Sustainable sweetpotato pre-basic seed production Y3 Progress review: June – November 2016

SASHA

Sweetpotato Action for Security and Health in Africa

Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS)-(Malawi Sweetpotato Seed Systems Community of Practice: Sixth Consultation- Sustainable Pre-basic Seed Production – Progress Review. Nairobi 6-7th December 2016

Production: capacities?

Country: Malawi

Period: current status

Facilities	No. units	Irrigation (Y/N)	Total m^2	Method (poly, pot, bench/trough, open)	RMT/ Conventional	Total no. of plants	Multiplication Rate
Screen house	2	Y	120m^2	Polythene pot Bucket pot		2400 960 (300 buckets)	
Mobile net tunnels							
Open field multiplication							
Basic seed multipliers	5	Y					

Production: targets vs actuals?

Country:

Total for all varieties:

Period: **June 2016 – November 2016**

TC activities	Unit (& size)	Planned No. (June 16 – May 17)	Achieved (June – Nov 16)	% achievement
TC initiation	Plantlets		115	
TC micro-propagation	Plantlets	3,000	2,155	71.8
Hardening	Plants			
Screen house multiplication	Cuttings	150,000	16,752	11.2
Mobile net tunnel multiplication	Cuttings			
Open field multiplication	Cuttings			

Comments on production targets

- Actions taken to increase multiplication rates:
  - Use of sandponic
  - Covering with polythene sheet to increase temperature
- Actions to reduce costs of production:
  - Use of locally available polythene tubes
- Key challenges:
  - Electricity black-outs
  - Drying up f shallow well & breaking of submersible pump
- Lessons to share:
  - Varieties respond differently to sub-culturing cycles

Quality management

- No. of varieties under multiplication: 7
- No. of plants virus indexed (grafted on *I Setosa* and tested with NCM-ELISA) -Not done
  - No. found negative (and %)
- % tested within last 6 months and results -Not done
  - Variety:……result:…….
  - Variety:……result:…….
  - Variety:……result:……
- Seed standards and inspection protocol
- Current status
  - Seed standards: At ministerial level pending gazzeting
  - Inspection protocol: To be validated

PBS production requirement

Estimated demand for pre-basic cuttings for next season (2016/17):

No. of PBS cuttings required: …….

Proposed prices for each class or seed: (per bundle of 100 cuttings)

Price	Pre-basic	Basic	QDS	Other	Farmer-to-Farmer
Local currency	(1000.00)	500.00	500.00	-	-
US$	1.36	0.68	0.68	-	-

For each class – give length of cutting

Pre-basic: 15-30cm

Basic: 30cm

QDS: 30cm

Other -

Stakeholder meetings

- Date of last stakeholder meeting:

  14th-15th July 2016
- Number and type of stakeholders
  - Number: 53
  - Type: NGO's, Multipliers, Govt, Pvt, Media
- Main agenda items
  - Vine multiplication, procurement & distribution practices
  - Link multipliers (suppliers) & buyers (demand)…
  - Quality control, inspection and certification…
- Action and follow up points:
  - NGO's to provide estimates of demand
  - RTCDT to share a template to fill expected demand
  - Draft seed standards be circulated to all multipliers & buyers

- **Contact made with National Seed Traders Association: y/n -N**
  - Potential collaboration on SP seed production
  - Links with registered seed enterprises **–Y (Coming in as individuals for diversification)**

Business plan: implementation June – November 2016

	Political	Technical	Administrative	Socio-cultural
Actions implemented	1. Briefed management 2. Held discussion with CIP Projects leaders (Potential customers)	1. Quality assurance- Routine monitoring & Seed inspection 2. Monitoring TC plantlets and pre-basic seed production 3. Updating production costs.	1. Sub-ledger set-up	

NB Review guidance note for matrix on institutionalisation

Revolving fund: status

1. Composition and operation of revolving fund agreed and documented? Y/N
2. How often has RF management committee met over reporting period?
3. Revenue received from sale of cuttings for period June to November 2016 (or by month – see table)
4. Status of budget for pre-basic seed production for 2016/2017:
   a. Give total budget for PBS production[a]: and then the amount to be requested from RF
   b. Submitted to RF or senior management: give date
   c. Approved: give actual or projected date.
5. Percentage of total production cost which will be met by revolving fund: =%

[a] NB this budget is for recurrent costs for pre-basic seed production (i.e. not the total project budget)

Training – in-country (June – Nov. 2016

Date	Topic	No. participants (M/F)	Training materials available	Comments
Sept 2016	Measurements and preparation of nutrient solutions for sweetpotato sandponics *(On-job training)*	4 (M =2; F = 4)	Nutrient fertilizers, weighing balances	Succesful

Jan – May 2017: key areas for strengthening

- Technical
  - Pre-basic vine multiplication in screenhouses
  - Quality control and disease monitoring through indexing
- Institutional
  - ....
- Financial
  - Revenue collection for RF

2 BEST PHOTOS

Mr K Masamba observing and recording virus symptoms on *I. setosa* inside sweet potato screen house –Bvumbwe Research Station

Mr K Masamba monitoring vine growth and leaf morphological features (note yellowing of leaves) inside sweet potato screen house –Bvumbwe Research Station (24 September 2016)