

INTRODUCTION

- Root and Tuber Improvement and Marketing Programme (RTIMP) is a follow up to the Root and Tuber Improvement Programme (RTIP) which was implemented over 1999 to 2005.
- RTIMP is sponsored by IFAD for 8 yrs and is expected to be implemented in 60 districts.
- RTIMP is being used as a pilot programme for 3 regions in Africa – West Africa, Central and East Africa

PROGRAMME GOAL

- Enhance income and food security
- Improve livelihoods of the rural poor
- Build a market-based system to ensure profitability at all levels of the value chain.

PURPOSES OF RTIMP

- Enhance market relations within the R&T commodity chain to ensure a “pull” factor for increase production,
- Facilitate a better balancing of supply and demand,
- Enhance farm level productivity of R&T crops,
- Improve R&T processing and marketing,
- Increase access of the economically actively poor to investment capital (MEF),
- Information dissemination, education and communication campaign.

R&T CROPS PROMOTING

- Cassava
- Yam
- Cocoyam
- Sweetpotato
- Frafra potato

METHOD OF MULTIPLICATION

- Primary sites in Okyereko, Asuansi, Akatsi and Tono,
- Secondary sites in Cape Coast, Gomoa and Komenda Eguafo Edina Abirem (KEEA)
- Tertiary sites in Cape Coast, Gomoa and KEEA

SWEETPOTATO VARIETIES

| VARIETY | TUBER SKIN COLOUR | TUBER FLESH COLOUR | DAYS TO MATURITY | YIELD (t/ha) |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Okumkom | Light purple | White | 90 - 120 | 19 |
| Santom Pona | White cream | Deep white | 90 – 120 | 16 |
| Faara | Deep purple | White | 90 – 120 | 15 |
| Sauti | Cream | Yellow | 90 – 120 | 14 |
| Teksantom | Cream | Yellow | 90 – 120 | 24 |
| Hi-starch | Creamy brown | Cream | 90 – 120 | 18 |
| CRI-Otoo | Cream | Light orange | 90 – 120 | 23 |
| CRI-Ogyefo | Ruby | White | 90 – 120 | 20 |
| CRI-Apomuden | Reddish brown | Reddish orange | 90 – 120 | 35 |

CHALLENGES

- Shortage of planting material at the onset of rains.
- Preservation of planting material in the dry season.
- Low acceptability of improved sweetpotato variety.
- Virus infestation.
- Non diversify uses of sweetpotato

RECOMMENDATION

- Plant sweetpotato vines in low land and marshy areas in dry season.
- Intensify uses of sweetpotato
- Increase demonstration of sweetpotato with farmers to enhance adaptability.
- Rogue disease material
- Introduce sweetpotato meal into school feeding programme.

THANK YOU