

# Sustainable sweetpotato pre-basic seed production Annual Update: June 2017-May 2018



Name, BioCrops (U) Ltd  
Sweetpotato Seed Systems Community of Practice: 8th  
Consultation- Sustainable Pre-basic Seed Production – SGA  
Progress Review. Kigali, Rwanda 13-17 May 2018

# Production: capacities

Period: current status at First Quarter (March. 2018)

<b>Facilities</b>	<b>No. units</b>	<b>Irrigation (Y/N)</b>	<b>Total m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Method (poly, pot, bench/trough, open)</b>	<b>RMT/Conventional</b>	<b>Total no. of plants</b>	<b>Multiplication Rate</b>
Screen house	2	Yes	315	Trough	RMT	11,880	15
Basic seed multipliers	3	Yes	76	Variety of containers	RMT/Conve	7,620	4
Open field multiplication	38	No	20,000	Flat beds, mounds and ridges	Conventional	1,112,000	3

# Production: targets vs actuals?

Stage	Activities	Unit (& size)	Planned no. (for period: June 2017-May 2018)	Achieved: June 2017-May 2018	% achievement
1	TC initiation	Plantlets	Maintenance of vitro cultures		100
	TC micro-propagation	Plantlets	600	745	100
2	Hardening	Plants	10,000	6,120	61
3	Screen house multiplication	Cuttings	15,000	25,350	100
4	Open field multiplication	Bags	1,278,000	2,171,000	100

- Is your multiplication calendar on track
  - *No; Reliance of rain delay sale of cuttings as potatoes are planted last in relation to other crops*
- What changes will you make to your multiplication calendar for the next 6 months: *Open field multiplication will be by ratoons.*

- What was your pricing strategy
  - Pre-basic price (**6-node cutting?**):
    - *Maximising on organizations procurements,*
    - *Collective promotion with multipliers who do open field of Certified 1 grade cuttings.*
    - *Selling in small bundles of \$ 1.39 @ 100 cuttings*
  - Basic (Screen house material-Secondary multipliers) price:  
*UgSh 40,000 (\$10.1) for a bag of 1000 cuttings*
  - *Deviation created by stringency in management and quality of vines*

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

# 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 to establish screen house by some BVMs***
- Lessons to share for year 4:
  - ***Farmers have learnt rapid multiplication and therefore buy few clean vines that they bulk by themselves***
  - ***Variation in Orange colour and texture influence acceptability and marketability of tubers.***
  - ***Variety preference moves with new releases***

# Quality management: June November 2017



- Number of varieties under multiplication: **7 varieties**
- What new varieties have been introduced in Y4?: **Naspot 13**
- What new varieties will be added during remaining of Y4  
**NONE**
  - No. varieties tested over Dec 17 to March 2018 and results
    - **No disease symptoms have been detected so far**
  - Seed standards and inspection protocol
    - **National inspection guidelines are in place and being implemented.**
    - **Amendments have been made in isolation distances and production areas.**

# Stakeholder meetings: June 2017 – May 2018, and planned



Date of meeting held	No. participants (M/F)	Types of participant	Main topics	Follow up actions
Harvesting demos	51 (14/37)	BVMs, farmers and local administrators	Benefits of OFSP, clean seed, taste of cooked tubers, processed products.	Orders arising from this exposure

## Planned meetings (May-December 2018)

Proposed Date	No. participants	Types of participants	Main topics	Proposed budget
Field day		BVMs, farmers, local administrator, NGOs, processors	Benefits of OFSP & and clean cuttings;	2,800
Radio talks		BioCrops, CIP	Benefits of OFSP & clean cuttings, sources	3,500
Demonstrations		BVMs, farmers, local administrators, NGOs, processors	Benefits of OFSP, clean planting materials, food pdts	4,800

# Training – in-country (June Nov 2017)



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

# Marketing strategy: June 2017 – Dec 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 shows, Demo, Field days,	BioCrops, BVMs, DVMs	11,100	Orders for vines and OFSP products, Multiplication area planted; Volume of vines sold
2.	BVMs and DVMs	Demand for roots through flour processing and utilization, sharing information on markets		Agricultural shows	BioCrops		Volume of vines and 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; promoting networking among the multipliers to collectively access markets.***
- Institutional
  - ***Strengthening collaboration of vine multipliers with local government departments, seed merchants and NGOs***
- Financial
  - ***Financing opportunities to vine multipliers and processors***

# 2 BEST PHOTOS



Appreciating big OFSP tubers arising from demonstration plot at Namaliri (Uganda)

# 2 BEST PHOTOS

Testing cooked OFSP varieties after harvesting the demonstration:

Naspot-8, Vita and Naspot 10 (Kabode)

