

2016 The Most Wonderful Year for Sweetpotato



It goes without saying that 2016 has been a most special year for those who believe in the power of orange-fleshed sweetpotato to help combat vitamin A deficiency and food insecurity. It is recognition of many years of work by many people and has helped raise the global recognition of the potential for biofortification.



The 2016 World Food Prize was awarded to 4 scientists for their work on biofortification on October 13th at the State Capitol in Iowa. From left to right, the folks with the statues are Jan Low (CIP), Robert Mwanga (CIP), Maria Andrade (CIP) and Howdy Bouis (Harvest Plus). It was the 30th anniversary of the Prize.



Talk, talk, talk. During the Borlaug Dialogue week, the co-laureates spoke at Iowa State (b) and on a panel chaired by Jeff Raikes (a); then Jan gave talks at the University of Minnesota (c), where a new statue of Dr. Borlaug was unveiled, and the School of Advanced Intl Studies (SAIS) in DC (e), then Jan and Howdy participated in a day long biofortification workshop at Cornell University(d).



HORTSCIENCE 51(5):597–600. 2016.

**‘Alisha’, ‘Anamaria’, ‘Bie’, ‘Bitá’,
‘Caelan’, ‘Ivone’, ‘Lawrence’,
‘Margarete’, and ‘Victoria’
Sweetpotato**

In February 2016, CIP (Maria Andrade) and the national institute of Mozambique (IIAM) released 7 new sweetpotato varieties: 4 orange-fleshed and 3 purple-fleshed– the first purple-fleshed released in SSA. Purple-fleshed varieties are rich in anti-oxidant anthocyanins.



Floods followed by widespread drought in Mozambique and drought in Southern Ethiopia resulted in both countries receiving funds for emergency vine distribution efforts...



The Seed System Community of Practice meets twice yearly under the guidance of Margaret McEwan. National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) in 11 SSA countries are expanding their pre-basic sweetpotato seed production. Ten institutions have started to implement their business plans; of which six institutions earned revenue from the sale of seed, to start their revolving funds.



Use of OFSP purée (steamed and mashed roots) continues to grow with OFSP bread now being made in Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Ghana. Research led by Tawanda Muzhingi (CIP) and Antonio Magnaghi (Euro Ingredients Ltd) made progressed, and we are able to store preservative-treated, vacuum packed purée for 3 months at room temperature. They also made bread using high fiber purée from unpeeled roots, which adds additional dietary fiber, iron and zinc to the bread.

A few highlights from the project front.....

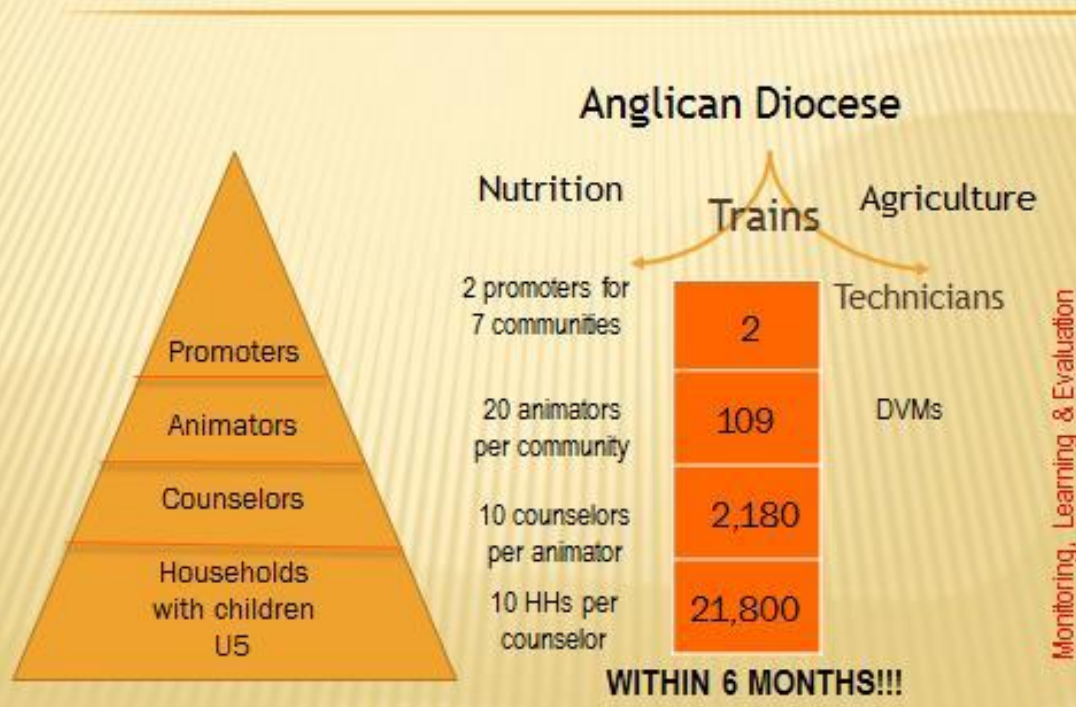


**HarvestPlus Uganda
during 1st Phase
(2012-2016) reaches
407,791 households
In 25 districts!**

Preliminary impact assessment results showed 72% of direct farmer group participants growing OFSP in last 5 seasons, with high diffusion to neighbors: 36% growing during last 5 seasons. Children 6-23 months of age having minimum acceptable diet increased from 8.3% at baseline to 24% at endline.

Nutritious Sweetpotato for Niassa surpassed Phase 1 goal, reaching 29,684 households.....

Niassa Integrating Nutrition in Agricultural Pathway 2016



Irish Aid-funded project in Northern Mozambique used ToT approach to get key nutrition messages out to more families faster...



Antonio Julio (photo) is 2 years old. In the past, he refused to eat anything, and only wanted to breastfeed. But the day that we practiced making enriched porridge of OFSP and groundnut, his mother tried to give him some. He not only kept eating, but he grabbed the spoon from his mother to eat by himself. Now his mother makes enriched porridge for him every day—and the rest of the family enjoys it, too.

Jumpstarting enters final year.....



The Jumpstarting OFSP project went into its final year, with school feeding in Osun State Nigeria (b), bread in Volta region (previous slide) and fresh root sales in Burkina Faso (c), showing particular promise. Nane and Kofi Annan continued to advocate for OFSP investment— shown here visiting Volta Region in 2016. The CIP-led project is financed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



The 10th Triennial African Potato Association meeting was hosted by Ethiopia this year in October, with almost 300 people in attendance. All articles will be published in Open Agriculture. CIP aligned its 45th Anniversary celebration with the APA meeting and a panel discussion with partners was held during the celebratory cocktail.



The next APA in 2019 will be held in Rwanda...



Key findings from the Mama SASHA integrated Agriculture-Nutrition-Health Project (2010-2015) were presented at a half-day sponsored symposium at the Micronutrient Forum held in Cancun, Mexico in 18-22 October 2016. This is one of the major meetings for those working on micronutrient interventions. From left to right in the photo on the left: Amy Girard-Webb (Emory University), Carol Levin (University of Washington), Alan de Brauw (IFPRI), Cornelia Loechl (IAEA), Jan Low (CIP) and Fred Grant (CIP).

TECH

The 25 Best Inventions of 2016

TIME Staff | Nov. 17, 2016

Every year, TIME selects the best inventions that are making the world better, smarter and—in some cases—a little more fun. In the past, we've featured everything from [the real-life hoverboard](#) to [the desktop DNA lab](#). Here's which ones made this year's unranked list.

Sweet Potatoes That Could Save Lives

View as List 14 of 25



The Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato / Developed by The International Potato Center (CIP) and Harvestplus

In sub-Saharan Africa, vitamin A deficiency afflicts more than 43 million children under age 6, leaving them vulnerable to blindness, malaria and more. It's inefficient to provide entire countries with pills, so plant scientists from HarvestPlus and

the CIP are helping countries grow their own solutions—in the form of sweet potatoes. The key is biofortification, or cross-breeding locally grown sweet potatoes with versions rich in vitamin A, so that over time the crops naturally get better at addressing the deficiency. Plant scientists have also bred them to be more resistant to droughts (as Maria Andrade did in Mozambique) and viruses (as Robert Mwangi did in Uganda). This year, Andrade and Mwangi shared the World Food Prize for their work, alongside agricultural economist Jan Low and HarvestPlus founder Howarth Bouis. Sweet potatoes may once have been seen as “a crop of the poor,” says Low, who's helping to bring the super-spuds to more countries. Now they're “a healthy crop for all.”



Benjamin Rakotoariso

In November, Time Magazine cited OFSP as one of the 25 best inventions of 2016.... On November 22nd, CIP was awarded the Al-Sumait Prize for Food Security for its work on OFSP at the 4th African Arab Summit. What a Year!

LET'S KEEP BUILDING ON THE MOMENTUM



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Joined in 2016:

