

**CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB) Scaling Fund  
Scaling Sweetpotato Triple S PLUS Joint Team Meeting  
Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
Jacaranda Hotel  
Nairobi, Kenya**



*RTB Scaling Fund Workshop Triple S+ Team Group Photo. 9th March 2018, Jacaranda Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya. Credit: Jacaranda Hotel.*

*Compiled by Rosemary Kihiu*



RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Roots, Tubers  
and Bananas



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## Acknowledgements

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## Acronyms

BoANRD	Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resource Development
GROW	Greater Rural Opportunities for Women (MEDA implemented project)
IP	Impact Pathway
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MEDA	Mennonite Economic Development Associates
ODK	Open Data Kit
OFSP	Orange Fleshed Sweetpotato
RTB	CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas
RING	Resiliency in Northern Ghana (Global Communities, USAID funded project)
SARI	Southern Agricultural Research Institute, SNNPR Ethiopia
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region.
ToC	Theory of Change
ToS	Theory of Scaling
ToT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFSP	White-Fleshed Sweetpotato
WUR	Wageningen University and Research

## Present

Seerp Wigboldus (WUR)	Sam Namanda (CIP, RTB)
Murat Sartas (IITA, RTB)	Tom Van Mourik (CIP, RTB)
Germane Garuma (BoANRD, Ethiopia)	Sarah Mayanja (CIP, RTB)
Mihiretu Cherinet (CIP, RTB)	Frezer Asfaw (CIP, RTB)
Erna Abidin (CIP, RTB)	Rosemary Kihiu (CIP, RTB)
Graham Thiele (RTB)	Margaret McEwan (CIP, RTB)

## Agenda

Time	Activity
8:30-9:30	Presentation of Scaling experiences and plans for Ethiopia (Ato Germame) Presentations of Scaling experiences and plans for Ghana (Erna Abidin) Discussion
9:30-10:30h	Adapt tentative ToS for Ethiopia and Ghana based on template
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-11:00	Plenary discussion on ToS
11:00-11:45	Video and discussion about what mechanisms could be used for disseminating the training videos
11:45-12:30	Communication and reporting within RTB-Scaling
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:00	MELs Frazer presents his ideas on MEL and proposes key indicators to measure success of the scaling process and KAP of farmers.
15:00-16:00	What needs to happen in the country startup workshops
16:00-17:00	Wrap up and next steps

## Introduction and overview

The meeting began with a quick introduction of Sarah Mayanja, a gender specialist, who had joined the workshop that morning. The team proceeded to share their thoughts on the previous three days of the CGIAR Research Program on Roots Tubers and Bananas (RTB) Scaling Fund Kick Off Workshop, working on the tools and gauging how ready they were as teams for the next stage – country kick off workshops with partners.

A question was raised around specific project research areas given the nature of the organisation as a research organisation which needs to publish research papers. Margaret McEwan emphasized the need to bear in mind that the focus of the scaling fund is to support research on scaling processes and so the research is not on the technical areas of the project.

The general sentiment from the previous three days was that there had been a lot of learning especially around core innovations/components and complementary ones. There was also an appreciation of what it means to handle a component that is a bottleneck i.e. the different options available.

## Reflections

(See Appendix 1)

- How has the use of the readiness to scale tools (unpack, assess readiness for use) changed your thinking on how we should scale up Triple S plus?
- Gender elements not explicitly addressed in the readiness tools/process. The technology needs to show the people element

- Gender work at scale? Target in the project document is 50% women. Selection of partners is based on their having delivery channels that target women.
- In Ethiopia there is the Women's Development Army; so we need to redesign our approach so that we can use this to reach our 50% target of women.

### Presentation of Scaling Experiences for Ethiopia - Ato Germame Garuma



Scaling in Ethiopia  
- Ato Germame.pptx

This presentation highlighted the approach that the Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resource Development (BoANRD) in the Southern Nation Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR) of Ethiopia, which is focused on improving agriculture as 70% of the country's 100 million plus population is employed by the agricultural sector. Ethiopia's Agricultural Sector Policy and Investment Framework (2010-2020) has prioritized agriculture in Strategic Objective 1 which states 'to achieve a sustainable increase in agricultural productivity and production' as a goal.

The BoARND uses demonstration plots, capacity building, Training of Trainers (ToTs) at regional level, ToTs at district level and the women's development armies as scaling approaches. There is a robust network of extension channels in place.

Comments and questions from the session:

*Ted Carey:* This is a good technology for dissemination and scaling with good aspirations. How successful do you think Triple S could be at this stage given your experience?

*Germame:* Global warming has seriously affected root crops due to prolonged drought. This technology will help solve this problem, I think it will be successful. We will work towards 50% men/women target. We have massive field days and we will use that for scaling project.

*MMC:* To put it another way, what would make Triple S fail i.e. we have not reached target number of households or people are not using this technology.

*Germame:* We think we will be successful.

*Tom:* In the area, how many people are growing sweetpotato, and especially OFSP and are available and willing to participate in scaling?

*Sam:* There is a method of scaling already in place; partners need to be oriented to our method of scaling; which of the dissemination approaches will you have as a standard approach especially for Triple S?

*Sarah:* Does the Bureau have strategies to encourage change in the nutrition sensitive areas?

*Germame:* Yes, there is a challenge in the region. The people of Ethiopia are very selective in what they eat-a real challenge e.g. dependence of teff which is poor in nutrition. There is a department in the Bureau tasked with rolling out ways of preparing nutritious food to the women. E.g. cooking sweetpotato leaves with eggs. We are also scaling a project where every farmer grows vegetables and fruits in their backyards

Statistics for sweetpotato growth: OFSP farmers are more than 5% (which is still low) and the proportion of land allocated to OFSP is very low but growing.

*MMC:* one of the challenges is that OFSP is more susceptible to drought, thus the benefit of using Triple S. The SARI (Southern Agricultural Research Institute) breeder is also now producing varieties with higher dry matter content.

#### **Presentation on Triple S in Ghana – Erna Abidin**

The presentation highlighted the storage methods used by households. A storage structure built as a small extension of the wall of the main house has proved to be a good solution to the spoilage experienced due to occasional flooding experienced using traditional methods.

Initially, after two months of sand storage 50% of stored roots were lost. Now after two months, only 10% is lost in the North Region; in the Upper East Region over 30 % were lost. However in the Upper East the selection of roots was not very good.

**Strategic Approach with Farmers:** CIP Ghana works with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, but they have a limited extension reach. However, in Ghana there are a lot of NGOs that work with farmers with a larger reach. E.g. USAID - RING project which is targeting OFSP root production for 75,000 farmers. USAID - RING is focused on women saving groups. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture has a smaller project.

#### **Comments**

*Mihiretu:* impressed by the feasibility of using “Double S” (storage in sand for fresh root consumption). Have you tested with other varieties? What is the farmers confidence about building a permanent structure next to their house? Have you done a sensory evaluation for roots eaten after storage for five months?

*Erna:* We picked varieties that were already selected by farmers using the traditional methods. Just recently we tested for household consumption after storage for four months - the women liked it! The quality is good, and the roots are firmer now because the proportion of dry matter increases. Our challenge now is to increase sensitization that the technology works.

*TM:* tested with two varieties with OFSP, need to test with WFSP

*Sam:* Triple S has a component of seasonal timing. Need to synchronize the different seasons in the two countries

*MMC:* The seasonal calendars are in the proposal; time limit is the reason why Ethiopia is not using positive selection but the project will provide the roots for Triple S.

*Ted Carey:* Box in the house is a lot more efficient than the pit, especially in management. One of the drivers of adoption is that OFSP has increased in recognition of importance and has become an income generator. In the Eastern Region the WFSP is the income generator, and the Triple S technology may be important there for planting material and household consumption.

## **Similarities and differences between Triple S PLUS in Ghana and Ethiopia**

### **Similarities**

- I. It is difficult to maintain planting material with OFSP vis a vis WFSP
- II. Target areas are drought prone areas

### **Differences**

- I. Scaling partners are different: the Government in Ethiopia and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) in Ghana. An extension system does not really exist In Ghana. There is an existing and robust one in Ethiopia
- II. Ethiopia is focusing on just seed while Ghana is focusing on dual consumption of both root and seed
- III. Target: Whole population where sweetpotato is important in Ghana. Women the major target in Ethiopia, sweetpotato is not important as a food crop however OFSP is becoming more important as market grows
- IV. Temperature – Elevation of 1800m mid to low level in Ethiopia, in Ghana is about 200 m (negligible). This affects respiration and potential length of time of storage.

## **Adapting tentative Theory of Scaling for Ethiopia and Ghana based on template**

### **Plenary Feedback**

#### Ghana

- Workplans adopted/adapted to engage with extension systems of some partners
  - Innovation profile tool
  - Involvement profile tool
- Bring identified bottlenecks to country workshop for further discussion
- Using multichannel communication approach, already in project document but now need to give it more focus
- Training video that shows Triple S core components with special focus on delivery channels

#### Ethiopia

The team Identified core components for improvement

Title: Planting out of sprouted roots and management to multiply quality vines

Change: Replace the fourth core component

Improve: Continued follow up

: Training and technical backstopping

Title: Men and women farmers and/or NGOs buying vines from DVMs

Change: Engender innovations - recognize that men and women source vines differently

: Build perspective to improve monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)

## Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) presentation



Presentation on  
MEL - Frezer Asfaw.

Frezer Asfaw presented his ideas on MEL. Comments during his presentation:

- Good quantitative approaches shared so far (ODK and CISPro), but for good knowledge attitudes, there is need for qualitative evidence. Use field days and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) to capture this information
- From the gender perspective, when designing tools remember women are not a uniform category.
- Note to include youth deliberately. When collecting data, include a portion on youth

### Country Start-up meetings: Action Plan

Goal	Activities	How will we achieve this	With who?
1. Build relationships and understand partners and the way we work together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understand how they will implement especially their organisation structure</li> <li>- What SP activities are present in their projects</li> <li>- Introduction to Triple S project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rich picture: A participatory approach. A potential entry point</li> <li>• Validating the tentative ToS</li> </ul>	MoFA, RING, GROW, SARI, CIP – 5 +M&E
2. Common understanding of Triple S in context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Components: results of step 1-3</li> <li>- Concept and what is involved in ToS “how we think scaling can happen” the package</li> <li>- How scaling Triple S is relevant i.e. how it fits into their picture</li> </ul>		
3. Envisage way forward together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Validate tentative ToS (entry point for Theory of Change /Impact Pathway)</li> <li>- Adjust on feedback</li> </ul>		
4. Towards a collaborative Effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assign roles and responsibilities and tentative agreements</li> <li>- How to shape collaborative effort with milestones and timelines</li> <li>- Staying connected i.e. communication and reporting and MEL (initial discussion on existing systems)</li> </ul>		

## **Communications and reporting**

The team agreed that there is need to ensure a smooth and frequent flow of information and knowledge especially because there were great expectations yet the project period of two years is short.

The following methods of communicating, information and knowledge management were agreed upon

- A D-Group to hold discussions on topical issues like what happens currently in the sweetpotato seed systems community of practice
- A central storage for all information – one stop shop. SharePoint online was suggested as a possible solution; the major challenge is access in areas of low connectivity such as Ethiopia.
- Bite sized stories on topical areas highlighting the ongoing Triple S journey
- Success stories on both the process and farmers.

The following was agreed upon with respect to reporting

- Quarterly process monitoring report at RTB SF level
- Bi-weekly reporting (emphasis on a light template)

## **Wrap Up**

Several items were raised as food for thought and discussion later. These are listed below

- Research issues – what is possible from a technical perspective?
- Gender – exploring further the Null Hypothesis (H0) – including women in Triple S scaling will slow down the process, and the alternative hypothesis (H) - Including women may slow down the process initially but reach a larger number and have greater impact in the long term.
- The need to review workplans
- M&E – defining common variables and indicators.
- The need to keep focussing on scaling.

## **Appendix 1**

### **RTB scaling fund – reflection on use of scaling readiness tool**

Triple S PLUS team

March 11, 2018.

Reflections from: Erna Abidin, Mihiretu Cherinet, Frezer Asfaw, Sam Namanda, Germame Garuma, Sarah Mayanja, Rosemary Kihiu, Margaret McEwan

#### **Germame Garuma (Scaling Partner: BoANRD, Ethiopia).**

I have now understood that “scaling” is not just about one issue e.g. the technology, or training; it is a package. This includes, policy elements, infrastructure (power, ITC) and markets. I realised this from the presentation by Marc. This means we need to involve other departments, ministries and sectors at the regional level, e.g. Cooperative management, Trade and Industry. Under the Agriculture Growth Plan (AGP) we have regular coordination meetings. I will present these new ideas on scaling to my boss and then to this coordination meeting for discussion. Previously we have always started dissemination on a huge scale – but through the readiness tool, I can see that we should start on a more limited scale to validate the readiness of different components. I have also seen through using the readiness tool for Triple S, that a key assumption is that there is sufficient starter seed so I will liaise with the Southern Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) to ensure that this is in place. In our structure, SARI reports to the BoANRD.

#### **Sam Namanda (CIP-Uganda – technical backstopping)**

My thinking has changed; we need to also think about how to conduct technical research on how the technology performs as we try to reach more farmers – i.e. will it still produce quality planting material. I have also appreciated (through the unpacking step) – that not all components of Triple S are scalable in the same way (e.g. selection of healthy plants); loading the container; monitoring during the storage period.

#### **Sam Namanda and Erna Abidin (CIP-Ghana –Seed Systems Consultant)**

As we worked on the readiness and use tool, it helped us think through our approach to orientate different partners and their roles. However good the technology is, unless we identify the right partners we may not succeed.

#### **Margaret McEwan (CIP-SSA project lead)**

I realised that as not all team members had had the same involvement in writing the proposal, systematically unpacking Triple S helped to surface implicit assumptions and started to build a stronger mutual understanding of what the technology was in different country contexts. This helped us to discuss and agree on what were the essential elements common to both countries. We worked through the readiness scale and use scale, and this showed us what was the weakest link – which was different for each country (e.g. Ghana already had used positive selection for sweetpotato – but in Ethiopia this had only been done for potato). So being able to compare across countries also enriched the discussion and cross-country learning process. This then allowed us to draw on our different disciplines and

experiences to think about alternative strategies to address the weakest link – i.e. substitution, improvement of the innovation, re-location, re-orientation of goals.

I think that we have stronger common understanding of the importance of communication for behaviour change and the need to use multi-media channels at different levels to reinforce the message.

My concern is that reaching more farmers across wider geographical areas requires simplification and standardisation. How do we ensure that we do not end up with a “blue print” approach which ignores the situation and needs of different types of farmers? We have tried all along to ask – who is this ready for and where – is it ready for male and female farmers – is the technology validated for their different needs. Who is using the technology – a project or partner may have used the technology – but with what kind of farmer?

Also, as we work with more and different kinds of scaling partners – we need to distil the elements of the scaling readiness approach, so that we can work together in a new way and not fall back into the narrow and linear thinking on scaling (do we need a video on scaling?)

**Frezer Asfaw and Mihiretu Cherinet (CIP Ethiopia – MEL and Scaling Champion)**

The readiness to scale tool helped me to unpack components to understand the level of readiness of each component in Ethiopia and Ghana and so we could be able to identify the appropriate priority intervention for each country. I thought that all Triple S components were on the same level, but now I understand that they are not. We could then identify the bottleneck and find ways of resolving it through substitution – e.g. outsourcing to obtain healthy roots, rather than starting from that stage in the implementation cycle.

**Tom van Mourik (CIP Ghana – using video as an extension tool)**

Unpacking and assessing readiness led to two additional innovations: i) what kind of dissemination strategy or delivery channel was required for the videos; ii) adapting our dissemination approach to the structure and approach that scaling partners were already using.

**Sarah Mayanja (CIP-Uganda – gender specialist)**

On hearing our different reflections and recognising that I did not participate earlier in the week – I am still concerned that I am hearing a lot about the technology and not so much about the people who will be using the technology. How have the readiness for scaling tools helped us to understand the need to use different strategies for different types of farmers.

(This led us to think of testing two hypotheses: i) the specific inclusion of gender will slow down the scaling process; ii) the specific inclusion of gender, may take more time at the start, but in the end, will lead to greater and more inclusive scaling).