



**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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Sweetpotato Seed Systems Community of 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 m²	% of capacity utilized for production	Status of facility: good, average, poor	Planned rehabilitation? If yes, when
Screen house	1	Y	400	25	Average	No
Mobile net tunnels	18	Y	1600	70	Average	Yes, May-June, 2018
Open field multiplication	3	Y	3ha	100	Average	No
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	120,000	80,000*	-	-
Basic cuttings	1 million	34,398	10,319	378
Open field multiplication	-	-	-	-

*The pre-basic seeds were not sold but re-planted for basic seed production and for demo plots

Comments on production targets



- Actions taken during Y4 to increase multiplication rates:
 - Using raised beds in net tunnels
 - Using farm yard manures in net tunnels
- Actions taken during Y4 to reduce costs of production:

- Key challenges for Y4:
 - Lack of TC plantlets to continue subsequent productions
- Lessons to share for Y4:
 - Collaborating with other institutions (KEPHIS and Hawassa University) to acquire cleaned foundation seeds for pre-basic seed production.

- Is your multiplication calendar on track
 - Yes, we have problem of vine sources for pre-basic seed production and receiving pathogen tested cuttings from KEPHIS and Hawassa University
 - Last year, the demand from customers for basic seeds was low
 - The production of basic seeds is still on track
 - No much sales/revenue due to the above problem
- What changes will you make to your multiplication calendar for the next 6 months?
 - None

Use of business plan tools



- Have your production costs changed?
 - No
- What is current pricing strategy(for 3-node cutting)
 - Pre-basic: not for sale (for re-planting)
 - Basic price: 0.5 cents (local) and 0.018 cents (USD)
- Will you adjust your prices to reflect changes in production costs or market competition?
 - No

Use of revolving fund

Description	Local currency or US\$
<i>a. Balance of Revolving Fund bought forward from May 2017</i>	3000
<i>b. Gross income for this reporting period: June 2017 to May 2018</i>	378
<i>c. Total disbursements towards seed production activities: June 2017 to May 2018</i>	2000
<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>	1378

US\$ exchange rate: 27.4

Explain any challenges for the revolving fund:

Customer order book: future requirements

Customer name	December 2017 – May 2018		Comments
	Quantity to be ordered	Advance payment?	
Jara Agro-industry	0.25 million	no	
Ezra PLC	0.58 million	”	
Muluneh Boru	0.33 million	”	
Agri-seed	0.39 million	”	
Simon Sitotaw	0.50 million	”	
Bridge	0.11 million	”	
Lemlem seed coop.	0.17 million	”	
Total	2.33 million	”	

Quality management: June 2017 - May 2018



- Number of varieties under multiplication: 3
 - What additional varieties have been introduced in Y4?
 - 1 recently released WFSP variety
 - What new varieties are in release pipeline & will be multiplied in Y5?
 - 4 candidate OFSP varieties
 - No. varieties tested over June 17 – May 18, method, & results
 - None
 - Seed standards and inspection protocol
 - Current status i.e in draft, approved, roll out:
 - Full certification approved
- 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
27 March, 2018	30/3 = 33	GOs,NGOs, Private multipliers, Coop. Multipliers, Researchers and heads of institutions	Sweetpotato seed status review and demand and supply projection	- To discuss with BoA (extension, horticulture and Input directorates) on how to harmonize seed demand and supply

Planned meetings (June 18 – Dec 18)

Proposed Date	No. participants	Types of participants	Main topics	
November, 2018	30	GOs,NGOs, Private multipliers, Coop. Multipliers, Researchers and heads of institutions	Enhancing sweetpotato seed marketing through collaborated actions	

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



Date	Topic	No. participants (M/F)	Training materials available	Comments
August, 2017	Sweetpotato production and field management	125	Manuals	It was conducted with the budget of Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Planned for June 2018 – Dec 2018

Date	Topic	No. participants (M/F)	Training materials available	
June, 2018	Sweetpotato disease and pest identification visually and lab assisted (NCM-ELISA for virus)	15	Manuals	The budget will be partially supported by National root crops program

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



- Technical
 - Enhancing the capacity of Areka TC technicians through training
 - Capacitating the vine multipliers on agronomy and business plan through training
- Institutional
 - Discuss with BoA to strengthen linkage between Extension, Input and Horticulture directorates to harmonize demand and supply of sweetpotato seeds
 - Discuss with the regulatory body on the inspection protocols and how that could fit with the seed multipliers
- Financial
 - Implement market segmentation for various buyers by discussing with SARI management

2 BEST PHOTOS

- Land preparation for planting of demo plots
- Dilla, August ,2017
- Farmers
- Photo credit: Fekadu Gurmu



2 BEST PHOTOS

- Beneficiary woman farmer with her kids
- Dilla, August ,2017
- Woman farmer with her kids
- Photo credit: Fekadu Gurmu

