

**Summary and Notes from discussions during the Second Sweetpotato Support Platform  
– West Africa (SSP-WA) meeting held in Cape Coast on Nov. 23 to 25, 2010**

Meeting Agenda, evaluations, survey of participants on role of SSP-WA, and the list of participants are appended.

Respectfully submitted by Ted Carey, January 17, 2011

The SSP-WA is a part of the participatory governance and implementation structure of the Sweetpotato for Profit and Health Initiative (SPHI) which seeks to reposition sweetpotato in African Food Economies, and by 2020, to positively influence the lives of at least 10 million families, with particular emphasis on poor women and children both in rural areas and in cities. It meets twice per year. As the name implies, it has a regional emphasis, with SSP-Eastern and Central Africa and SSP Southern Africa serving a similar function elsewhere in SSA. The first SSP-WA was held at CSIR-Crops Research Institute in Kumasi in July, 2010, where significant investments are being made in sweetpotato breeding support systems under the Sweetpotato Action for Security and Health in Africa (SASHA) project, the West African Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP), and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), among others.

This second meeting was a collaborative effort involving significant contributions of key partner organizations with complementary interests in sweetpotato improvement: WAAPP, and the Root and Tuber Improvement and Marketing Programme (RTIMP) and Market Oriented Agriculture Programme (MOAP) of Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA). The meeting was attended by individuals with from a wide range of stakeholder groups, including public sector research, NGO, private sector and farmer organizations, primarily from Ghana, but also from Nigeria, Benin and Mali. The meeting was held at the University of Cape Coast in the Central Region of Ghana where sweetpotato is important, which afforded the opportunity for a field day to see ongoing research and production, and provided a real-world setting to consider sweetpotato in a value chain context.

The meeting focused on sharing information and experiences by partners with an awareness that we are seeking to develop the SSP-WA as a useful tool for moving forward the goals of the SPHI (achieving the potential of sweetpotato) in the region. There were individual presentations, vitamin A advocacy and awareness, monitoring and evaluation, a field day, a value chain education exercise, a delicious product demonstration, training on the use of the Sweetpotato Knowledge Portal (a website for sweetpotato where all can contribute; <http://sweetpotatoknowledge.org>), and discussions about next steps.

Outputs of the workshop include these notes and the results of surveys of participants. The first asked participants to suggest next steps for the SSP-WA, and also asked them what they planned to do with respect to sweetpotato in the next 6 months. The second was a general evaluation of the meeting. Results of these surveys accompany this document. Additionally, a CD was prepared containing all of the PowerPoint presentations, photos, the agenda and the list of participants. Most of these materials will be posted at a suitable location on the Sweetpotato Knowledge Portal.



The following are summary notes from discussions held during the meeting.

**1. A few comments from first sessions (unfortunately we didn't have a secretary during these first 4 sessions on SASHA, SPHI, WAAPP and RTIMP, but discussion was interesting and revolved around the roles of various partners in the SSP-WA (as I recall). If you were taking notes and have additions to add, please send them to me for inclusion.**

*Q. Solomon Afuape: How does Nigeria participate in and leverage on WAAPP? And how can Nigeria get training on in vitro, pathogen testing of germplasm, etc?*

*Q. Lydia Sasu: What is WAAPP?*

*Q. Ibok Oduro: What is the SSP-WA?*

WAAPP is a regional project, with different countries taking the lead in particular areas. For it to function properly, there need to be mechanisms for regional sharing of results, facilities and capacities.

*Q. Solomon Afuape: What do we know about rates of infection, or reinfection of sweetpotato planting material that has been freed of viruses?*

*Q. Ibok Oduro. We wonder why sweetpotato is not popular in W. Africa and we don't even include it in the snacks of our meetings. It seems a change of culture/behavior is required.*

## **2. Panel discussion on Vitamin A and OFSP (notes by Kerstin Hell)**

*Q: What kind of skills are needed targeted at policymakers to sell OFSP?*

Ijeoma: Timing, message and package it well. Packaging of message use language that will be understood.

Esi: Need to sell what is it in for the policymakers, tangible and simple language.

*Q: What is the best way to reach donors?*

Letitia: Come up with the facts eg. deficiency levels, mortality rates based on evidence and what can be done from experience from other countries. Demonstrate what OFSP has done in other countries through newsletters, articles, presentation at meetings, bring people together at workshops to target donors, 2 page briefs to promote OFSP.

*Q: How can you tackle the problem that OFSP consumption is really low?*

Letitia: results from BF and collect data about impact from there and other countries, develop specific tools with articles in newspapers. Network with division of ministry of health and agric. to find support and link them up with partners. Create donor interest.

Esi: Main message - SP is easy to grow and yield is good. Address the production gap in R & T address food shortage, food insecurity and health benefits.

*Q: What won over the institutions to fund the proposal in Nigeria.*

Ijeoma: Three phases are involved with a lot of farmer training and impact in all 6 geopolitical zones of Nigeria. We already have a network in place that can do the work inclusive of farmers, NARS, Universities etc..

*Q: How to include health institutions?*

Ijeoma: Make a video documentary, to inform consumers and policymakers of health benefits. SP should not replace cassava and yam, but should rather be complementary.

*Q: What is the entry point for SP?*

Letitia: Snack foods – but there should be other options, food fairs, taste panels, cooking channels etc.

Esi: Snack food, SP included in meals in schools especially boarding schools, SP Gari, cook other types of foods esp. in boarding houses, give it a fancy name.

*Q: Should we sell it as a health food?*

Esi: this needs to be looked at for OFSP.

Ijeoma: give sufficient information on the health promoting benefits of SP and package this information sufficiently.

CSIR-man: consistent production of OFSP needs to be confirmed, need for good promotion campaign.

*Q: How can you manage the seasonality of the crop and how can you store it?*

Solomon: In the Niger delta this crop is planted all year round, including the regional market in Port Harcourt.

*Q: How to get policymakers to include SP in Ghana school feeding program.*

Esi: We have done preliminary discussions, but it does not seem that there is an integrated approach. An individual is given a contract to provide food, it seems to be that income generation at the local level is not part of the program.

Need to intensify lobbying skills towards policymakers to include SP into the R&T development programs.

*Q: Pricing of SP in Ghana?*

Production is limited and few people come to buy and it gets to be expensive.

SP is cheaper in Nigeria.

*Q: Do people know how to grow SP or is this an issue??*

Farmers will know or learn from each other.

*Q: Would you advocate the demand before supply or what?*

Ijeoma: Demand should be a step ahead of production.

Ernest Teye, UCC: Learn from Sierra Leone experience and see what has worked to make SP work as a recently introduced crop.

Use marketing experts and package the SP message.

Getting the entry point right and make the investment.

Mdm. Farmer – need to have vines at the level of the farmer to promote SP.

### **3. Discussions on Monitoring and Evaluation; establishing baseline and integrating with regional entities**

*Q: Why is it that Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and baseline survey information do not completely reflect on the current situation?*

- M&E officers should try as much as possible to make information available to researchers in order to make impact on the situation at hand. M&E and baseline survey information would therefore be efficiently used by researchers. It was indicated that a website will soon be established to make M&E and baseline survey information available.

*Q: What could account for the lack of information on Sweetpotato in Ghana*

- The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) do not really factor sweetpotato into their activities and most agencies (e.g. Ghana Statistical Service) also end up depending on MOFA for information on sweetpotato (e.g. production statistics). A proactive move needs to be taken by MOFA (through WAAPP channel) to address this problem. CORAF as a West African regional programme can also help to address the problem.

*Q: Do we observe gender balance in socio-economic data collection?*

- Critical attention needs to be given to gender when collecting both social and scientific data. Gender issues need to go beyond just gathering and analysis of data.

### **4. Introduction to value chain**

*Q: What are the problems with value chain in MOFA?*

- Lack of proper understanding of value chain on the part of policy makers.
- Policy makers usually lack full interest with issues of value chain
- Value chain development is not given a holistic view in order to identify interventions when necessary.

*Q: How long will it take to develop sweetpotato value chain?*

- Five years in a short term

Value chain analysis seeks to enhance actors' activities by addressing constraints and identifying opportunities.

### **5. Field visit at Komenda FFF and CSIR-SRI WAAPP fertilizer trial site**

*Q: What is farmers' normal practice with respect to planting method*

- Planting on mounds with three vines per mound. Farmers indicated that planting on mounds usually give larger roots because of free movement of air around the stands compared to planting on ridges where air movement is limited to the central portions.

Although, mounds are easy to construct farmers however, admitted high plant population density with the use of ridges.

- Farmers normally weed once within the plants' growth.

*Q: What problems do farmers normally face in their production?*

- Cylas (weevils) infestation especially when roots stay longer on the field due to lack of market.
- Drought at bulking stage reduces root expansion and often causes low yields.
- Farmers don't apply fertilizer because they can't afford to buy.

*Q: What varieties are farmers using currently?*

- Farmers' variety (popularly known as blue-blue = Tek Santom?). Faara, HiStarch, and Apomuden were in the FFF trial.

*Q: How often do farmers meet for FFF?*

- Once a week (every Thursday)

*Q: What are the treatments on the FFF site currently?*

- Application of NKP fertilizer
- Application of MOP fertilizer
- Application of poultry manure
- Various combinations of these three treatments
- No treatment application

*Q: How do farmers handle weeds and fertilizer application?*

- Fertilizer is applied 2 weeks after planting (when vines have sprouted). Weeding is done 2 to 3 weeks after fertilizer application. According to Solomon Afuape, in Nigeria, weeding is done 4 weeks after planting and immediately followed by fertilizer application. This practice-he said- makes plants take full advantage of the applied fertilizer without competing with any weed.

*Q: What have you learnt about sweetpotato as farmers?-Asked by Jen Riis.*

- Frequent weeding prior to total canopy cover has boosted yield.
- Yield increase has been observed with fertilizer application especially poultry manure.

*Q: How many times do farmers plant?*

- Once a year (Between April and May)

*Q: A farmer was asked what he would like to do as an individual with respect to sweetpotato production in the coming seasons.*

- He would like to cultivate their local variety (TIS/blue-blue) about half an acre. He likes this variety because it still performs well even when rainfall is erratic aside its market demand.
- Apply poultry manure which is cheap and readily available in the area to boost yield as demonstrated on the FFF site.

## **6. Interview with sweetpotato sellers at Moree Junction.**

*Q: How do sellers store their sweetpotato in the process of marketing?*

- They usually keep them in sacks (rice sacks-the 50kg type) and then leave them in their wooden/metal sheds at their selling points.

*Q: For how long can the sweetpotato roots be stored under such conditions?*

- Some can store for about four weeks. Others easily go bad just after one week especially those that get infested with weevil, millipedes and rots on the field before harvest.

*Q: What is the price range per basket (small basket)?*

- GH¢8.00 to GH¢10.00 per basket. Price is however, negotiable. It could even be as low as GH¢5.00 depending on a buyers' bargaining power.

*Q: Where do sellers around Cape Coast get their produce from?*

- From Komenda. When there is shortage (in the lean season) sellers travel all the way to Accra for their produce.

## **7. Afternoon session (Remarks by Dr. H.K. Adu-Dapaah).**

*Q: A major problem of vine conservation was raised by an AEA of KEEA.*

- Comment by Dr. Hans Adu Dapaah: Serious growers need to be identified and trained in vine production and conservation.
- Comment by Lydia Sasu: She stressed the need for irrigation facilities or in the mean time sites around river bodies and dams need to be identified for sustainable vine production and conservation.

*Q: Soil quality and soil health have been neglected in the activities of breeders.*

- Comment by Dr. Hans Adu Dapaah: Sweetpotato farmers need to be represented at RELC meetings where they can raise issues concerning their production activities including soil fertility problems. Sweetpotato farmers should also be selected for RELC meetings.

## **8. Value chain awareness presentation continued (with actors including producers)**

According to the facilitator, Joshua Ahiaba:

Value chain is a business oriented approach that aims at providing value along the chain from farmer to final consumer. The strength of any value chain depends on the weakest part. Hence, that part should always be identified and addressed to keep the chain strong.

1. The main concerns of the producer
  - Marketing
  - Value addition for sustainable supply
2. The main concerns of the processor
  - Reliable supply

- Value addition
  - Marketing
3. The main concerns of the consumer
- Wider choice of better products
  - Healthier and affordable foods

*Q: How do we sustain projects even as they come to an end?*

- There should be funding of private/public service out of the value chain income generated.
- Value chain actors should co-ordinate/create linkage between projects.

*Q: Who actually does the facilitation?*

- At the meso level: donors, MOFA, and especially, the private sector (because the public sector always wait for projects)

*Q: Why the farmer is always at the disadvantage in the value chain (unfair income distribution along the value chain)? Asked by Dr. JN Asafu-Agye*

- The farmers' value addition might be insignificant to call for higher prices.
- Traders add much value which merit higher prices.
- Traders raise prices of produce to cover cost of transportation from the farm gate to selling points in urban areas.
- There should be a balance in terms of what processors and farmers need, so that farmers are not taken for a ride because they have produced what is of less demand.

*Q: Trust is a very important tool in value chain development. How can actors build trust among themselves?*

- There should be an information flow between actors.
- There should also be education about the common goal of actors.

*Q: How effective could facilitation be in multi-ethnic/religious communities?*

- Facilitators should be neutral at all times. They should have no interest whatsoever in any of the actors.

*Q: How could breeders balance the expectations of farmers and processors?*

- There should be education and sensitization on the added advantage of the new product/produce by the breeder.
- Breeders should communicate results to farmers for them to easily embrace new technologies from breeders.

*Q: Some general observations about the field visit:*

- Participants drove quite far to visit sweet potato field.
- Farmers were happy to see visitors.
- Farmers complained about lack of market.

- Only one woman farmer was identified during the visit.
- Sweetpotato is much seen as cash crop (less is eaten by farmers themselves-much is sold).
- The farmer groups were well organized. Probably, they trust their buyers.
- Farmers have high interest and commitment in sweetpotato production in spite of market constraints.
- Farmers have much interest in what they practice. E.g. cultivating their local variety-TIS/blue-blue.
- A few farmers were curious about the utilization of Apomuden.
- Farmers don't apply fertilizer and also don't control diseases and pests on their individual sweetpotato farms.
- Through field observation, fertilizer treatment gave higher yields, but farmers don't apply because they can't afford to buy.

*Q: Some views by some farmers*

- The high yield observed on the FFF site might be due to the management practices adopted. e.g., plowing, manure and chemical fertilizer application.
- Root cracks are sometimes associated with bigger roots and this can reduce prices of produce. Some causes of cracks:
  - Soil type
  - Nematode effects
  - Genetic differences
  - Extent of fertilizer applied- yet to be confirmed through some researches underway.

*Q: Why lack of buyers?*

- Less utilization of sweetpotato compared to cassava.
- There was a perception that sweetpotato consumption could cause erectile dysfunction.

*Q: A processors' concern: Fear of chemical residues in the roots.*

Comment by Dr. JN Asafu-Agyei:

- The good news is that chemical usage is almost nil in sweetpotato production. Currently, only fertilizer is being tested on tuber yield on research fields.

*Q: General discussion. Room for improvement*

- Cultural practices for weevil control
- Curing of vines
- Drought tolerant varieties
- Devining can help improve root storage
- Disease free planting materials should be available for farmers to buy to improve yield. This should be taken up by the private sector. However, not every farmer would be ready to buy planting materials. Much education on the benefits associated with the use of clean vines needs to be done to pull demand for it by farmers.

- Strategies must be in place to address the problem of expensive certification by the Food and Drugs board- As complained by a potaghourt producer.

*Q: The role of the Sweetpotato Support Platform (SSP)*

- As facilitators
- Consumers-To sensitize others to use sweetpotato.
- Draw attention of policy makers to sweetpotato.
- Resource mobilization
- Information sharing and dissemination through leaflets, Television, radio etc.

*Q: Is the SSP having enough money to build the value chain?*

- No. The SSP could help leverage funds to support the whole value chain development.

*Q: What is the workable entry point for SSP?*

- School feeding, Snacks etc. Dr. Hans Adu Dapaah made a promise of starting the school feeding with his own school.

**Notes taken in plenary during the Value Chain Discussion Session facilitated by Joshua Ahiaba (MOAP-GTZ). This discussion followed our field day and included some producers and processors in addition to the other meeting participants so that we could have a discussion with as many value chain actors as possible.**

Agenda for discussion:

**1. Field Visit**

- What were your observations?
- What do you consider to be the critical / the success factors?
- What was interesting to participants (vc actors, researchers, etc)?
- Anything to improve?

**2. Value Chain Linkages (We did not get to this section)**

- Whom am I working with on Sweet Potato?
- What keeps us together?
- Who else do I need?

**3. Brainstorming**

- What is the role of this Platform in Promoting and Developing the Sweet Potato Value Chain in Ghana/West Africa?
- What is the structure/should be the structure? Any leadership roles required?

**4. Way Forward Discussions**

- From here, what next?

## FIELD VISIT

What did I observe?	What I consider to critical success factors?	What did actors say which is most interesting to you?	Anything to improve?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sweetpotato hard to find (drive far)</li> <li>➤ Farmers happy to have visitors</li> <li>➤ Few women farmers</li> <li>➤ Disorganized field day</li> <li>➤ Basically only one variety grown/sold</li> <li>➤ Farmers were familiar with the treatments in the experiments, but were not saying they were going to adopt technologies being tested.</li> <li>➤ Farmers seemed to be interested in Apomuden, but don't quite know how they are going to use it.</li> <li>➤ Very weak post harvest practices with farmers and traders</li>   <li>➤ Planting material availability is a big constraint, as is heavy reliance on rains.</li> <li>➤ Market was a serious issue for the farmers</li> </ul>	<p>Question: Kerstin Hell to processor – what product are you making out of sweetpotato?  A: Potagurt, but maybe varieties are not right (Prefers Santom pona, which she's not getting?)  Certification of her product seems to be an issue?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Farmers complained about lack of market</li> <li>➤ The fact that sweetpotato is a very important cash crop. Because marketing is on consignment, there may be trust or problems</li> <li>➤ Farmer from EffutuKoforidua commented that he was happy to see production practices of neighbors (Komenda farmers) – including tillage, that seemed to lead to improved yields?</li> <li>➤ EffutuKoforidua farmer (John Koomson) observed that some of the produce at Komenda might not be really marketable, though high yielding.</li> <li>➤ Cracking attributed by farmer to soil type and the size of the roots....Solomon Afuape pointed out that many factors including nematodes, genetics, growing conditions can contribute to cracking in sweetpotato</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cultural practices for weevil control (earthing up)</li> <li>➤ Curing process by vine cutting.</li> <li>➤ Both could improve quality and improve storability.</li> <li>➤ Fresh root storage research?</li> <li>➤ Drought resistant varieties seem to be important.</li> <li>➤ Private sector comment (Gambrah)– Where is the vine producer nursery? Is it worth investing in good quality planting material? [farmers already buy planting material – quality, health, etc..?]. Whether people will pay for planting material depends on where the production location is.</li> <li>➤ Irrigation/water management could be important (Letitia Sam)</li> <li>➤</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Input costs may be problematic with respect to adoption of “improved” practices</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Baba Salifu (Komenda) happy to have visitors and have some attention paid to the sweetpotato value chain. Marketing is a serious constraint. He proposes that sp might be part of a school feeding program to boost demand. Also expressed appreciation for Mofa Director who has been assisting plenty.</li> <li>➤ There is a need for alternative/new forms of utilization for sweetpotato</li> <li>➤ The producers have not been eating a lot of sweetpotato because they believe that it will make men impotent. This has been a serious inhibitor to sweetpotato utilization!!!!</li> <li>➤ Farmer reported that he was able to produce sweetpotato for 20 years without chemicals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Processor reported that if chemicals begin to be used care must be taken to avoid inappropriate use so as to avoid problems for processors. Residues could be a big problem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤</li> </ul>

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**VALUE CHAIN LINKAGES**

<b>Whom am I working with on Sweet Potato?</b>				
<b>Input Providers</b>	<b>Producers</b>	<b>Traders</b>	<b>Processors</b>	<b>Service Providers</b>
➤	➤	➤	➤	➤
<b>What Keeps us together/How do you communicate?</b>				
➤	➤	➤	➤	➤
<b>Who else do I need?</b>				
➤	➤	➤	➤	➤

**What is the role of this Platform in Promoting and Developing the Sweet Potato Value Chain in Ghana/West Africa**

- The SSP-WA has a role – yes.
- SSP can be a facilitator
- Lead by example – forum for sweetpotato snack consumption (Play a role in sensitization/advocacy/awareness)
- Capacity building for VC actors (production, etc)
- Influence policy in favor of sweetpotato
- Gambrah – Does the platform have money or capacity to leverage money? Carey response. WAAPP, RTIMP, CIP/Sasha have limited funds, and we can take small steps. Role of platform will be academic at the end of the day if we don't have capacity for production, because processors won't be interested if product is not available in abundance... We are talking about holistic development of the value chain.
- Producer stated that market development is critical for platform
- Kerstin Hell – What is the entry point? Is it the 50,000 t for an industry, or another product...Lowest hanging fruit. (school feeding, snack food, etc)
- Resource mobilization
- Information sharing and dissemination

**NEXT STEPS on Value Chain**

Activity	Location/Region etc.	Responsibility (Who)		Timeframe		Contributions From:	
		Institution	Person	Starting	Ending	Funding	Other
Value chain assessment workshops	in Central region, Volta Region and Upper East	MOFA/RTI MP	Mr. Adjekum	Jan	Feb	RTIMP	
		GTZ MOAP	JOshua?	Jan	Feb	RTIMP?	
		WAAPP	MOFA/CSIR	Jan	Feb		
International assessment?							
Form a committee to follow up on VC activities on a monthly basis.	Prof Oduro Gambrah Joshua Ahiaba GHS Mofa/RTIMP WAAPP UCC?						

Need to do more quantitative consumer assessments of different varieties compared to local varieties.

**Is the value chain activity of the SSP-WA only for Ghana?**

Appendix 1.

**Agenda for the Second Meeting of the  
Sweetpotato Support Platform for West Africa,  
23 through 25 November, 2010,  
Institute of Education, University of Cape Coast, Ghana  
Co-Sponsored by WAAPP, RTIMP and CIP**



Facilitator: Esi Amoaful, Nutrition Department, Ghana Health Service

	Activity	Venue/Presenter
Tuesday, November 23.		
8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Institute of Education Conf. Room
9:00	Update on SSP-WA and expectations for the meeting (15 min presentation followed by 5 min discussion)	Ted Carey, CIP
9:20	SPHI report – Activities and lessons learned	Jan Low, CIP
9:40	WAAPP and the SSP-WA. Working to achieve regional and national objectives	Joe Cobbina, WAAPP
10:00	RTIMP and sweetpotato – moving the agenda forward in Ghana	Charles Opoku
10:20	Break	
10:40	Panel discussion. Vitamin A and OFSP in Ghana, Nigeria and the region – Advocacy agenda, updates on progress made, issues of programs	Esi Amoaful, GHS; Letitia Sam, HKI-Mali, Ijeoma Egeonu, University of Ibadan
11:40	Panel discussion - Monitoring and Evaluation; Establishing the baseline and integrating national and regional efforts	WAAPP, RTIMP, Jan Low
12:40	Lunch	Institute of Education Chalets
2:00	NGO and farmer organization experiences in Ghana	Lydia Sasu, DAA; John Mahama Africare
2:40	Sweetpotato research and Development from the U. of Cape Coast and Central Region	Prof J.P. Tetteh, University of Cape Coast
3:00	Sweetpotato breeding and variety dissemination in Nigeria, an update	Solomon Afuape, NRCRI
3:20	Break	
3:45 – 5:30	Intro to the value chain. What are we talking about and why is it relevant to R+D workers?	Mr. Joshua Ahiaba – MOAP
Wednesday, November 24		
8:30 a.m.	Field day (Joined by value chain actors) – KEEA, Cape Coast metro (FFF, research, farmers, marketers)	MOFA and U. Cape Coast hosts
12:30	Lunch	
2:00	The Executive Steering Committee of SASHA and the SSP-WA	H.K. Adu-Dapaah – CSIR-CRI
2:15	Value Chain Awareness exercise with Actors	Mr. Joshua Ahiaba – MOAP
5:00	Sweetpotato product demonstration, sampling and informal discussion	At the Adult Education Chalets/MOFA-WIAD
Thursday, November 25.		
8:30 a.m.	Sweetpotato Knowledge Portal training	Ocean View Internet Café/ J. Riis-Jacobsen
11:30	Wrap-up discussion and lunch	Adult Education Chalets
1:00	Participants Depart	

Appendix 2. **Summary of Evaluation by Participants of SSP-WA Meeting,  
November 23 to 25, 2010, Cape Coast Ghana**

**Respondents:** 8 female, 12 male  
**Average age:** 45 years; range 27 to 62

<u>Question</u>	<u>Number of responses by category</u>
<b>1. Did the meeting match your expectations?</b>	
Not at all	
Somewhat	4
Mostly	13
Completely	3
<b>2. How would you rate the quality of the meeting in terms of content?</b>	
Very poor	
Poor	
Alright	5
Good	12
Very good	3
<b>3. How would you rate the meeting in terms of organization</b>	
Very poor	
Poor	2
Alright	11
Good	5
Very good	2
<b>4. What parts of the meeting were most useful to you (open-ended question)</b>	
Presentation and panel discussion	9
- Discussion of monitoring and evaluation	3
- Discussions on value chain addition	18
- Advocacy panel discussion	6
- Update on SPHI/breeding	2
Visit to farmers site and farmers participation	16
Exhibition of SP products.	10
SP knowledge portal training	12
Exchange of ideas	2
WAAPP and RTIMP participation	2
Meeting new partners	2
Great cross sectional representation of partners	2

Appendix 3. Summary of responses to a survey of participants on what should be the role(s) of the SSP-WA

	GOV EXT	MINIST RY	NG O	PRIVAT E SECTOR	UNIVE RSITY	NATL RESE ARC H	INTL RESEA RCH	ST UD EN T	TOT AL	SPHI MANDATE
<i>Count of respondents</i>	2	1	3	1	3	5	2	1	18	
<b>Breeding</b>										
Select high yield varieties with demanded end user characteristics							1		1	Yes
Breed high quality, high starch materials						1			1	Yes
Facilitate exchange of available germplasm between countries						1			1	Yes
<b>Seed Systems</b>										
Encourage farmers to use clean planting material						1			1	No With
Support establishment of vine multiplication nurseries					1				1	partners With
Make vines available on time to farmers					1				1	partners
Educate & discuss how to keep vines for next farming season					1				1	No
<b>Nutrition</b>										
Introduce OFSP Nutrition Education into Programs					1				1	With partners
<b>Value Chains</b>										
Facilitate development of the sweetpotato value chain	1	1		1		2			5	With partners With
Establish functional sweetpotato chains in 3 regions in Ghana					1				1	partners With
Command value chain study in Ghana				1			1		3	partners With
Search for funding for value chain study in Nigeria						1	1		2	partners With
Elucidate role of SP in West African Food systems							1		1	partners
Engage marketing experts to begin vigorous promotion of the agenda						1			1	With

	GOV EXT	MINIST RY	NG O	PRIVAT E SECTOR	UNIVE RSITY	NATL RESE ARCH	INTL RESEA RCH	ST UD ENT	TOT AL	SPHI MANDATE partners
Seek/Create market for producers					1	1			2	No
Get Rtime fully involved and funding the value chain program in Ghana				1					1	With partners
Focus on developing value chain for bread linked to bakeries, then schools				1					1	With partners
Conduct survey on sweetpotato value chain in Nigeria					1				1	With partners
Encourage NGOs to buy sp from farmers and give to institutions like orphanages			1			1			2	No
Identify & support training for various actors in the value chain			1						1	With partners
<b>Organizational</b>										
Constitute sub-committee to promote sweetpotato in participating countries						1			1	Yes
Set up a small committee to meet more regularly								1	1	Yes
Facilitate research work on sweetpotato	1					1			2	With partners
To coordinate the regional activities	1								1	No
										Yes*
Coordinate resource mobilization		1			1	1	1	1	5	
Exchange visits along value chains among participating West African countries			1		1				2	With partners
Provide technical backstopping			1						1	With partners
Create a functional structure					1				1	If

	GOV EXT	MINIST RY	NG O	PRIVAT E SECTOR	UNIVE RSITY	NATL RESE ARC H	INTL RESEA RCH	ST UD EN T	TOT AL	SPHI MANDATE members desire
To hold meetings to push the program forward	2								2	Yes Maybe by subcommi
Increase the number of meetings held per year						1			1	tees
To monitor activities in the region	1								1	No
Identify other partners			1						1	Yes
Strengthen networking and coordination		1							1	Yes
Promote inter-country networking			1						1	Yes
Facilitate linked NRCRI (natl pgm Nigeria) to WAAPP						1			1	With partners
Should link up with experts in soils health and quality							1		1	Yes
Include other countries like Sierra Leone						1			1	Yes**
Advocacy										
Support publicaton of SP Recipe book for West Africa							1		1	Yes**
Prepare handouts and engage the media (written & electronic)						1			1	Yes**
Promote integration of OFSP/SP into school feeding programs								1	1	With partners
Organize exhibition in major agricultural, food and health school shows						1			1	Yes**
Organize education campaigns for farmers and others			1						1	No
Organize awareness campaigns with media			1		1	1			3	Yes**
Organize competitions for students on sweetpotato					1				1	Yes**
Seek appointment/forum with policy makers to disseminate info					2	1	1		4	With partners
Knowledge Exchange										
Sponser field visits to farmers in areas not yet visited/frequent farm	1						1		2	Yes**

	GOV EXT	MINIST RY	NG O	PRIVAT E SECTOR	UNIVE RSITY	NATL RESE ARCH	INTL RESEA RCH	ST UD EN T	TOT AL	SPHI MANDATE
visits										
Facilitate bringing West African sweetpotato breeders together						1			1	Yes**
Share information between countries/local and international members			1			1			2	Yes
Open an on-line discussion forum			1						1	Knowledge portal
Serve as sweetpotato knowledge clearinghouse/information sharing		1	3		1	1			6	Yes

\* The SSP-WA can be a focal point for cooperation in this area

\*\* If additional support can be found

Appendix 4. List of participants at the meeting of the Sweetpotato Support Platform, West Africa, November 23 to 25, 2010, Cape Coast, Ghana

Name		Title	Institution	Address		
Joshua	Ahiaba	Facilitator	MOAP-VC		Accra	Ghana
Hans	Adu-Dapaah	Director	CSIR-Crops Research Institute	P.O. Box 3785	Kumasi	Ghana
Solomon	Afuape	Sweetpotato Breeder	National Root Crops Research Institute	NRCRI	Umudike	Nigeria
Esther	Akomaning	Home Economist	MOFA-WIAD		Cape Coast	Ghana
Esi	Amoaful	Vitamin A Program Coordinator	Ghana Health Service	P.O. Box M78	Accra	Ghana
Robert	Appiah	AEA	MOFA	BOX 503	Cape Coast	Ghana
J.N.	Asafu-Agyei	Sweetpotato Program Leader, Agronomist	CSIR-Crops Research Institute	P.O. Box 3785	Kumasi	Ghana
Elvis	Baidoo	Food Scientist	CSRI-FRI	P.O Box 3785	Kumasi	Ghana
Ted	Carey	Regional Sweetpotato Breeder	CRI-Kumasi	P.O. Box 3785	Kumasi	Ghana
Ijeoma	Egeonu	Research Asst	University of Ibadan	PMB 200001	Ibadan	Nigeria
Tom	Gambrah	Managing Director	Premium Foods	P.O. Box KS 5452	Kumasi	Ghana
Kofi	Golokumah	DAO	MOFA	BOX 503	Cape Coast	Ghana
Kerstin	Hell	Post Harvest & Marketing	AHIPA	BP 08-09	Cotonou	Benin
Jan	Low	Ag Economist	CIP- Nairobi	P.O. Box 25171,00603	Nairobi	Kenya
John	Mahama	Nutritionist	Africare-Ghana	AS 2108 Osu Accra	Accra	Ghana
K.	Obeng-Antwi	Plant Breeder	CSIR-CRI	P.O Box 3785	Kumasi	Ghana
Ebenezer	Obeng-Bio	Asst. Breeder	CIP	P.O Box 3785	Kumasi	Ghana
Vivian	Oduro	Ph.D. student	WACCI	P.O Box 25	Accra	Ghana
Ibok	Oduro	Associate Professor	K.N.U.S.T.		Kumasi	Ghana
Charles	Opoku	Scientist	MOFA-RTIMP	Box 7728	Kumasi	Ghana
Jeremy	Opoku-Adjeyman	Scientist	MOFA-WAAPP	Box M 32	Accra	Ghana
Halidu	Osman	Acct/Admin	CIP	P.O Box 3785	Kumasi	Ghana
Margaret	Quarm	AEA	MOFA	BOX 52	Elmeena	Ghana
Jens	Riis-Jacobsen	IT Manager	CIP	P.O. Box 25171,00603	Nairobi	Kenya
Letitia	Sam	Dep. Country Director	Helen Keller Int.	BP E1557	Bamako	Mali
John Kwesi	Ocran	Scientific Secretary	CSIR-WAPP	Box M 32	Accra	Ghana
Samuel	Mahama	M+E Officer	CSIR-WAPP	Box M 32	Accra	Ghana
Charles	Oware Twenboah	Assistant Admin Officer	CSIR-WAPP	Box M 32	Accra	Ghana
Archer	Playe	Project Accountant	CSIR-WAPP	Box M 32	Accra	Ghana
E.A.	Abole	Lecturer-School of Agric	University of Cape coast	University Post Office	Cape Coast	Ghana
Ernest	Teye	Lecturer-School of Agric	University of Cape coast	University Post Office	Cape Coast	Ghana
Lydia	Sasu	Farmer	FARMER	P.O. Box DK 18	Accra	Ghana
Akwasi	Wireko	District Director of Agriculture	MOFA	Box 52	Elmina	Ghana