

## The Ceremony of Pre-release 15 New Orange Fleshed Sweetpotato Clones in Mozambique

About a year after the official request for the formal variety release of the 15 new Orange Fleshed Sweetpotato (OFSP) clones, these clones were finally pre-released in a ceremony performed under the auspices of the Sub-Committee for the varieties Liberation of Mozambique. The event took place on February 28, 2011 from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm at the headquarters of the Department of Plant Pathology and Seed Systems of the Ministry of Agriculture.



The pre-release process is part of the new policy approved by the Ministry of Agriculture in late 2010 in response to the need to simplify the mechanism of varietal release and make available seeds/varieties ready to end users faster.

The first part of the ceremony was dedicated to the explanation of the insights and importance of the new addendum to the law and policy of variety release in Mozambique. In essential, the addendum came out as the need to simplify and make available seeds that are ready to go to the end users without going to a laborious bureaucratic system that takes minimum of 3 years dealing with papers to release a variety.

The second part of the event was allocated to the presentation of a PowerPoint with information on the history and selection process involving the proposed varieties. The presentation was made by José Ricardo.



**Fig. 1.** View of the presentation of proposed varieties



The third part of the ceremony was on the questions and clarifications regarding the process of selection and the following mechanisms around the multiplication and dissemination of the proposed varieties. After providing information on the selection process of proposed varieties and its history, the CIP team comprised of Maria I. Andrade, Jose Ricardo, Viegas, and Abdul Naico answered questions and gave explanations to the eight members of the sub-committee and participants.

Although the board of judges was unanimously satisfied with most of the points in the presentation, there were some important questions related to the criteria of selection, in particular linked to the use of selection index and the mechanisms of its application to variety selection. Issues related to the use of selection index and mechanisms for varietal selection were clarified by the proponents. The most important clarifications were on the process of vine multiplication and dissemination and on the approach toward the sustainability of the program in general, concerns that were superiorly clarified by the team of CIP with evidences from the work that have been done to multiply these clones and with the participation of local farmers or de-centralized vine multipliers in the process of multiplication and dissemination of the vines.

After answering all questions, the audience was invited for short break for final deliberations by the members of the sub-committee, and for the audience to see the varieties under display. (Figs. 2, 3, 4).

**Fig. 2.** Ms Irene de Sousa (USAID), Amélia Ruco (CIP), and Anabela Manhiça (IIAM) with respective varieties that were name after each one



**Fig. 3.** Maria Andrade (CIP) with the variety Tio Joe in her heart

The last part of the ceremony was the official announcement of the pre-release of the clones with the recommendation that CIP must establish, with the Department of Plant Pathology and Seed Systems of the Ministry of Agriculture, a multi-location trial involving the 15 new varieties as part of the last procedure to ensure the final release (to transit from the pre-released stage to effective released status). Another recommendation was the need to ensure the availability of planting material of the new varieties for those interested in the country. As usual, the event ended with the traditional tea break with sweetpotato products and displaying of the new varieties to the participants of the ceremony.

### List of participants

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