

# Quality Diets for Better Health

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## Problem

In Ethiopia 38% of children under age 5 are stunted; 10% are wasted; 24% are underweight.

The feeding practices of only 7% of children age 6-23 months meet minimum acceptable dietary standards; only 14% had an adequately diverse diet (CSA 2017)

## Hypothesis

The farming and consumption of new OFSP varieties combined with nutrition education and value chain development will significantly reduce VAD and improve dietary diversity

## Project Overview

- Duration:** 54 months starting 22/12/2016
- Intervention area:** three *woredas* in the Gedeo and Sidama zones in SNNPR (Ethiopia)
- Targets:** 15,000 direct, 60,000 indirect rural beneficiary households and more than 60,000 urban consumers
- Approach:**
  - Select and multiply varieties that are better adapted to local agro-ecologies;
  - Establish a seed system using “Farmer Training Centers” (FTC) and private farmers;
  - Train agricultural and health extension workers and community volunteers;
  - Enroll mothers and fathers in “Healthy Living Clubs” (HLC);
  - Identify and promote viable OFSP derived products;
  - Integrate OFSP as part of the annual work plan by the Bureau of Agriculture

## Partnerships

### Sothorn Agricultural Research Institute

- Variety development
- Participatory assessment of three locally bred varieties and four varieties introduced from Uganda (Naspot 12, Naspot 13, Kabode and Vita)
- Ensure official release of selected varieties (With SASHA)

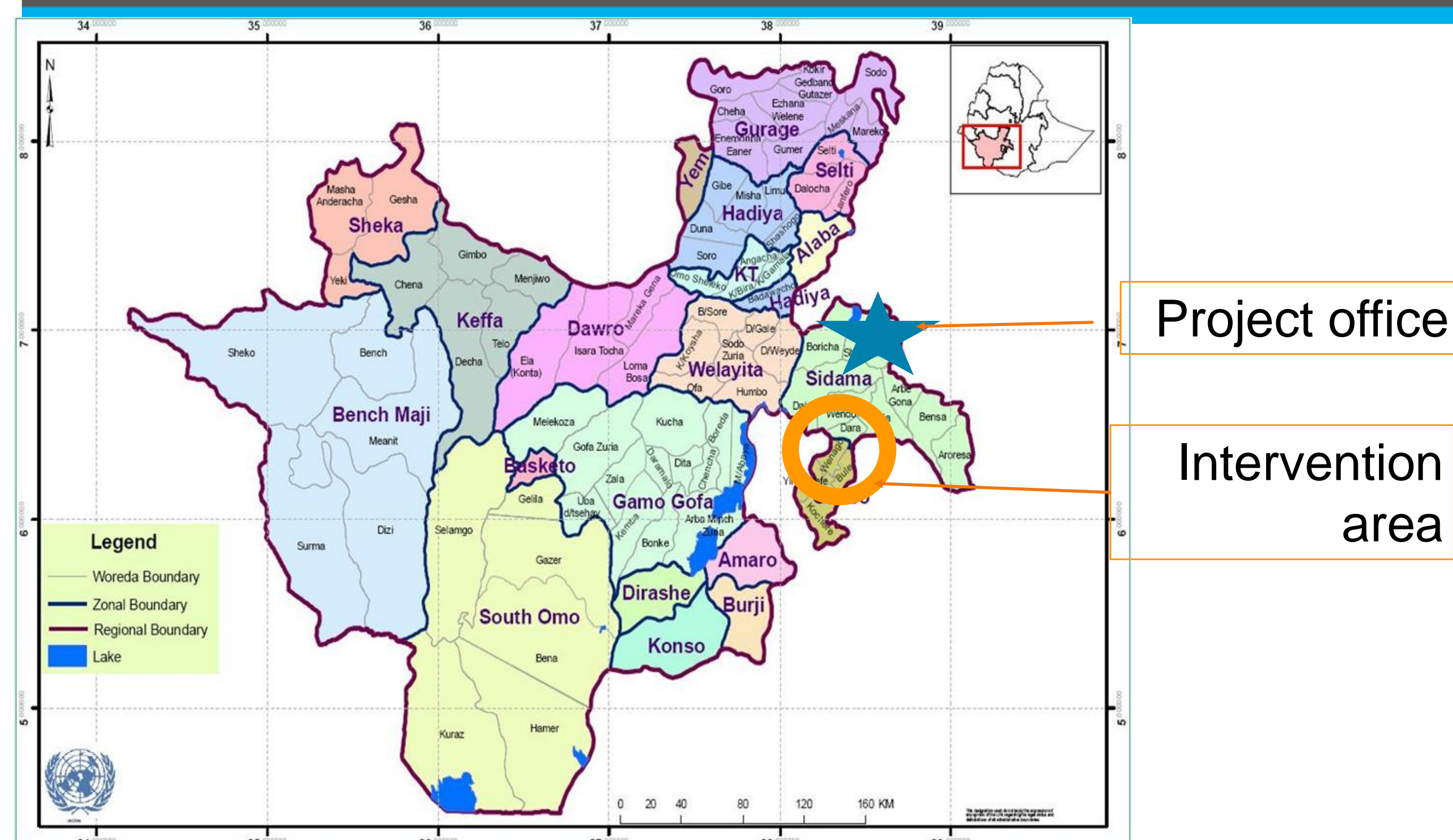
### Emory University

- Formative research on boosters and barriers to improved infant and child feeding practices
- Design appropriate tools
- Carry out longitudinal study that shows the impact of the tools and the Healthy Living Clubs

### People in Need (PIN)

- Assistance to FTCs including providing key (irrigation) equipment;
- Training of Agricultural extension workers;
- Training of Health Extension workers and Health Development Army members;
- Support to the HLCs;
- Monitoring.

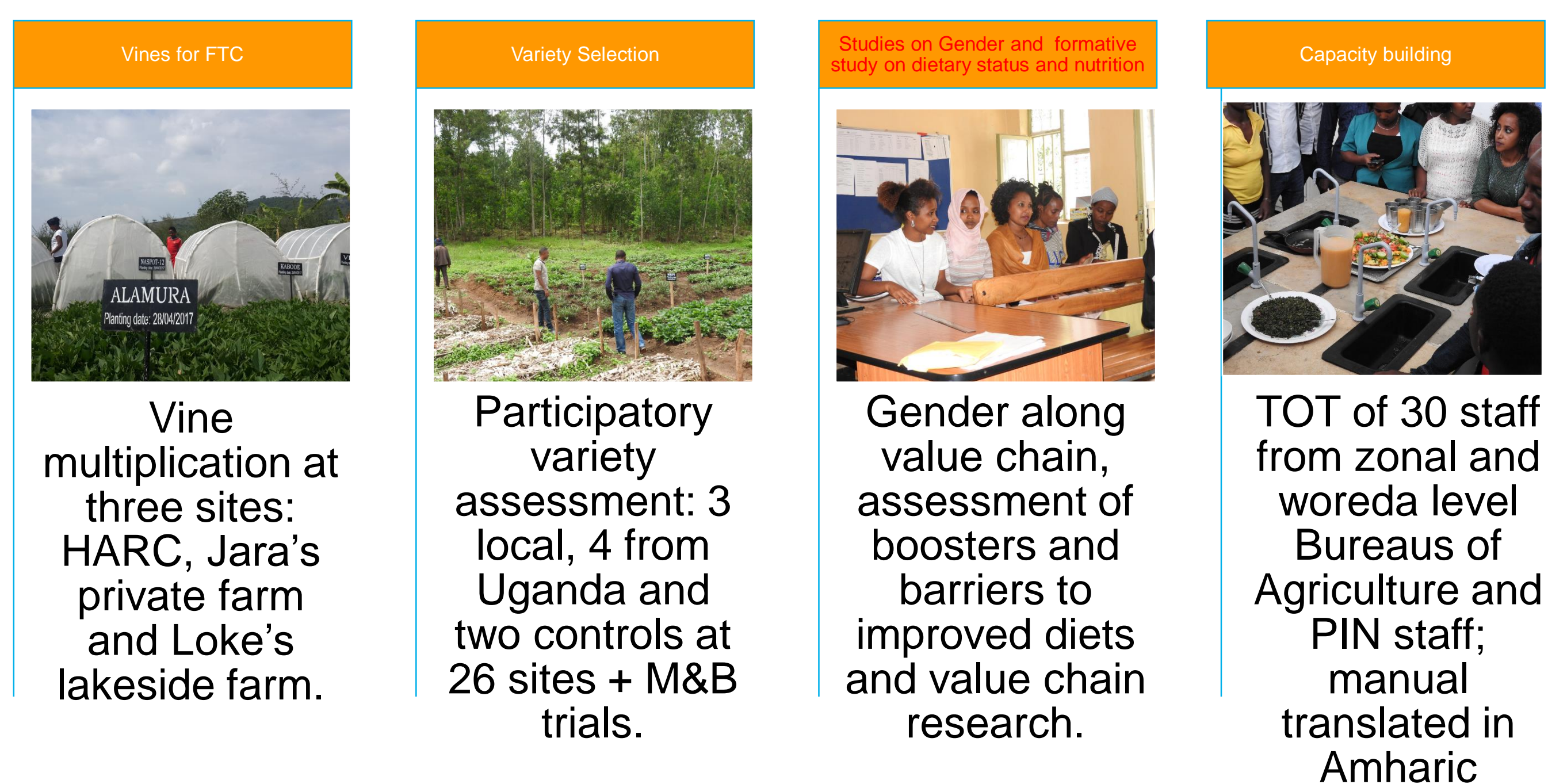
## Intervention area



Project office

Intervention area

## Activities



## Important Observations

- The dominant components in the local farming systems are perennial crops
- Market availability and accessibility of food items are crucial as local farming systems are dominated by cash crops (khat and coffee)
- The existing OFSP variety is not well adapted to local agro-ecology
- Women are active along the value chain but control smaller volumes and values
- There are specialized Traditional Vine Multipliers (TVM) who may reproduce vines from the same stock for decades
- There is a regional specialization with farmers in the coffee area producing vines and farmers in neighbouring areas producing roots

## Cuttings disseminated to demonstration plots

Variety	Origin		Grand Total	Percent	
	HARC	Jara			Loke
Alamura		2290	974	3264	13%
Awassa - 83	360	1900	469	2729	11%
Dilla		2290	854	3144	13%
Halaba		2290	925	3215	13%
Kabode	180	1930	450	2560	11%
Kulfo	1800		1299	3099	12%
NASPOT - 12	830	100	400	1330	5%
NASPOT - 13	1980	100	360	2440	10%
Vita		1900	754	2654	11%
Grand Total	5150	12800	6485	24435	100%
Percent	21%	53%	26%	100%	

## Main achievements and findings

- Project is only nine months old.
- Key achievements: 3 multiplication sites, 26 demoplots, 2 studies (gender in the value chain study, formative nutrition research), 1 TOT with manual translated in Amharic.
- Main findings till now:
  - Women are active along the entire value chain but operate smaller volumes and have less decision power and control
  - There are Traditional Vine Multipliers (TVM) capable of maintaining planting stock for decades
  - Lack of quality planting materials for the main season has reduced the availability of sweetpotato over time
  - The local farming system poses challenges to sweetpotato upscaling as landholdings are small and the farming system is dominated by perineal (tree) crops
  - It may be possible intercrop OFSP with khat for vine and root production
  - Gedeo farmers are integrated with neighbouring Oromia by sharecropping arrangements and by selling vines to local farmers
  - People find sweetpotato “boring” because they only know to eat it boiled: new recipes and cooking demonstrations may change that
  - People don’t eat sweetpotato leaves but consider it as animal fodder

## Works Cited

- CSA 2017. Ethiopia - Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Addis Ababa, Central Statistical Agency and Rockville (MY), The DHS Program ICF.
- Mudege, N.N; Biazin, B.T. 2017. Gender situational analysis of the sweetpotato value chain in selected districts in Sidama and Gedeo Zones. In prep.

