An illustration on the left side of the slide shows a woman with a green headwrap and a purple top feeding a baby. The baby is holding a spoon and eating from a bowl. The background is a vibrant yellow with colorful geometric patterns. At the bottom of the illustration, there are several sweetpotato tubers with green leaves.

Unleashing the Potential of Sweetpotato to Combat Poverty & Malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa through the Sweetpotato for Profit and Health Initiative

Jan Low

Leader of the SPHI

Project Manager for SASHA

Overview of 1st Year Highlights

West Africa Support Platform

23 November 2011



SPHI is a multi-partner, multi-donor initiative that seeks to reduce child undernutrition and improve smallholder incomes in 10 million African families by 2020 through the effective production and expanded use of sweetpotato.

The Sweetpotato Action for Security and Health in Africa (SASHA) Project is a 5 year project led by the International Potato Center that will develop the essential capacities, products and methods to reposition sweetpotato in the food economies of Sub-Saharan Africa. It serves as the foundation for the broader Initiative.



**16 priority
countries,
3 sub-regions**

**Under SASHA,
activities in
8 countries**

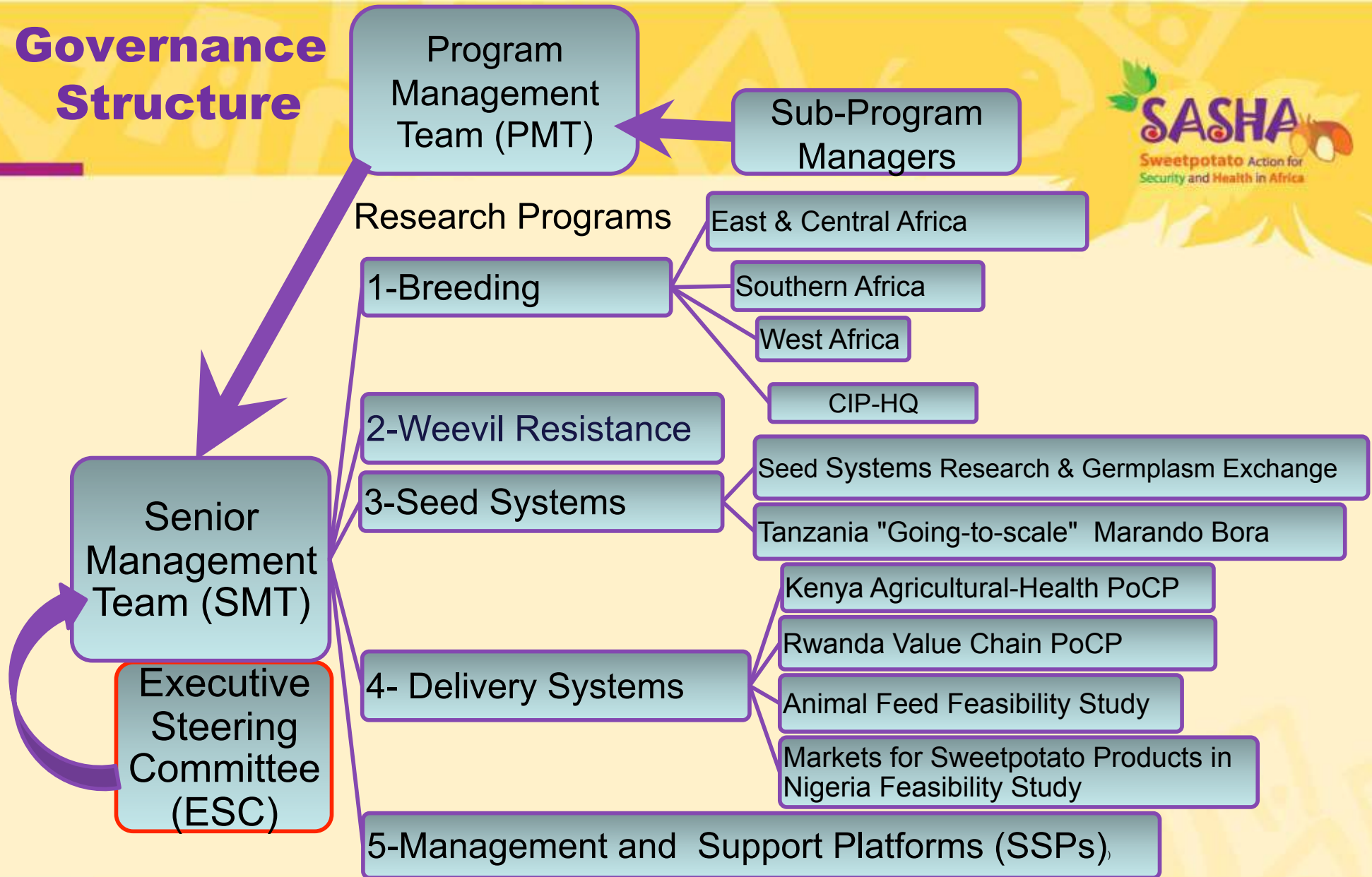
1st Annual Technical & Executive Steering Committee Meeting Held



28-30 September
Nairobi, Kenya

- Progress to date
- Way forward for Year 2

Governance Structure



1st SSP Meetings were held in each Sub-Region in June-July 2010



- Southern Africa
- Mozambique (IIAM)
- 13 Women, 12 Men
- 18 organizations

- West Africa
- Ghana (CRI)
- 8 Women, 23 Men
- 18 organizations

- East Africa
- Uganda (NaCRRI)
- 6 Women, 13 Men
- 13 organizations

Research Highlight: Seed Systems



- Replicated trial of potential of agricultural fleece (“row cover”) as a low cost method of protecting foundation seed conducted at KARI Kakamega
- Fleece has successfully protected planting material from vector ingress for over 12 months. Uncovered plants showing severe virus symptoms.



Capacity Strengthening Highlight: Safe movement of germplasm: Progress in Mozambique



- Training in virus indexing and cleaning
- NCM ELISA
- Grafting onto *I. setosa*
- Tissue culture
- Thermotherapy
- Screenhouse



Key Lesson Learned: Setting up Complex Partnerships takes Time & Requires Lots of Interaction



Kenya Health PoCP



Marando Bora



The Animal Feed Trio



Yr2 Rwanda Value Chain in February

- Our contracting system required agreed upon work plans prior to finalization
- For Seed System & Delivery System projects adjustments needed to be made once all partners understood the reality on the ground
- Required holding many more meetings at the Sub-program level than originally anticipated

Research Progress: Mama SASHA Building the Evidence Base for OFSP



- Need to minimize loss of vitamin A after intake
- Need for greater investment in women's well-being
- Launched 5 year study in Western Kenya (2009)
[CIP, PATH, CREADIS, ARDAP, Ministries of Health/Ag]
 - Can linking OFSP access and nutritional training to existing health services for pregnant women provide:
 - 1) an incentive to pregnant women to increase health service utilization?
 - 2) lead to increases in consumption of OFSP and other vitamin A rich foods by the women and their young infants in a cost-effective manner?

Year 1 Pilot Phase in Western Kenya: Develop & Test Approach



- Test 2 different models to capture benefits
- Higher intensity

Health Facility level

- ANC nurses trained for improved counseling
- Voucher distribution to pregnant women attending ANC

Community level

- Community Health Workers trained
- Pregnant mother clubs established
- Vine multipliers trained
- Vines accessed with vouchers
- Demonstration plots
- Field days around OFSP
- Advice on OFSP management practices provided by vine multipliers and ag. extension workers

Mama SASHA Research Design, cont.



- **Lower intensity**

**Health Facility
level**

- ANC nurses trained for improved counseling

**Community
level**

- Community Health Workers trained

Achievements so far



- **IEC materials adapted/developed (Health)**
 - Additional chapter for CHW manual
 - 4 counseling cards for use by ANC nurses at health facilities



Achievements so far



- **Voucher system in place**

SASHA PROJECT Voucher # _____

Name of recipient: _____ Date: _____

ANC #: _____ Validity: _____

Name household head: _____ Name of health facility: _____

Village Name: _____ ANC or PNC visit 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Sublocation Name: _____

Name of the multiplier: _____ **150 cuttings of KABODE**

Village Name: _____

Eat the orange fleshed sweetpotato with fat sources such as avocado, groundnuts, sesame, Blueband and other cooking oil

SASHA PROJECT Voucher # _____

Name of recipient: _____ Date: _____

ANC #: _____ Validity: _____

Name household head: _____ Name of health facility: _____

Village Name: _____ ANC or PNC visit 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Sublocation Name: _____

Name of the multiplier: _____ **150 cuttings of VITA**

Village Name: _____

Eat the orange fleshed sweetpotato with fat sources such as avocado, groundnuts, sesame, Blueband and other cooking oil

- Voucher designed: booklets of 50 (with duplicates)
- Each pregnant woman receives two vouchers at first and subsequent ANC visits
- Each voucher is for 150 cuttings
- Voucher are redeemed at vine multiplication site for OFSP vines

Achievements so far



- **Some lessons learned to date**



- Monthly feedback meetings between implementing partners at health facility level essential
- Health workers report increasing attendance & high interest but increases their workload
- Vine multipliers in some settings adjusted delivery to bring vines to clinic

Going-to-Scale in Western Tanzania: Marando Bora: *Healthy Vines*



Operational objectives:

- Provide farmers with quality seed of improved sweetpotato varieties in a timely fashion
- Stimulate increased demand for white and OF sweetpotato amongst rural and urban consumers

Research objectives:

- Assess the contribution of the intervention to raising productivity and improving food supply
- Assess the rate of degeneration due to virus among different varieties
- Assess the cost effectiveness of using vouchers.

Progress To Date



- **Inception and sensitisation:**
 - LoUs; transfer of funds; introduction of project to IPs and government; planning meetings
- **Implementation:**
 - Identification and validation of 1st wave DVMs
 - Training of trainers (IP supervisors) in vine multiplication (9M/ 3F)
 - Training of DVMs in vine multiplication
 - Adaptation of training materials for DVMs
 - M&E tools
 - PMS at Ukiriguru prepared (pump & fencing)
 - “Partnership health check-up”



Criteria and profile of DVMs



- **Criteria:**
 - Prior experience with SP, access to water during dry season, adequate resource base (land, labour), honest (community recognition)
- 43 assessed; 18 identified – 12 finally selected; 4 individuals and 8 groups (53m and 70f)
- Setting up irrigation facilities & TA
- **Lessons:**
 - Gender balance
 - TA for irrigation support



Challenge of Starting with Large Amounts of Clean Planting Material



- 31,500 in-vitro plantlets transferred from GTIL (Nairobi) to Maruku (Tanzania)
- Delivered in 4 batches
 - Dec '09 – test
 - Feb; May; June.
 - Final batch: mid Oct
- Transfer to hardening shade:
3-4 weeks
- 29,500 plants: ~95% survival



Hardening at LZARDI – Maruku, cont.



- 32,250 plants transferred to primary multiplication at Maruku
- **July:** estimate 160,000 20cm cuttings available
- **August:** 35,000 cuttings transferred to NGO-SMS and DVM sites



Hardening: Technical Challenges



- Variation in Multiplication Rate by variety
- Transfer in batches reduced risk but led to increase in costs
- Slow growth during dry/cool period
- Irrigation equipment breakdown
- Careful scheduling needed to avoid overgrown (old) plants



Thanks for your attention!

