

# Challenges of producing and marketing quality sweetpotato planting materials as a business



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# Introduction

- Sweetpotato is an important crop among most farming communities in Uganda and is now increasingly becoming a commercial food commodity in urban areas.
- The sources of planting materials are traditional to each area and are vegetatively propagated at house hold level.
- Sweetpotato has a much wider local variety base than other root crops.

**Interventions:** For improvements are mainly by NARO and other organizations/projects (e.g. FAO,CIP,REU,DONATA) through small holder farmer groups in Northern, Eastern and Central Uganda.

# Case of SOSPA

## **Case of Soroti Orange-fleshed Sweet Potato Processors Association (SOSPA) :**

- Small holder farmers association of over 300 members in Serere District, Eastern – Uganda, founded in 2004.
- Trained on sweetpotato production and management practices-FFS 2003.
- Adopted improved sweetpotato varieties and conservation and multiplication techniques, 2004
- Initiated commercial multiplication of sweetpotato vine cuttings, especially OFSP in 2005.
- An MOU with PRAPACE- To multiply 3200 bags of quality OFSP vine cuttings for distribution to Bukedea and Kamuli Districts- 2006
- FAO at their food security meeting about the importance of sweetpotato, especially OFSP as food security crop for emergency response (2007).

## Estimated costs of vine multiplication under high density planting per acre

Item/activity	Quantity	Unit cost	Total amount (UGSH.)
Ox- ploughing	X2	50,000	100,000
Cost of conserving and harvesting seed vines	100 bags	2,000	200,000
Planting	50 people	5,000	250,000
Fertilizer (NPK 25:5:5)	300 kgs	2000	600,000
Irrigation fuel	100 litres	4,000	400,000
Irrigation labour	4 people x 14 wks	5,000	280,000
Weeding	40 people x 1	2,500	100,000
Pesticides	750 mls	50	37,500
Blanket spray labour	1 x 3 months x 4 people	5,000	60,000
Other costs			100,000
Cost of production 300 bags			2,127,500
<b>Net income [300 bags x 15,000 - 2,127,500]</b>			<b>2,372,500</b>



## Supply

Several contract agreements to supply quality vine cuttings of up to 30,000 bags (30 million vine cuttings ) estimated to plant 2000 acres of land have been signed with various NGOs operating in Northern, North-Eastern and Eastern Uganda in 20 districts (Kumi, Amuria, Katakwi, Bukedea, Kaberamaido, Pallisa, Tororo, Bugiri, Kamuli, Mukono, Abim, Kotido, Kaabong, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Oyam, Apac, Gulu, Pader and Kitgum )



# Diversification and Investments



## Home needs

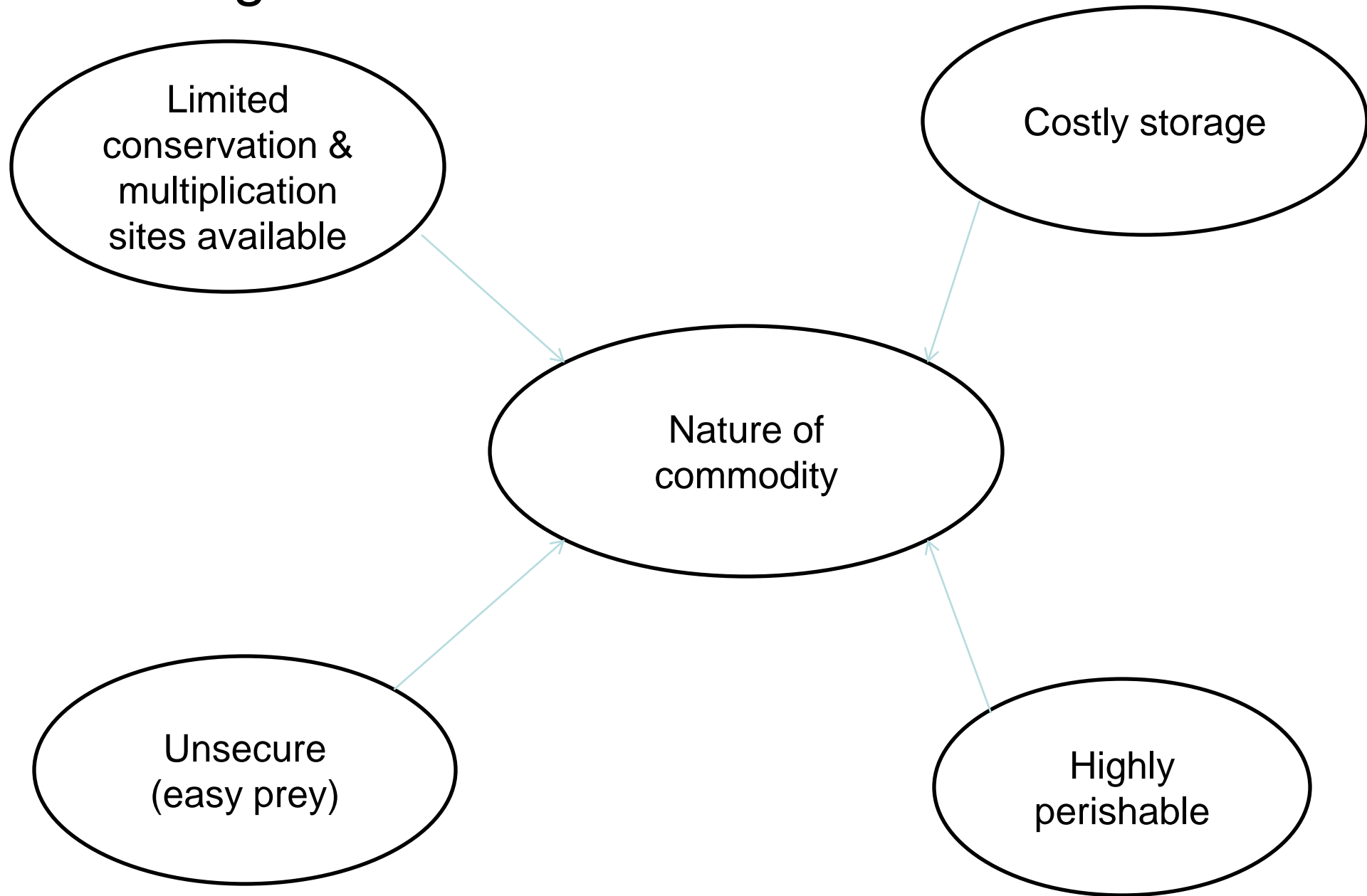
e.g. house construction  
School fees, purchase  
of cows

**Establishment of  
processing plant**

# Major Challenges

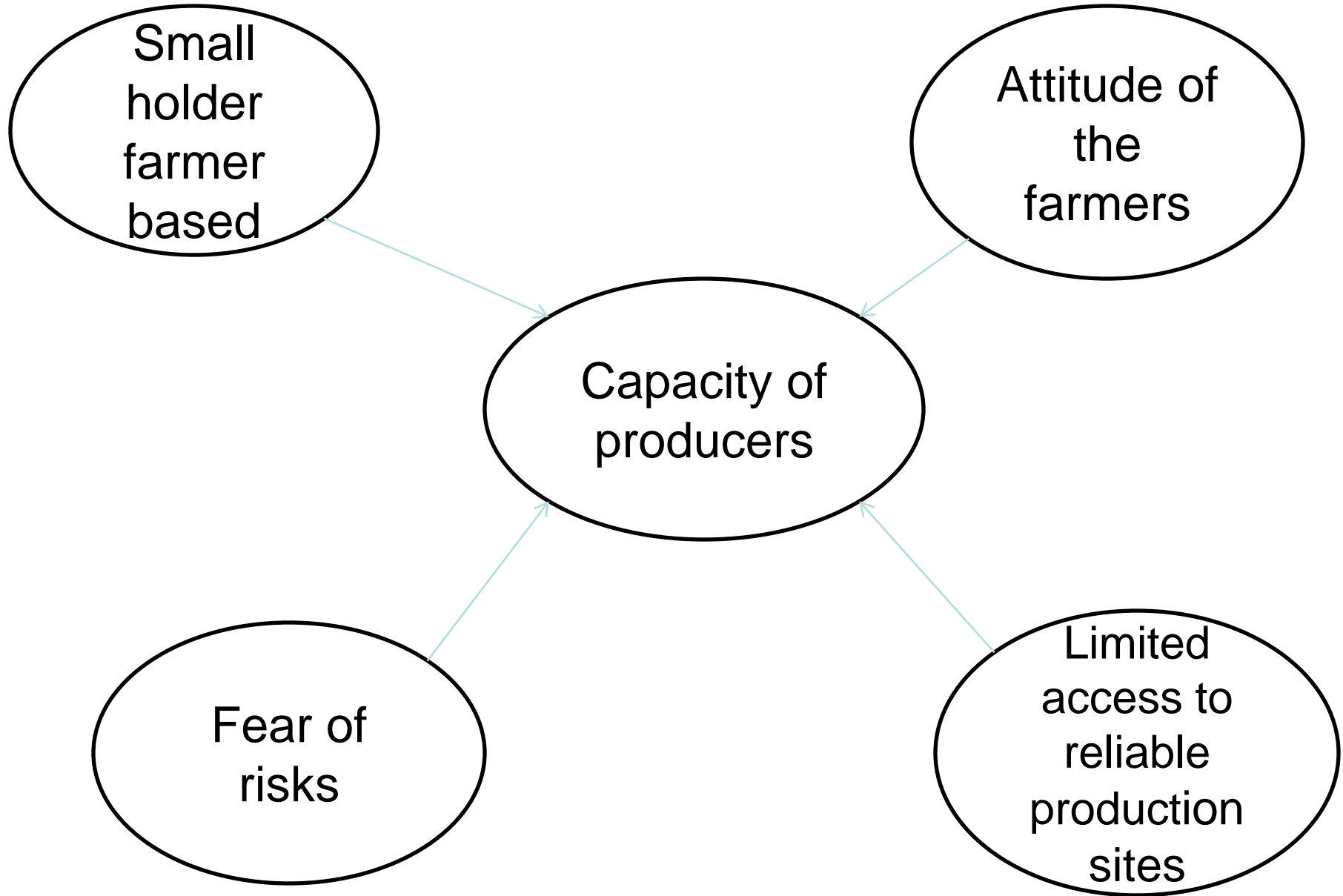
- Nature of commodity
- Capacity of producers
- Marketing

# Challenge 1





# Challenge 2



# Challenge 3

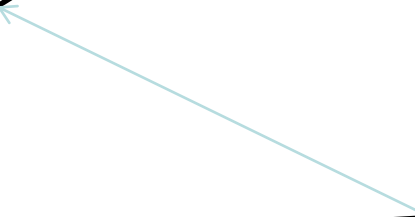
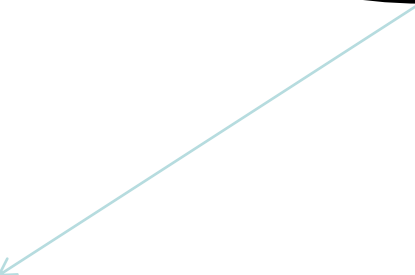
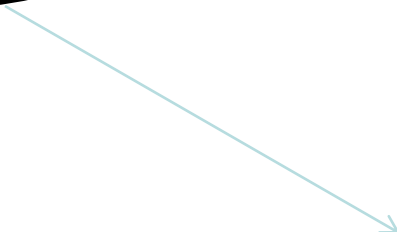
uncertain demand

Unstable price

Marketing

Competing alternative sources

diverse local varieties



# Thank you for listening

