

**Sustainable
sweetpotato pre-basic
seed production Y4
Mid Year Report: June
2017 – November 2017**



Sweetpotato Action for
Security and **Health** in **Africa**



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Sweetpotato Seed Systems Community of Practice: 8th
Consultation- Sustainable Pre-basic Seed Production – SGA
Progress Review. Nairobi, Kenya 21-22 November 2017

Production: capacities

Period: current status at mid year 4 (Nov. 2017)

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	460	Trough	Sandponics	4849	6
Mobile net tunnels	0						
Open field multiplication	2	Y	280	Beds	RMT	14000	6
Basic seed multipliers					Get new materials every two seasons		

Production: targets vs actuals?

Stage	Activities	Unit (& size)	Planned no. (for period: June - December 2017)	Achieved: June - November 2017	% achievement
1	TC initiation	Plantlets			
	TC micro-propagation	Plantlets	0	347	
2	Hardening	Plants	440	787	178.86
3	Screen house multiplication	Cuttings	26474	22196	83.8
	Mobile net tunnel multiplication	Cuttings	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	Open field multiplication	Cuttings	44418	42000	94.56

- Is your multiplication calendar on track
 - What deviation and why
 - Calendar is on track
- What changes will you make to your multiplication calendar for the next 6 months?
 - Include additional 347 TC plantlets generated that were not planned for

Use of business plan tools



- What was your pricing strategy
 - Pre-basic price: (for 3-node cutting?) 0.1
 - Basic price: 0.05
- Any deviation and why: Season just starting for sale
- What is your profit margin? Est 2,348
- Do you need to change your pricing strategy? If so how? By rewarding early orders

- What were your marketing activities:
 - A. Word of mouth/Radio adverts
 - B. Soliciting by sending emails
- Which marketing activity bought most orders? No responses yet
- Do you need to change your marketing strategy? If so how? Need to wait

Use of revolving fund

Description	Local currency or US\$
<i>a. Balance of Revolving Fund bought forward from May 2017</i>	31,500
<i>b. Gross income for this reporting period: June to November 2017</i>	540
<i>c. Total disbursements towards seed production activities: June to November 2017</i>	31,440
<i>d. Other costs met from the revolving fund:</i>	600
<i>e. Balance of funds at end of reporting period available to be carried forward to the next reporting period</i>	0

US\$ exchange rate: 9.45

Explain any challenges for the revolving fund

Customer order book: future requirements

Customer name	December 2017 – May 2018		Comments
	Quantity Ordered	Advance payment?	
Scaling Up Nutrition	Not specified	None	

Comments on production targets



- Actions taken during year 4 to increase multiplication rates:
 - E.g.
- Actions taken during year 4 to reduce costs of production:
 - E.g.
- Key challenges for year 4:
 - E.g. Estimating demand
- Lessons to share for year 4:
 - E.g. Marketing challenges not unique to sweetpotato

Quality management: June November 2017



- Number of varieties under multiplication: 3
- What new varieties have been introduced in Y4?
 - A. Mansa Red
 - B.
- What new varieties will be added during remaining of Y4? None
- No. varieties tested over June – Nov 17 and results
 - Variety: Olympia result: negative.
 - Variety: Chumfya result: some positive (2%)
 - Variety: Chiwoko result: some positive (1%)
- Seed standards and inspection protocol
 - Current status: Under implementation
 - Are external inspections being conducted for field multiplication:

Yes

Stakeholder meetings: June 2017 – Nov 2017, and planned



Date of meeting held	No. participants (M/F)	Types of participant	Main topics	Follow up actions
23 rd October 2017	17/1	Multipliers, Root producers, Research, Extension, Media, Farmers Association, NGOs, Ministry of Health	Importance of quality seed, How and where to source seed, Necessity of seed demand estimation, Calender	Entities requiring seed to indicate by third week of November, Next meeting set for April

Stakeholder meetings: June 2017 – Nov 2017, and planned



Planned meetings (Dec 17 – May 18)

Proposed Date	No. participants	Types of participants	Main topics	Proposed budget
April	15/5	Multipliers, Root producers, Research, Extension, Media, Farmers Association	Review what has transpired and plan way forward	855

Training – in-country (June Nov 2017)



Date	Topic	No. participants (M/F)	Training materials available	Comments
8 th November 2017	Varietal characteristics, Seed multiplication (conventional and rapid)	30/17	Powerpoint presentations, handouts, hands on practicals	Participants to continue monitoring the seed planted during practical
Planned for Dec 2017 – May 2018				
Date	Topic	No. participants (M/F)	Training materials available	Proposed budget
April 2018	Sweetpotato calender, pests and diseases, Vine production entrepreneurship	30/17	Presentation, handouts, hands on practicals	651.54

Marketing strategy: June 2017 – May 2018



	Target group	Message & activity	Time period	Channel/s	Responsible	Proposed budget	Indicator of success
1.	Multipliers	importance of clean planting material and source, varietal characteristics	Nov 2017 – May 2018	demo, radio, posters, written	field day preparation, radio scripts, labels, signboards, demo plot materials	1910.88	Increased demand for clean planting material
2.	NGOs/institutions/projects	importance of clean planting material	Aug, 2017	Stakeholders meeting, e-mail	Meeting preparation	3,175	Increased demand for clean planting

Marketing strategy: June 2017 – May 2018



	Target group	Message & activity	Time period	Channel/s	Responsible	Proposed budget	Indicator of success
3	Root producers	importance of clean planting material and source, varietal characteristics	Oct 2017 – May 2018	Written, demos, radio	field day preparation, radio scripts, labels, roadside/market stall, signboards, demo plot materials	1910.88	Increased productivity
4	Consumers	Value of OFSP, varietal characteristics	Aug 2017 – May 2018	Radio, written	radio scripts, fliers, recipes	887.44	Increased demand for roots

Dec 17 - May 2018: key areas for strengthening performance of bizplan



- Technical
 -
- Institutional
 - Linkages in the value chain to facilitate estimating demand
- Financial

2 BEST PHOTOS

Hardening TC plantlets



Improvised humidity chamber



Inside the chamber



Credit: Martin Chiona