

Experience of DONATA OFSP Project in Northern UGANDA

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Location

- Northern Uganda.
- Inhabited mainly by Lango and Acholi
- Cultivate a range of crops; Cassava, rice, beans, simsim, maize, sweetpotato.
- Staple crops have become a means income generation as well as for food

GULU AND LIRA IPTAs

- Sweetpotato is one of the most important staple crops in the region
- It is cultivated by many farmers including those with limited land, labor and capital.
- Unlike cereals and grain crops, it is mainly harvested piecemeal for home consumption and/or income generation arise.
- Vegetatively propagated

IPTA con't

- Most sweetpotato cultivars cultivated used to be white-fleshed varieties that contain negligible amounts of Vitamin A.
- Four orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP) varieties being promoted are
 - Kakamega,
 - Ejumula,
 - Vita (Naspot 9 O) and
 - Kabode (Naspot 10 O).

IPTA Con't

- These 4 OFSP varieties contain reasonable quantities of Vitamin A that poor families in the region need.
- Lack of the varieties and poor agronomic practices, prolonged dry period from December to March and,
- Prevalence of pests, diseases and roaming animals during dry period reduce sweetpotato production

IPTA Con't

- Increase production and consumption of Vitamin A rich Varieties OFSP, proven, available, and emerging technologies for production, storage and processing into higher value products are being promoted.

Achievements

- First meeting in August 2008
- Gulu University and Ngetta ZARDI.
- 12 partners by 2011
- 4 varieties introduced and multiplied had average yield of 16 MT while average yield of farmer varieties was 10 MT.

Achievements con't

- Farmer groups reached with the new varieties were selected by participating NGOs.
- Individual farmers
- Eight sub-counties covered in Lira and 7 sub-counties in Gulu
- More sub-counties and districts are indirectly benefitting from the project.

Achievements con't

- Institutional Framework for Lira IPTA has been changing.
- District leaders were briefed on the project activities and radio talk shows were held to disseminate information on OFSP.
- Training development personnel and representatives from community-based organizations (CBOs)

Training conducted

- Vine preservation, multiplication and distribution of clean planting materials for development personnel and representatives from community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Training in farming as a business to target stakeholders operating at the different levels of the production to consumption continuum
- Training of Farmer Field Schools Master Trainers

Radio Talk shows held

- Radio talk shows were successfully held. The questions commonly asked were mainly on the availability of the planting materials, the price for buying the seed vines and where the vines can be found. Some callers proposed that the vine should be taken to markets so that farmers who come to markets can buy.

Challenges

- Raising budget and funding level to support the IPTA based stakeholder participatory approaches given low level of funding and the allowed budget lines
- Funds allocated for country platform can hardly carter for operations typically necessary in technology dissemination using IPTA approach including aspect of M&E.

Challenges con't

- Raised expectation of IPTAs in terms of the resources available for IPTAs activities and the composition and number of stakeholders in each IPTA
- Preserving and multiplying seed vine during dry season.

Problems on Information Dissemination

- Although many people listen radio, there are so many FM radio stations with limited coverage
- Difficult to monitor coverage of information disseminated by radio

Dissemination con,t

- Lack of reading habit of the farmers
- Illiteracy level is high especially women
- Most information is in English and require translation
- Too few who can use IT by the farmers; access to internet services is limited, power sources

Thank you