

**Sustainable
sweetpotato pre-basic
seed production Y4
Year End Report: June
2017 – May 2018**



Sweetpotato Action for
Security and Health in Africa



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Practice: 9th Consultation- Sustainable
Pre-basic Seed Production – SGA
14th May 2018, Kigali, Rwanda**

Production: capacities

Period: current status at end Year 4 (May 2018)

Facilities	No. units	Irrigation (Y/N)	Total m ²	% of capacity utilized for production	Status of facility: good, average, poor	Planned rehabilitation? If yes, when
Screen house	2	Y	120		Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • May/June • Cover with polythene sheet
Mobile net tunnels						
Open field multiplication	1	Y	5000		Average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocating to a new site for rotation
Basic seed multipliers						

Production & Sales: targets vs actuals? June 17 – May 18

Activities	Production target (No.)	Production achieved (No.)	Revenue target (local currency)	Revenue Achieved (local currency)
TC micro-propagation plantlets				
Pre- basic cuttings	177	13,265		MK116,000
Basic cuttings				
Open field multiplication	800	160,000		MK800,000

Note: 1\$=MK735

Comments on production targets



- Actions taken during Y4 to increase multiplication rates:
 - Use of trailing in sandponic
 - Open field multiplication
- Actions taken during Y4 to reduce costs of production:
 - Use of troughs/beds instead of sandponics
 - Use of hardening chambers
 - Electricity outage
- Key challenges for Y4:
 - Pests showing resistance to pesticides
 - Delayed payments by buyers
- Lessons to share for Y4:
 - Use of troughs/beds provide large soil volume for growth vine growth
 - Emerging challenge posed by Army worms (See attached photo)

- Is your multiplication calendar on track: **Partly Yes**
 - Rain pattern: **Some parts of the country had droughts and resulted in increased demand for sweetpotato vines for recovery**
 - Customer seed requirements:
 - **Pre-basic & basic: demanded during winter/dry season**
 - **Basic/Certified: Demanded during summer/rainy season**
 - Production level: **On track**
 - Sales/Revenue: **On track**
- What changes will you make to your multiplication calendar for the next 6 months?
 - **Establish new open field (rotation)**

Use of business plan tools



- Have your production costs changed?
 - If so, explain:
 - What is change in break even cost:
- What is current pricing strategy(for 3-node cutting)
 - Pre-basic: MK 1,000 (per 100 cuttings of 30cm long)
 - Basic price: MK 500 (per 100 cuttings of 30cm long)
 - Note: 1\$=MK735
- Will you adjust your prices to reflect changes in production costs or market competition?
 - Explain: Lobbying for up-ward adjustment of pre-basic (MK 1,200) and basic (MK 700) per bundle

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 2017 to May 2018</i>	1770.03
<i>c. Total disbursements towards seed production activities: June 2017 to May 2018</i>	754.09
<i>d. Other costs met from the revolving fund:</i>	808.00
<i>e. Balance of funds at end of reporting period available to be carried forward to the next reporting period</i>	207.94

US\$ exchange rate: **1\$=MK735**

Explain any challenges for the revolving fund:

Customer order book: future requirements



Customer name	December 2017 – May 2018		Comments
	Quantity Ordered	Advance payment?	
Pre-basic			
CIP (MIST)	36	No	Paid after delivery
CIP (RTC-Action)	80	No	Paid after delivery
Basic			
CIP (MIST)	700	No	Paid after delivery
CIP (RTC-Action)	500	No	Paid after delivery
Machinga District Council	400	No	Paid after delivery

Quality management: June 2017 - May 2018



- Number of varieties under multiplication:
- 8 (Kadyaubwerere, Anaakwanile, Kaphulira, Mathuthu, Chipika, Zondeni, Nyamoyo, Sungani)
- What additional varieties have been introduced in Y4?
- 4 (Kayijani, Royal Choice, BV11/150A & BV11/172A). Yet to be cleaned
- What new varieties are in release pipeline & will be multiplied in Y5?
- No. varieties tested (*I. setosa*) over June 17 – May 18, method, & results
 - Variety:....Kadyaubwerere.....result:....-ve....
 - Variety:....Anaakwanire.....result:....-ve....
 - Variety:....Kaphulira.....result:....-ve....
- Seed standards and inspection protocol
 - Current status: In draft
 - Are external inspections being conducted for field multiplication: Yes

Stakeholder meetings: June 2017 – May 2018, and planned



Date of meeting held	No. participants (M/F)	Types of participant	Main topics	Follow up actions
Planned meetings (June 18 – Dec 18)				
Proposed Date	No. participants	Types of participants	Main topics	
July/August	>20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vine customers (NGO's) • Vine multipliers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vine supply • demand projections • Sensitisation on new varieties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration & inspections • Up-dating vine multiplier database

Training – in-country (June 2017- May 2018)

Date	Topic	No. participants (M/F)	Training materials available	Comments
Sept 2017	Vine multiplication for DVM's	19 (9M: 10F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-outs • Field visits 	Done at district level
28 Feb-2 Mar 18	Vine multiplication for extensions	144 (96M: 48F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-outs • Field visits 	
16-19 April 2018	Seed Certification training for para-seed inspectors	37 (26M: 10F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-outs • Field visits for disease identification 	

Planned for June 2018 – Dec 2018

Date	Topic	No. participants (M/F)	Training materials available	
May/June	Meristem and Thermotherapy techniques in TC	Atleast 8 participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-outs • Lab facilities 	

June 18 - Dec 2018: key areas for strengthening performance of bizplan



- Technical
 - Data collection and evaluation of different methods for pre-basic vine multiplication (sandponics vs conventional)
 - Enforcement of seed quality and certification standards
 - Awareness and demand creation for newly released varieties
- Institutional
 - Institutionalisation of business plan and RF
- Financial
 - Intensification of market strategies
 - Built strong customer relationships
 - Follow-up customers and over-due payments

2 BEST PHOTOS



Mr John Biziwiki, DARS research attendant scouting for yellow striped army worms underneath a sweetpotato leaves at one of vine multipliers field in Thyolo (March 2018). Photo credit: Kennedy Masamba

2 BEST PHOTOS



Mr Precious Nyasulu, DARS technician showing virus symptoms during training at Thuchila Farm Institute in Mulanje. (1 March 2018). Photo credit: Kennedy Masamba