

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



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



Name, BioCrops (U) Ltd
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	No	315	Trough	RMT	18,200	15
Basic seed multipliers	3	No	76	Variety of containers	RMT/Conve	10,100	4
Open field multiplication	17	No	68,000	Flat beds, mounds and ridges	Conventional	12,000	3

Production: targets vs actuals?

Stage	Activities	Unit (& size)	Planned no. (for period: June - December 2017)	Achieved: June - November 2017	% achievement
1	TC initiation	Plantlets	Maintenance of vitro cultures		100
	TC micro-propagation	Plantlets	600	820	100+
2	Hardening	Plants	10,000	6,000	60
3	Screen house multiplication	Cuttings	15,000	21,350	100+
4	Open field multiplication	Cuttings	1,278,000	571,350	45

- Is your multiplication calendar on track
 - ***No; Reliance of rain delay sales of cuttings and potatoes are planted last in relation to other crops***
- What changes will you make to your multiplication calendar for the next 6 months

Use of business plan tools



- What was your pricing strategy
 - Pre-basic price (6-node cutting): **\$ 1.39 @ 100 cuttings**
 - Basic price: **\$2.7-8.3 for a bag of 1000 cuttings**
- ***Deviation created by type***
- ***Profits can not reliably be calculated as sales are still sporadic***
- ***Pricing strategy is to increase demand so that the volumes procured increase to cover the production costs***

- What were your marketing activities:
 - A: ***Field demos***
 - B: ***Agricultural shows***
- Which marketing activity bought most orders?
Agricultural shows
- Do you need to change your marketing strategy? If so how? ***YES, by sensitizing the big NGOs and local governments***

Use of revolving fund

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

US\$ exchange rate:

Explain any challenges for the revolving fund

Customer order book: future requirements

Customer name	December 2017 – May 2018		Comments
	Quantity Ordered	Advance payment?	

Comments on production targets



- Actions taken during year 4 to increase multiplication rates:
 - ***Using poultry manure as a cheap fertilizer***
- Actions taken during year 4 to reduce costs of production:
 - ***Using low cost readily available potting component***
- Key challenges for year 4:
 - ***Drought; funding establishment of screen house by some BVMs***
- Lessons to share for year 4:
 - ***Farmers have learnt rapid multiplication and therefore intentionally buy few clean vines that they bulk by themselves***

Quality management: June November 2017



- Number of varieties under multiplication: **6 varieties**
- What new varieties have been introduced in Y4?: **NONE**
- What new varieties will be added during remaining of Y4
Naspot 13
- No. varieties tested over June – Nov 17 and results
 - **No disease symptoms have been detected so far**
- Seed standards and inspection protocol
 - **National inspection guidelines are in place and have been field tested for validation**
 - **Inspectors have been trained**
 - **Next stage is for the trained inspectors to be accredited by the ministry of Agriculture**

Stakeholder meetings: June 2017 – Nov 2017, and planned



Date of meeting held	No. participants (M/F)	Types of participant	Main topics	Follow up actions
Establishing demo	23 (6/17)	BVMs, farmers and local administrators	Benefits of OFSP, and clean planting materials	Harvesting to evaluate performance
Planned meetings (Dec 17 – May 18)				
Proposed Date	No. participants	Types of participants	Main topics	Proposed budget
Field day		BVMs, farmers and local administrators	Benefits of OFSP & and clean cuttings; multiplication techniques	1,400
Radio talks		BioCrops, CIP	Benefits of OFSP & clean cuttings, sources	1,750
Demonstrations		BVMs, farmers and local administrators	Benefits of OFSP, and clean planting materials	2,400

Training – in-country (June Nov 2017)



Date	Topic	No. participants (M/F)	Training materials available	Comments
Planned for Dec 2017 – May 2018				
Date	Topic	No. participants (M/F)	Training materials available	Proposed budget

Marketing strategy: June 2017 – May 2018



	Target group	Message & activity	Time period	Channel/s	Responsible	Proposed budget	Indicator of success
1.	Local leaders, government production officers, Agro input dealers	Benefits of OFSP, yield gains from clean cuttings, & and clean cuttings; multiplication techniques		Radio, Demo, Field days	BioCrops, BVMs, DVMs	6,500	Multiplication area planted; Volume of vines sold
2.	BVMs and DVMs	Creating demand for roots through flour processing and utilization			BioCrops		Volume of flour processed and marketed

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



- Technical
 - ***Skilling vine multipliers in root processing to increase demand for clean planting materials***
- Institutional
 - ***Strengthening collaboration of vine multipliers with local government departments and NGOs***
- Financial
 - ***Financing opportunities to vine multipliers and processors***

2 BEST PHOTOS



BioCrops advertising its clean seed production technology and products stall during a food sustainability day at Bushenyi

Mr. Alex Bamwesigye