



STRENGTHENING SWEETPOTATO SEED & ROOT ENTREPRISES IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS OF TANZANIA

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Introduction

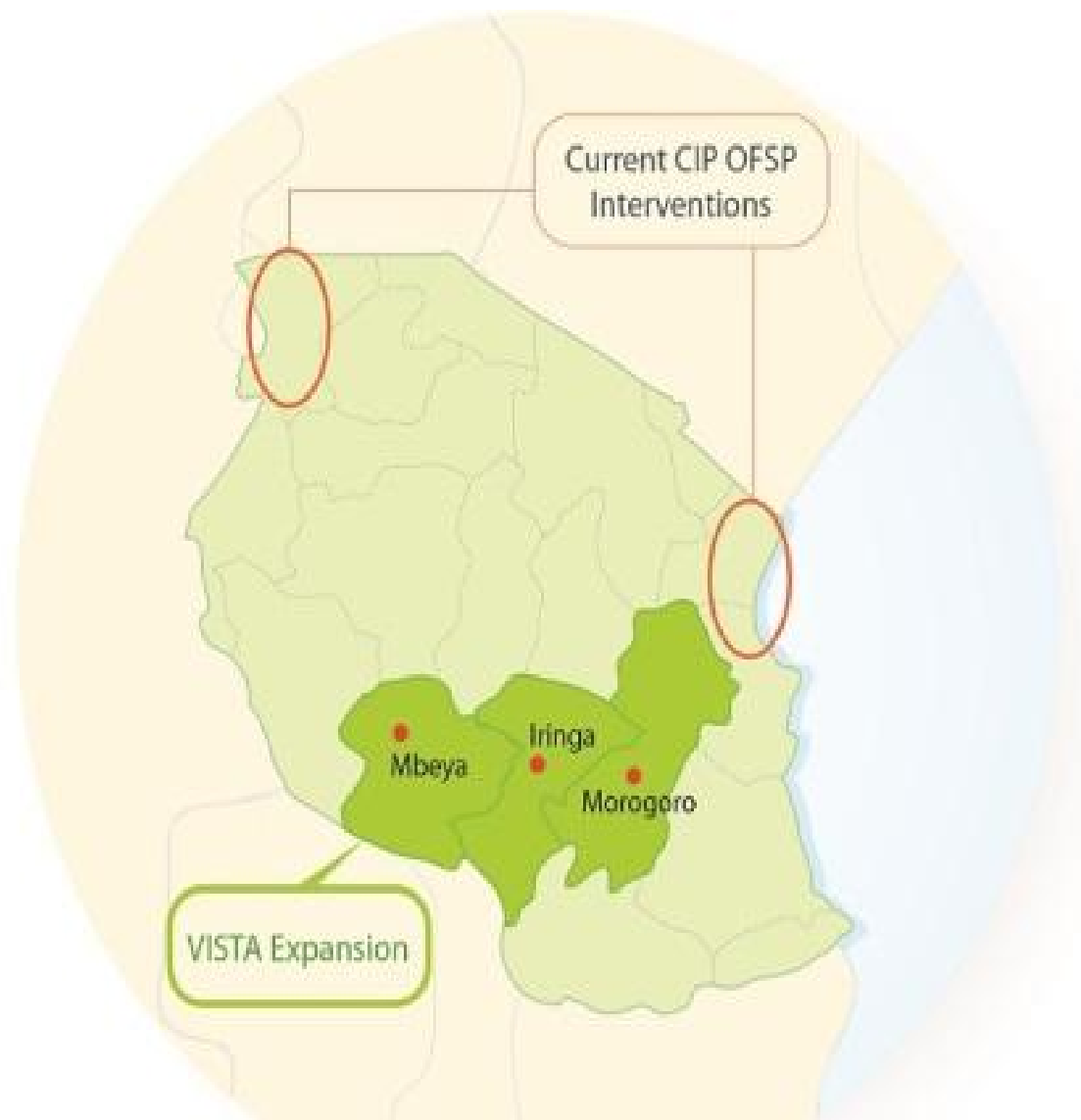
- Tanzania - 2nd largest sweetpotato producer in Africa after Nigeria (FAO, 2015)
- Total tonnage in 2014 was about 3.5 million tons
- Total production area was 736,000 hectares
- National yield at 4.8 t/ha vs African mean (11.2 t/ha)
- Annual per capita consumption - 71.3 kg (2015)



Areas of VISTA-Tanzania Project intervention

- Seven districts in USAID-FtF zone of influence
- Two in eastern agro-ecological zone
- Five in southern highland zone
- Maize is a major staple
- Sweetpotato is consumed mainly as a breakfast and as snack

Coverage of VISTA-Tanzania





VISTA-Tz Project Objectives 1 & 3

Objective	Output
To increase production and consumption of nutritious OFSP varieties through an integrated agriculture-nutrition technology set	Sustainable seed and root enterprises established and linked to quality pre-basic sources, SP farmers, community groups and root markets
	Farmers grow OFSP and realize increased productivity by accessing quality planting material & applying improved farm practices
To enhance capacity of sweetpotato producers and traders to utilize improved storage and marketing of fresh OFSP roots	Technologies for improved storage and marketing practices of fresh roots disseminated
	Selected fresh OFSP root market chains strengthened to benefit smallholder and medium-scale farmers



Key targets that had to be achieved to realize project objectives

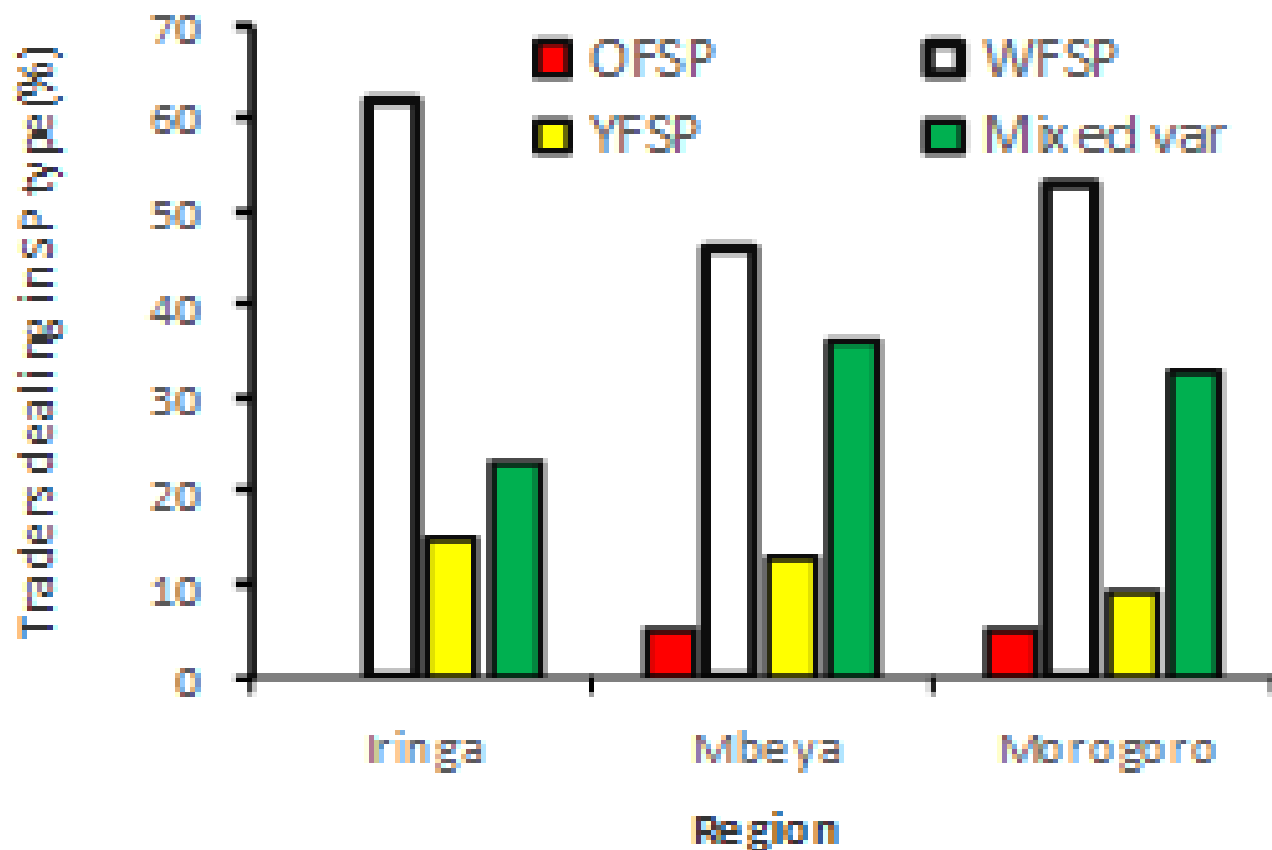
- ☐ **Built reliable and sustainable sources of quality planting material**
- ☐ **Mobilize, train and support actors to produce quality seed**
- ☐ **Get sweetpotato seed closer to most farmers**
- ☐ **Deliver 6,300,000 vine cuttings to target beneficiaries**
- ☐ **Reach 21,000 HH (direct beneficiaries) and 100,000 indirectly**
- ☐ **Test and adapt technologies for mass vine production**
- ☐ **Test and promote technologies for fresh root storage**
- ☐ **Understand sweetpotato market dynamics in target area**

Position of OFSP in 2015 intervention districts

Variable	SOUTHERN HIGHLAND ZONE					EASTERN		Total
	Iringa	Mufindi	Chunya	Mbozi	Wanging'ombe	Gairo	Ulanga	
Interviewed (N)	65	55	88	77	55	99	110	549
Growing SP (n)	16	21	54	58	42	38	29	258
Growing SP (%)	24.6	38.2	61.4	75.3	76.4	38.4	26.4	47.0
White-fleshed (%)	68.8	57.1	61.1	65.5	40.5	68.4	65.5	62.8
Yellow-fleshed (%)	31.3	38.1	38.9	25.9	59.5	36.8	34.5	38.0
Orange-fleshed (%)	0	4.8 (1)	0	0	0	5.3(2)	0	1.2

- About 50% of the farmers grew sweetpotato in 2015
- The majority grew white flesh varieties
- Only one district in SHZ one farmer that had grown OFSP
- Overall, only three farmers had grown OFSP in 2015

Sweetpotato by variety types in the market- 2016

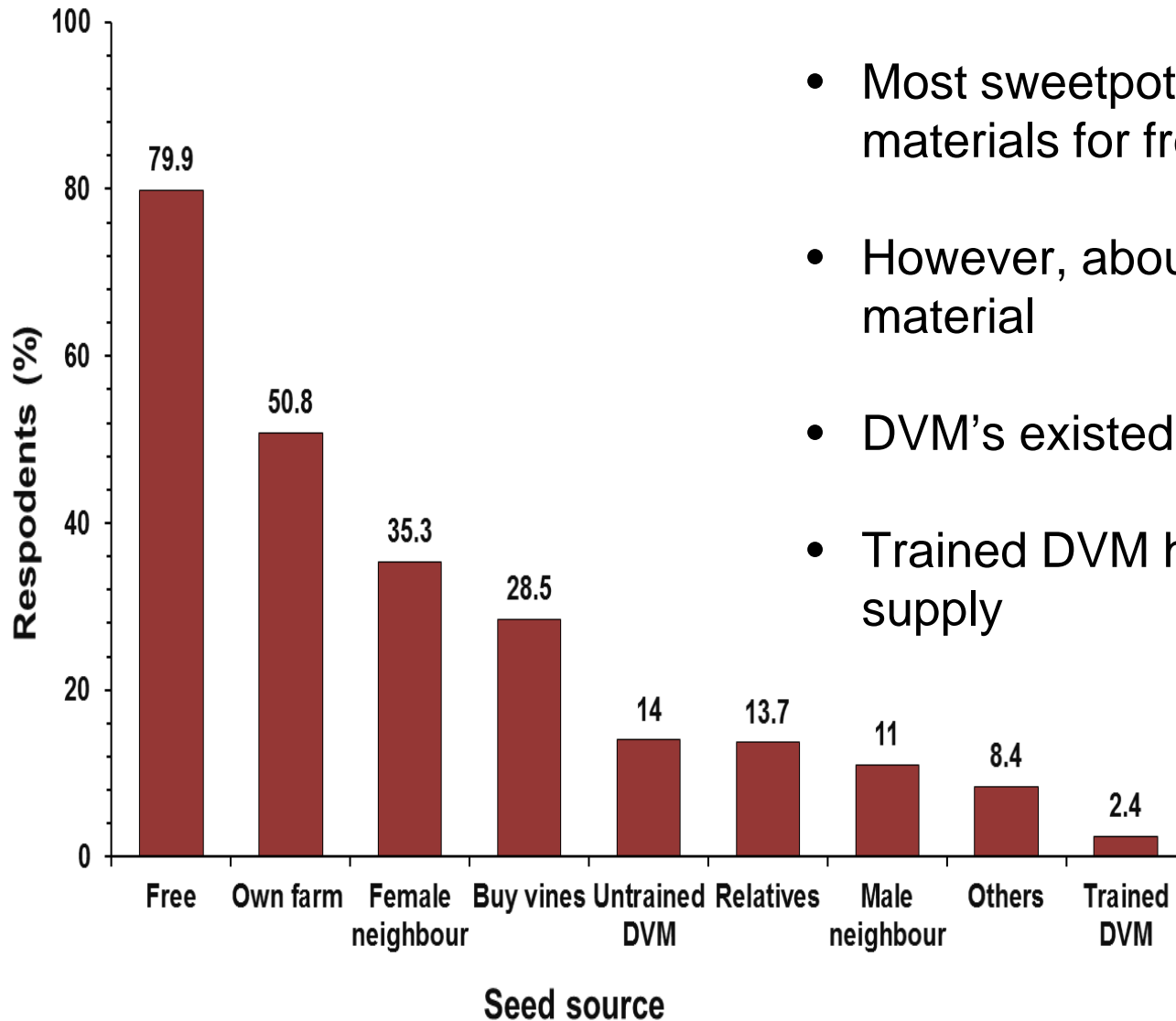


Less than 10% of dealers ever sold OFSP

None in Iringa region had sold OFSP

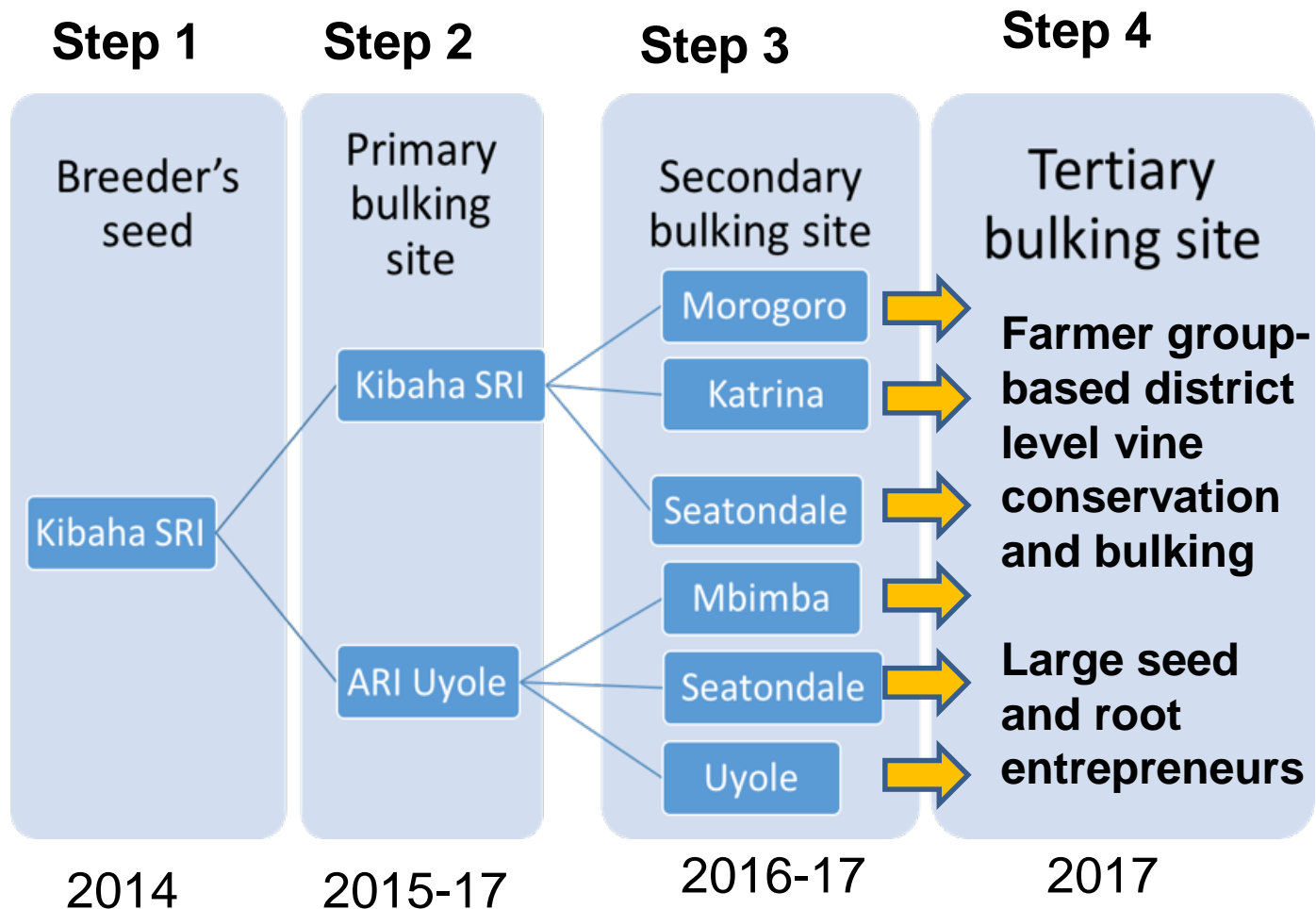
Most dealers and consumers did not know nutritive value of OFSP

Sources of SP planting material - 2015



- Most sweetpotato farmers get planting materials for free or own farm
- However, about 30% buy SP planting material
- DVM's existed before intervention
- Trained DVM had a small role in seed supply

Pathway to building SRE





Implementing the SRE development strategy

Variable	Number
Districts	7
Villages	170
Farmer Groups with DVM	54
Number of net tunnels	108
SRE farmers	30
SRE Net tunnels	60

[Selection Criteria:..\..\..\STORE \(D\)\VISTA\Project meetings\Presentations Feb 2016\Selection criteria for SRE and DVM.pptx](#)



Seed Entrepreneurs Capacity Development on Business Skills (SECaBS)

- Selected seed and root entrepreneurs (SREs) were capacitated using (SECaBS) initiative
- Implemented by Farm Concern International (FCI) for the period of 1 year and 4 months (April, 2016 to August, 2017)



SECaBS trainings for SREs

- 4 training modules
 - Business planning
 - Enterprise viability/economic analysis
 - Financial access and
 - Supply chain coordination & management
- One-on-one in-field coaching sessions for SREs
 - Farmers fields and communities
 - Intended to evaluate SREs progress in implementing theoretical trainings into actual practice

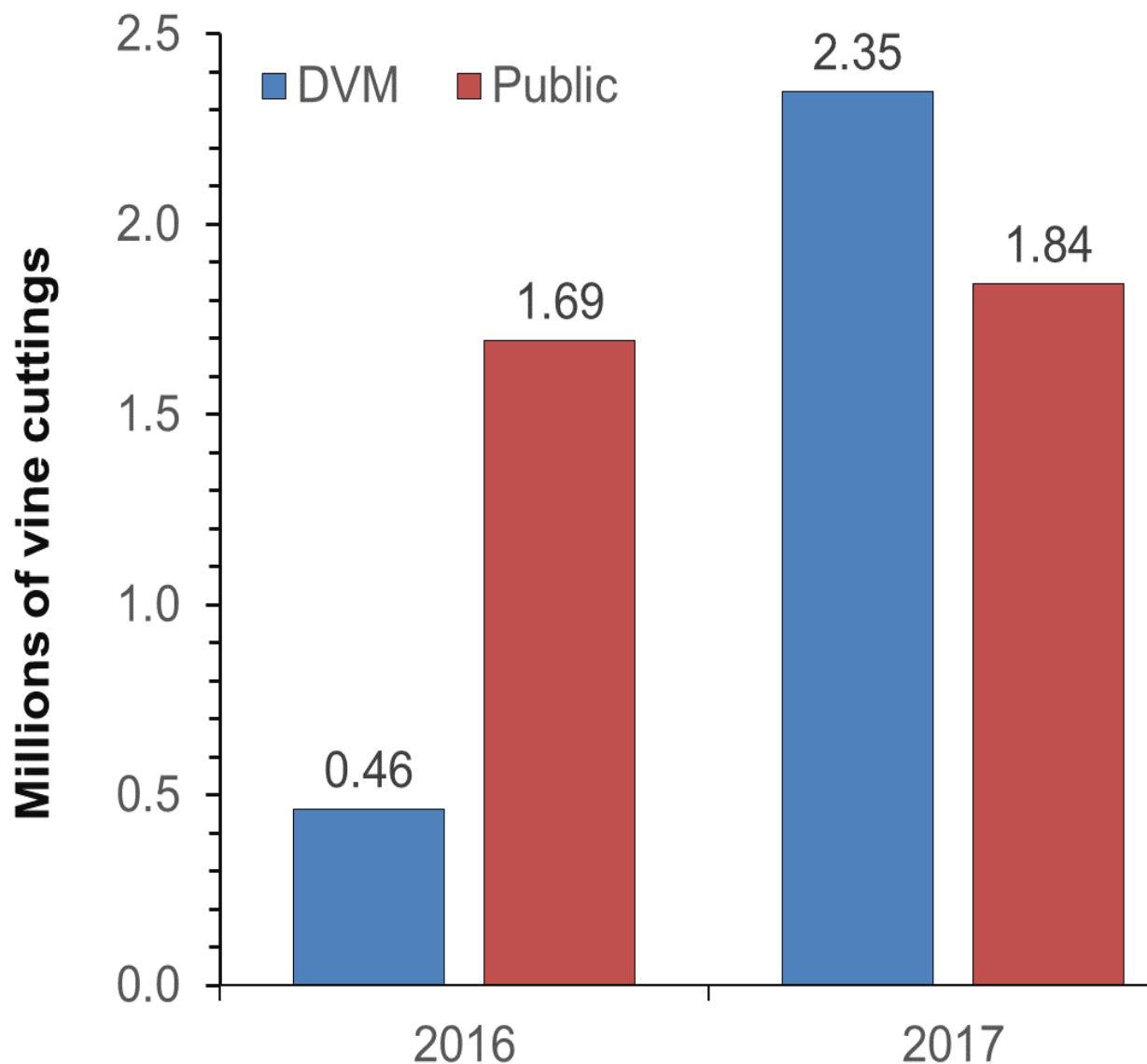


Other SRE trainings

- Sweetpotato production agronomy
- Seed production planning (crop calendars)
- Disease management

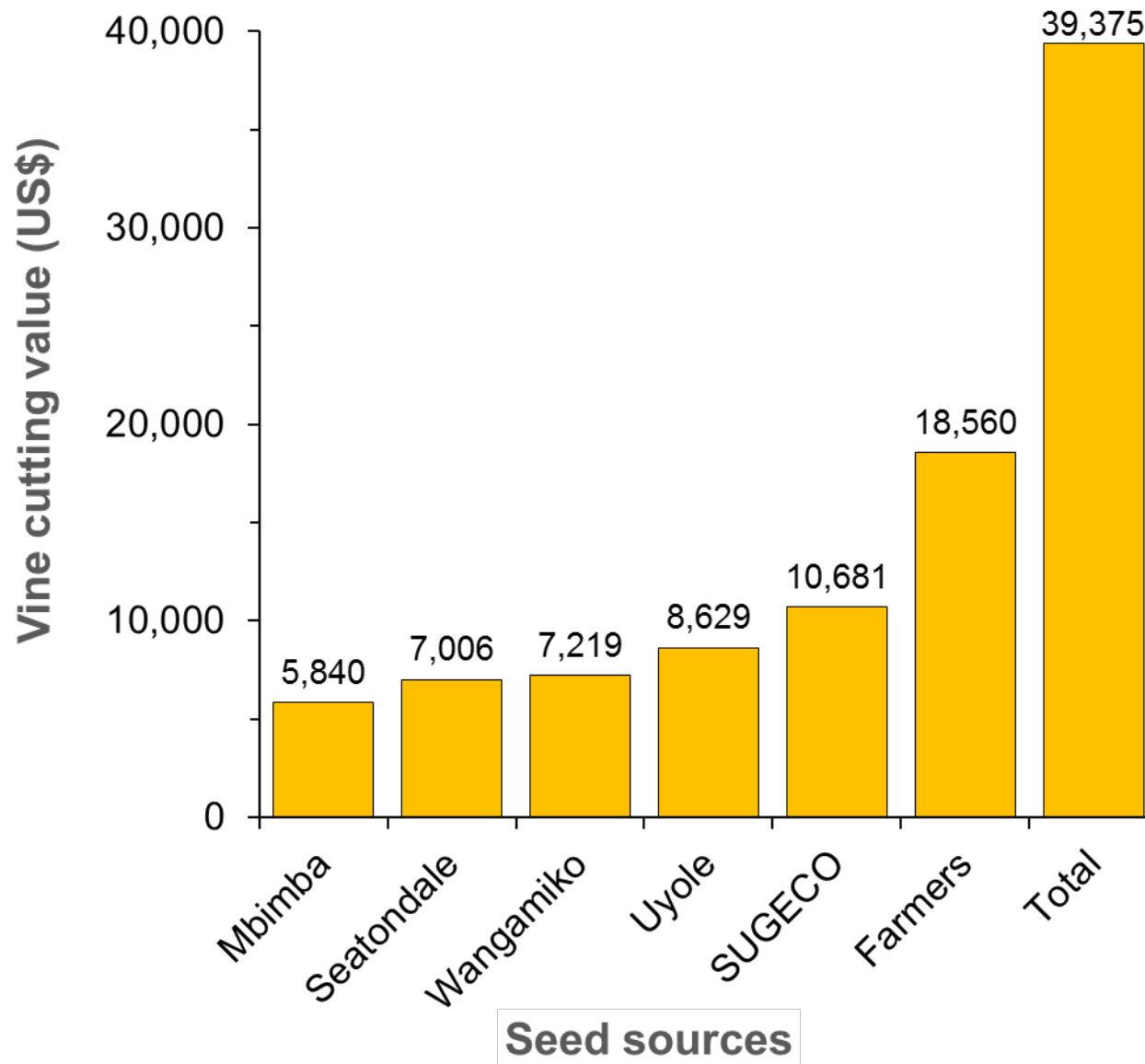


Shift in project seed source



- 2015 - No seed from both DVM's & public sources
- 2016- Major source of seed is public institutions
- 2017 – Main seed source are DVM's

Sweetpotato planting material and cash value



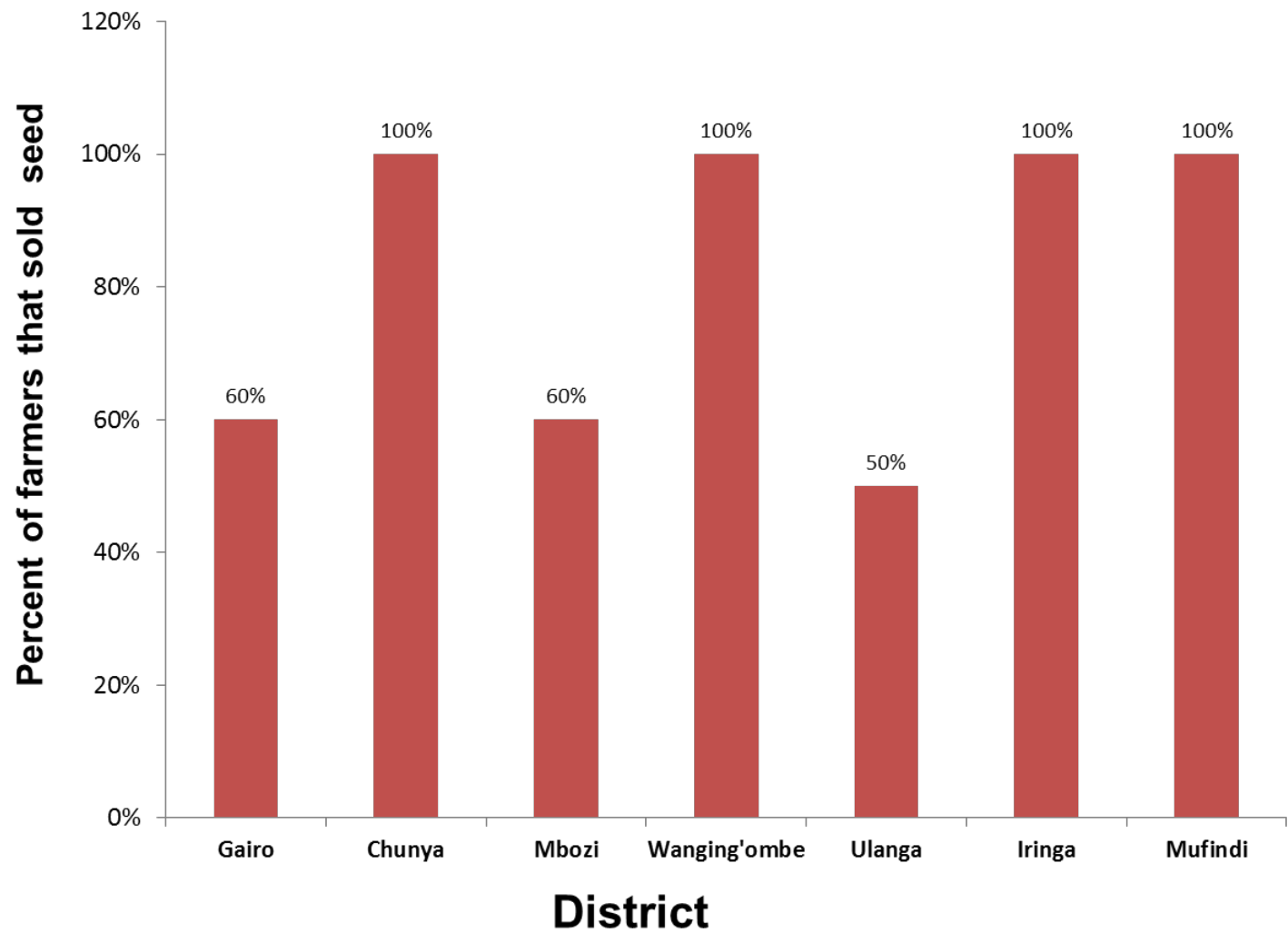
- Farmers account for $\approx 50\%$ of seed value though starting operations later
- Sustainability will depend on demand for OSFP roots
- More farmers reduce use of home-saved seed or getting it for free



SRE sales to outside sources

- Total sales from Vines TZS 19,640,400/-
(\$US 9,353)
- 1,019,920 vines cuttings sold

Success of SRE in selling sweetpotato planting material



Farmers who delayed to set vine bulking plots were not able to sell vines



Emerging lessons from this intervention

- OFSP still has low occurrence in the target districts
- SP seed systems still dominated by home saved seed
- The market for SP planting material is emerging
- Uptake for OFSP will depend on aggressive promotion and sustained supply of planting material – VISTA experience.
- More actors in seed system in SHZ enlisted than before and will need support and follow up to grow
- It is too early to make good conclusion on fresh OFSP roots since production is just picking up
- Success of this will depend on what we do after VISTA-Tz

Thanks



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