 kg of these four OFSP varieties received from Niassa Province.

• From 2013 to 2015, the percentage of children under two years of age with low dietary quality scores dropped from 63 to 23%; and for households from 25 to 14%. The percentage of children with high dietary quality scores increased from 25 to 38%; and for the household from 46 to 61%.

• 56% of households in all districts sold 38% of their total OFSP root production, generating an average income of 48 USD per household per year. This is a much higher percentage of households participating in marketing than anticipated.

• Three bakers (two in Lichinga and one in Cuamba) are making Power Bread (Fig. 4), using about 1,500kg of OFSP puree per month. More than 90% of 1,075 consumers surveyed favorably evaluated the Power Bread.

• Six technicians (1 woman, five men) and 90 producers (53 women, 37 men) were trained on Triple S, a method for storing roots throughout the dry season and re-sprouting them just ahead of the rains to get adequate and timely planting material.

What’s next?

OFSP is integrated into the Niassa Province’s government development plans for the 2016-2017 campaign. The project needs to support the integrated agriculture-nutrition-marketing program 2017-2021, co-designed with the government and other stakeholders for large-scale implementation in Niassa and Inhambane, with a one-year transition to consolidate the evidence-base on OFSP adoption.