

Sweetpotato Seed Standards in Ethiopia

SWEETPOTATO SEED STANDARDS

Current status

- QDS standard approved
 - ✓ Ref: ES3924-17:2015
- Full certification approved
 - ✓ Ref: ES04071:2016
- Seed classes: Breeder, Pre-basic, Basic, Certified 1-3 & QDS 1-4
- Inspection: Functioning for QDS and being in place for other seed classes.
 - ✓ Internal inspection: by producer
 - ✓ External inspection: by AIQCQA
- Currently, gov't pays for inspection. Producers shall pay in the near future. The standard applies to all types of producers

IMAGE & CAPTION

Key parameters and threshold for QDS seed class

Class of seed		QDS 1	QDS 2	QDS 3 – QDS 4
Class of seed as a source		Pre Basic or Basic or C1	C2 or QDS1	C3 or QDS 2
Rotation (Minimum number of seasons)		3	2	2
Isolation Distance (Min. meters)	With suitable barrier crop (maize, Napier grass)	5	5	5
	Without barrier crop	10	10	10
Off-types and other cultivars (Max. %)		2	2	2
Diseases, pests and insects (Max %)	Viruses (mottling, mosaic, leaf curl and stunting)	5	10	10
	Diseases (mainly stem blight caused by <i>Alternaria</i> sp)	1	2	2
	Sweetpotato butterfly (<i>Acrea acerata</i>)	1	1	1
	Weevil (<i>Cyclus puncticolis</i>)	0	5	10

CAPACITY BUILDING & ROLL OUT STRATEGY

- Training of inspectors and producers
- Construction of net tunnels for pre-basic seed production
- Strengthening TC lab for effective cleaning
- Training of TC researchers, lab attendants and screen house managers

Actors:

- ✓ Research institutes-multiplication of breeder, pre-basic and basic seeds, deliver trainings, coordinate stakeholders meetings,
- ✓ ESA – Develop and approve the standards
- ✓ MoANR-Registration and certification of producers, inspection and quality control, deliver trainings
- ✓ CIP- Strengthening linkage between stakeholders, facilitation of trainings and stakeholders' meetings, funding
- ✓ Producers - multiplication of certified and QDS
- ✓ NGOs-Purchase vines and distribute to farmers
- ✓ Farmers-produce vines/roots of sweetpotato
- ✓ Policy: Gov't giving due attention for seed and standard approved at national level for most crops

END USERS AND BENEFITS

- GOs and NGOs purchase seeds from known sources Farmers get quality planting materials
- Perceptions:
 - ✓ Research institutes- happily supporting the inspection process
 - ✓ MoANR- happily conducting the inspection
 - ✓ CIP- happily supporting the inspection process
 - ✓ NGOs- purchasing quality seeds from known sources
 - ✓ Producers - legally registered, produce quality seeds
 - ✓ Farmers- happily getting quality seeds
- Unintended consequences
 - ✓ Some producers leaving the business – Worried about the standards
 - ✓ Unhealthy competition - affecting sustainability of the business

LEVEL OF USE OF SEED STANDARDS

- Southern and northern parts of the country
- Inspectors trained:
 - ✓ By 2017 – 10
 - ✓ By 2020 – 50
- Producers trained and inspected
 - ✓ By 2017 – 16
 - ✓ By 2020 – 20

CRITICAL GAPS, CONCERNS AND NEXT STEPS

- Gaps
 - ✓ Few inspectors
 - ✓ Few producers
 - ✓ Limited knowledge and skill of producers
- Concerns
 - ✓ Unreliable market
 - ✓ Unhealthy competition b/n the producers
 - ✓ Limited capacity of some of the producers
 - ✓ Sustainability of the business
 - ✓ Free distribution of seed - farmers dependency
- Next Steps
 - ✓ Strengthening the existing producers and supporting others to join
 - ✓ Establishment of root processing plants to strengthen the whole value-chain
 - ✓ Provide training for the inspectors, producers and farmers
 - ✓ Revise the standards with Standard Agency

IMAGE & CAPTION



Planting of basic seeds in isolated open field with irrigation



Taste-test of sweetpotato varieties with farmers

KEY PARTNERS FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE

- ESA – Development and approval of the standards
- Research institutes- Provision of trainings and conduct internal inspection of their seeds
- MoANR- Conduct external inspection
- CIP- Support standard development and the inspection process
- Producers – Conduct internal inspection

LOGOS

