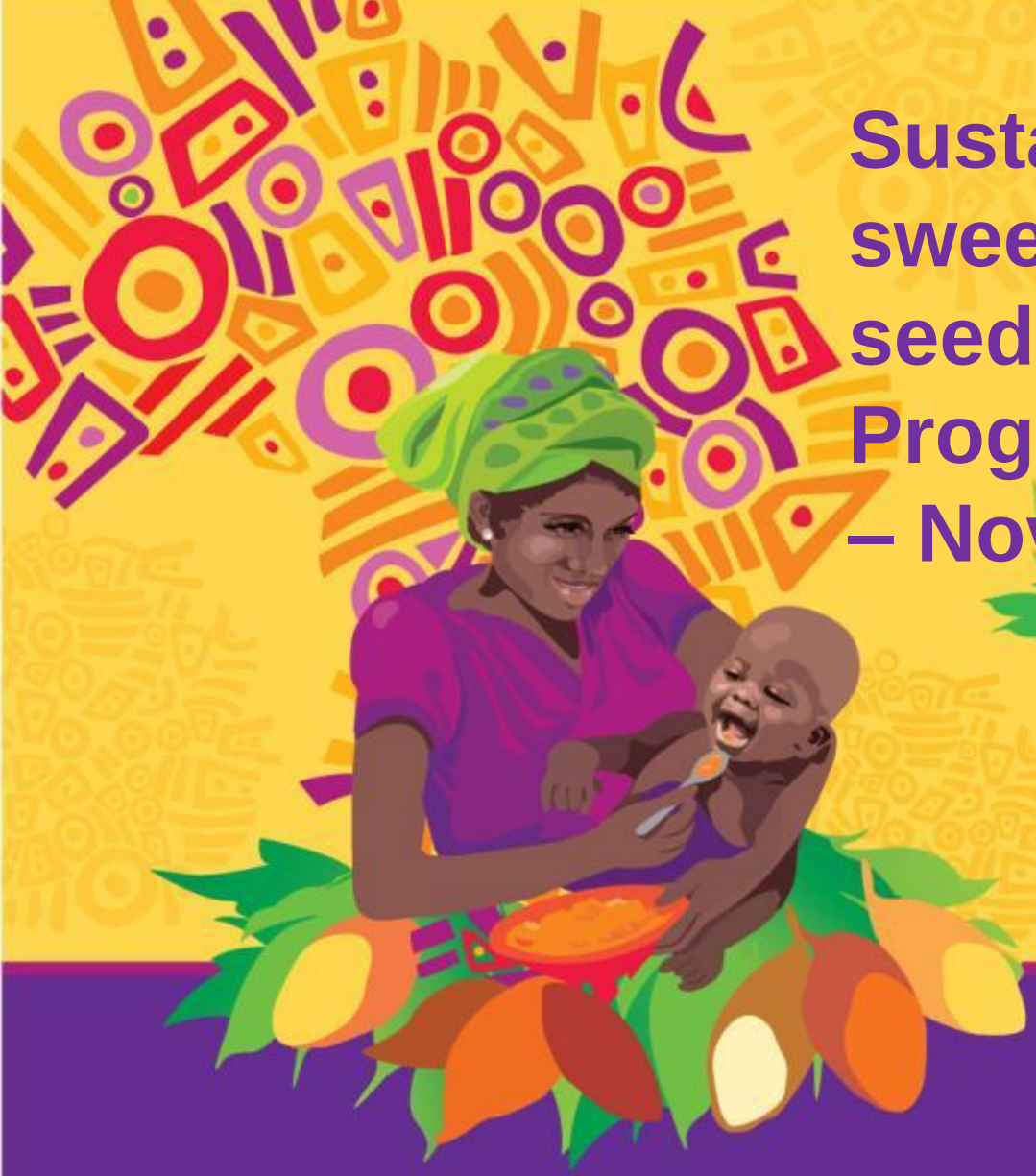
Sustainable sweetpotato pre-basic seed production Y3 Progress review: June – November 2016



SASHA

Sweetpotato Action for Security and Health in Africa

BioCrops (U) Ltd

Sweetpotato Seed Systems Community of Practice: Sixth Consultation- Sustainable Pre-basic Seed Production – Progress Review. Nairobi 6-7th December 2016

Production: capacities?

Country: UGANDA

Current status:

Facilities	No. units	Irrigation (Y/N)	Total m^2	Method (trough, open)	Total no. of plants	Multiplication Rate
BioCrops Screen houses	2	No	315	Troughs	30,210	2 every two months
Basic seed multipliers	3	Yes	76	Variety of containers	9,000	To be determined
Open field multiplication	3	No	14,000	Flat beds and ridges	629,130	8-12

Production: targets vs actuals

Country: UGANDA

Total for all varieties: **7 varieties**

Period: **June 2016 – November 2016**

TC activities	Unit (& size)	Planned No. (June 16 – May 17)	Achieved (June – Nov 16)	% achievement
TC initiation	Plantlets	Maintenance of indexed cultures from Kephis		
TC micro-propagation	Plantlets	3,500	1,950	54%
Hardening	Plants	Emphasis has been on new preferred varieties Naspot 8 and 12		
Screen house multiplication	Cuttings	61,100	39,210	64%
Open field multiplication	Cuttings	1,050,000	629,139	60%

Comments on production targets

- Actions taken to increase multiplication rates:
  - Increase survival rates of cuttings by multiplying under humidity chamber during the cooler season
- Actions to reduce costs of production:
  - Use of low cost construction materials and propagation containers
- Key challenges:
  - Drought and BVMs lacking of funds to put up screen houses
- Lessons to share:
  - Fully funded vine multiplication business is a big competitor to personal investment in vine multiplication

Quality management

7 Variety	Type
Ejumula	OFSP
Kakamega	OFSP
Kabode	OFSP
Vita	OFSP
Naspot 1	WFSP
Naspot 8	OFSP
Naspot 12	OFSP

- *I. Sitosa* occasionally used to rule out viral symptoms in suspected plants. All tested negative

- National seed standards and inspection protocols in place and awaits implementation

PBS production requirement

3,500 pre-basic cuttings for next season (Nov-Dec) to plant the remaining 5 BVM nurseries

Proposed unit prices for each seed class:

Price*	Pre-basic	Basic	QDS	Farmer-to-Farmer
Local currency (UGX)	50	33	10-15	5
US$ (Cents)	2	1	0.3-0.5	0.02

* Unit price calculated from the packaging sold, mainly bag of 1000 cuttings

For each class – give length of cutting

Pre-basic: 6 nodes (30 cm)

Basic: 30 cm

QDS: 30 cm

Farmer to farmer: 30 cm

Stakeholder meetings

- Date of last stakeholder meeting: 12 August 2016
- Number and type of stakeholders
  - 16
  - Potential multipliers and research scientists
- Main agenda items
  - Selection criteria for hosting operating screen houses
  - Plan and required materials
  - Nursery management as a business
- Action and follow up points:
  - Construction of screen housed
  - Stocking the nurseries
  - Following the required nursery management protocols

Business plan: implementation June – November 2016

	Political	Technical	Administrative	Socio-cultural
Actions implemented	1. Sub-county production department notified on the establishment of demos and satellite nursery 2. Local leaders were involved in planting one of the demos	1. S/potato research were involved in training the multipliers 2. BioCrops technical staff supervise the construction of BVM nurseries, planting and planting of Demos	1. Replacement of staff who left BioCrops 2. Worked closed with the host of the satellite nursery to build co-ownership	1. Demos planted by farmer group members to build ownership and management 2. Women and men equally involved in planting demos

Revolving fund: status

- BioCrops does not run a revolving fund.
- This arrangement was found necessary to enhance financing the vine multiplication business
- The main collaborating multipliers are in farmer groups which is a good background for running a revolving fund.

Training – in-country (June – Nov. 2016

Date	Topic	No. participants (M/F)	Training materials available	Comments
11-12 Aug 2016	• S/potato screen house management •Business planning and marketing	5 women and 6 men	• Presentations • Nursery potting materials • planting materials	

Jan – May 2017: key areas for strengthening

- Technical
  - Equipping the diagnostic laboratory for internal quality control
- Institutional
  - increase mobility capacity to perform field activities
- Financial
  - Extend loans to the multipliers to boost their business
  - Search for users of s/potato roots and linking them to farmers to create to stimulate a market for quality cuttings

2 BEST PHOTOS

• Demonstrating alternative screen house vine multiplication techniques (Containers and construction materials)
• Gavu, Kasawo- Uganda; 29 October 2016
• Mr. Kiryowa, co-owner

• Adopting low cost propagation containers
• Kimenyedde-Uganda; 29 October 2016
• BVM (Mr. Arnest Bongole)

THANK YOU
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MWEBALE NNYO
MURAKOZE