



**REPORT ON
DONOR ROUNDTABLE MEETING HOSTED BY HELEN KELLER
INTERNATIONAL (HKI) AND INTERNATIONAL POTATO CENTRE (CIP) IN
COLLABORATION WITH FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT.**



INTRODUCTION

The International Potato Center (CIP) and Helen Keller International (HKI) have entered into collaboration to implement the Reaching Agents of Change (RAC) Project. The project's intention is to promote the consumption of orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP), high in provitamin A carotenoids, as a food-based approach to address Vitamin A deficiency (VAD). The RAC project has two principal components – advocacy (led by HKI) and capacity building (led by CIP). The RAC project has two principal objectives:

- To generate new investments by governments, donors, and NGO's to scale up the adoption and use of OFSP in five target countries through advocacy ;RAC in Nigeria is to *Mobilize at least \$3-4 Million of new investment in OFSP processing, production, marketing and utilization*
- To build the capacity of indigenous agencies to design and implement technically strong and cost-effective interventions that drive the propagation of OFSP;

In order to mobilize investments for the up scaling of Federal Ministry of Agriculture and rural development has invested on the up scaling of OFSP and development of its value chain. Helen Keller International (HKI and International Potato Centre (CIP) in collaboration with Federal Ministry of Agriculture and rural development is organizing a round table meeting to sensitize major stakeholders, donor agencies, and private investors on the Potentials of OFSP and its value chain. . The round table meeting will also sensitize participants on the utilization of the value chain of OFSP for income generation towards improved livelihood.

The Donor round table meeting began at 8:45 a.m. on the 12th of November 2013 with the arrival and registration of participants, after which an opening prayer was said by Mr Tim Ukuta. Participants present introduced themselves. The welcome address was delivered by Dr Julius Odeyemi the Director of agriculture in the Federal Ministry of agriculture and rural development, In his welcome address Dr Julius Odeyemi welcomed participants and appreciated the effort put into OFSP advocacy and dissemination activities by the RAC project,. He also spoke on the part government is playing in the area of investment on the development of the value chain of OFSP through the rainbow project, he apologized on the delay to kick start the rainbow project due to delay in release of funds which he said will be soon. He further thanked God for the success of the inclusion of OFSP in the budget this year and appealed to other agencies, individuals, philanthropist and others to come on board and put in their effort for the success of the project. Also he stated that next year will be better as more funds will be pushed into the OFSP project. He concluded by wishing participants a good deliberation.

Pre meeting planning

In organizing the donor round table meeting, the objectives of the meeting was taken into consideration, and this also informed the participants to be invited. There were 3 consultation meetings with the sweetpotato desk officer on the importance of involvement of FMARD since it is envisaged that the rainbow project will continue after the exit of RAC.FMARD made inputs into the agenda and also suggested some invitees, one meeting was also held with the federal advocates in Abuja to share the objectives of the meeting with them and also get their inputs, they also suggested potential investors to be invited for the meeting. After all the consultation meetings the following were to be invited to the meetings they are Banks because they can finance OFSP projects,, this assumption was based on the fact that there are banks who have the funds to finance Agriculture projects e.g. bank of Agriculture, donor agencies for integration of OFSP into their programmes, others are Government agencies for inclusion and policy support, Farmer groups for cultivation and multiplication of OFSP. Letters were sent to participants, some of the organizations invited were visited by the PE so as to give detailed explanations on the objectives of the meeting, phone calls to confirm their participation was also made to them although some of the numbers did not go through.

Table 1: Potential investors for OFSP projects

Name of institution	Type	Location of head office and areas of operation in the country	Type of investment (loan, grants etc)	Area of interest in OFSP
Bank of Agriculture	Finance institution	Abuja and 36 states	Loan	OFSP multiplication and value chain
Union Bank	Finance institution	Abuja and 36 states of the country	Loan	OFSP cultivation and value addition
Nigeria Incentive-based risk sharing system for Agricultural Loan (NIRSAL),	Finance	Abuja and 36states	Capacity building	Capacity building for farmers for access to loans

Table 2: Potential implementers of OFSP projects

Name of institution	Type of institution	Coverage area	Area of interest
Potato Farmers Association of Nigeria(POFAN)	Farmer group	Abuja and 20 states	Cultivation, Processing of OFSP products
All women Farmers association of Nigeria	Farmer group	Abuja and 5 States	Cultivation, Processing of OFSP products
Micronutrient Initiative	NGO	Abuja and 6 states	Integrate OFSP in their own nutrition programs
SPRING Project	Consortium of NGOs	Abuja and 11 states	Integration of OFSP into community nutrition programs
Young Men Christian association (YMCA)	Local NGO	Nasarawa State	Promotion of OFSP and cultivation.
Initiative for Social Change in Africa, Ebonyi	Local NGO	Ebonyi state	Community based nutrition intervention through Women support group
Nutrition & Health Research Initiative, Abuja	Community based Organiasation(CBO)	Abuja	Community nutrition intervention.
Foundation for the vulnerable, Benue State.	CBO	Abuja	Community nutrition intervention and women

			empowerment program	
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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Mrs Beatrice Eluaka in her keynote address on Orange Flesh Sweet Potatoes for Health and Wealth gave the health indicators in Nigeria between 2003 and 2008 respectively according to NDHS as

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|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| • Neo-natal mortality | 48 out of 1000 | 40 out of 1000 |
| • Post-natal mortality | 52 out of 1000 | 35 out of 1000 |
| • Infant mortality | 100 out of 1000 | 75 out of 1000 |
| • Child mortality | 112 out of 1000 | 88 out of 1000 |
| • Under 5 mortality | 201 out of 1000 | 157 out of 1000 |

Stating that malnutrition is responsible for over 50% of deaths among Under 5 children

Further she listed the key nutritional problems in Nigeria as

- Energy and Protein Deficiency which causes:
 - Stunting which is put at 42%(2003) and 41%(2008)
 - Wasting which is put at 11%(2003) and 14%(2008)
 - Underweight which is put 24%(2003) and 23%(2008)
- Poor Infant Feeding which is what is responsible for these problem

And the reasons children are dying are due to Neo-natal 26%, Malaria 25%, Pneumonia 21%, Diarrhea 20%, HIV/AIDs%, Measles 4% and Malnutrition 54% which is contributing to all of these reasons.

Further she stated that the nutrition situation in Nigeria is already a public health concern and they are:

- Poor infant feeding practices
- Energy and Protein deficiencies
- Vitamin A deficiency
- Iron Deficiency Anemia
- Iron Deficiency Disorders

These are the prominent nutrition problems contributing to poor nutritional status. She mentioned that wasting and Vitamin A Deficiency increase substantially the risk of death of children from the following conditions: Neo-natal, Pneumonia, Diarrhea, Measles, HIV/AIDs, Injuries and others.

In her presentation she also said Vitamin A Deficiency is a public health issue in Nigeria as approximately 25% of Nigeria's children are growing up with lowered immunity, immunity to withstand diseases and so on. And children who don't have immunity are exposed to diseases and other infections.

She also said Vitamin A Deficiency is a serious issue that affects the poor and pregnant women. The Clinical signs seen are xerophthalmia which are scars seen somewhere in the eye that affects the ability to see which have a severe outcome of irreversible blindness.

Furthermore she talked about the two main causes of Vitamin A Deficiency such as:

- Not getting enough Vitamin A/not getting Vitamin A in food eaten
- We get Vitamin A but the body is not able to use it because of malaria, measles, intestinal diseases and so on.

Saying we need to promote the consumption of locally available vitamin A, this has been done through supplementation, fortification and dietary diversification (involves promoting the consumption of locally available Vitamin A rich foods we can grow ourselves.

That participants may understand the magnitude of the problem we have and trying to address. She gave this information of mortality:

- Under 5 children 23.2%
- Mothers 13%
- Pregnant women 19%

The functions of Vitamin A are

- Growth and Development: especially in reproduction because it helps in cell division.
- Immune response, to resist infections, diseases and reduces the severity of illnesses.
- Vision which is the one most people are familiar with
- Scientist have shown that it is important as it reduces all causes of mortality by 23%, measles mortality by 50% and diarrhea by 33%.

Anything that can do all these is worth investing and promoting the use.

She also said we need to address what is going on in our home in other to achieve food security in our homes, quality of care we give to ourselves and our children and then health and environmental service. All of these three when achieved will lead to good nutritional status.

So far Nigeria has launched a policy in 2002, which is currently undergoing review. The five strategies that is been used are:

- Improving food security
- Enhancing care givers capacity
- Improving health services
- Controlling Micro nutrient deficiencies
- Institutionalizing general consumer protection measures

The two that concerns us are improving food security and controlling micro nutrient deficiencies.

Again she said to prevent vitamin A deficiency through supplementation is a short term measure and it may be expensive and difficult to sustain, while fortification is a short to

medium term measure where synthetic vitamin A is added to food during processing some of the product are out of the reach of the poor and the third strategy is Dietary diversification which is the issue we are discussing today, it is a long term measure.

She said even with the food fortification effort, we have just done half of the job. Reaching 80% of the children is not good enough we need to do something to reach all the children that means committing more resources to end the problem.

The cost of deficiency is very huge while the cost of the solution is miniscule. Dietary diversification of food is very important; it is a food base approach that is most sustainable of the various interventions. OFSP is a food base approach that has the potential of increasing vitamin A intake in poor, small and marginal farming communities. It also has the potential for creating wealth particularly for women farmers because they can grow the food in their garden, and it grows all year round as it can be harvested twice a year.

She said OFSP contains beta-carotene, which the body makes into vitamin A that it needs. Vitamin A is available in two forms; animal and plant sources. The body is able to use the animal sources of vitamin A directly while the plant sources are not readily available, but when the plant source mixed with a little fat it becomes available for the body to utilize. OFSP is also rich in vitamin C, copper, manganese, dietary fiber, potassium, etc. The whole potato can be eaten including the leaves.

She also pointed out that just 150g of OFSP is sufficient to meet the daily need of the child's vitamin A

In concluding, she said having seen the importance of vitamin A and the place where we are in Nigeria concerning vitamin A and we have agreed that there is a need for us to address it, one of the ways to address it is to introduce some food base approach like OFSP for reducing Nutrition Deficiency, and everyone has a role especially nutritionist in developing new recipes that will be acceptable to all especially for complementary feeding while Agriculturist can train farmers and provide vines for farmers and women empowerment by training and the necessary requirement so that they use OFSP as an income generating effort and consumption at home.

Finally she called on Investors to support that we might have a healthier and wealthier Nigeria.

UPDATES OF OFSP ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA; RAC PROJECT

Mary Umoh gave a brief background saying that RAC Project is a platform used in promoting the OFSP in the country RAC Project is a 3years project (started in June 2011 and it will be ending by May 2014) funded by the Bill and Melinda gates foundation with the Objective of increase investment in OFSP through advocacy and capacity building and putting in place policy and institutional arrangement to upscale OFSP and also develop best practices for the OFSP advocacy.

The RAC project is implemented through partnership with CIP who are experts in breeding, production, use and promotion of OFSP, it is working through the National Root crop Research

Institute and HKI, which is experienced in food-base nutritional interventions, programming to combat Vitamin A Deficiencies.

She also said RAC project has 5 countries where this programme is being implemented which are;

- Mozambique, they have doing it for the past 12 years.
- Tanzania, which is on the same level with Nigeria. They have 3 varieties.
- Nigeria is still new,. For now Nigeria has 2 varieties (King J released in Dec 2012 and mothers delight released in June 2013)
- . Other secondary countries include Ghana and Burkina Faso

Again she pointed the overall goal as influencing the integration of OFSP into policies, plans and programmes and also to generate substantially increased investment and commitment to dissemination and use as means to combat Vitamin A deficiency and food insecurity in Nigeria, She went further to talk about what the project have been able to achieve which includes,

- Situation analysis conducted in three states which are Benue, Kwara, and Nasararwa which has remained the focal states for the implementation of the project as they are major SP producers. 20 advocates trained, advocacy strategy developed and implemented and implementation of small grant scheme. She also gave update on the investment and areas where investment is needed which includes Wide scale promotion to create awareness and demand for OFSP - media, IEC materials, rallies, road show.
- Inclusion of OFSP in existing policies, e.g Agricultural , health, education etc
- Fried products value chain, wheat flour substitution value
- Developing the value chain of OFSP for income generation amongst, women, youths , Men communities etc

She further highlighted some of the areas where further investments is needed which includes

- Wide scale promotion to create demand- media, IEC materials, rallies, road show.
- Inclusion of OFSP in existing policies, e.g Agricultural , health, education etc
- Fried products value chain, wheat flour substitution value
- Developing the value chain of OFSP for income generation amongst, women, youths , Men communities etc

Mary appreciated government for their effort towards ensuring the success of the project and for the approval of funding in six states. She also appealed to for more investors to invest in any way possible. In conclusion she said OFSP should be included in existing policies. All hands must be on deck to fight malnutrition, food security and improved livelihoods for vulnerable households

UPDATES OF OFSP IN NIGERIA: RAINBOW PROJECT

In his presentation Mr Ayeni Sweet Potato desk officer for FMARD stated there are 6 states which are Osun, Kaduna, Benue, Nasarawa/FCT, Kwara and Ebonyin, project focuses on the following areas project management, baseline study, varietal selection, demand creation, nutrition value chain and value addition.

He also tasked the National Root crop Research Institute to look for tangible out growers that can easily multiply OFSP so that it can easily be given out to farmers as the Ministry is interested in production.

If farmers can get 20 ton/hectares it will create jobs especially for women and youths.

CURRENT STATUS OF OFSP PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION IN NIGERIA- CIP

In his presentation, Dr Jude Njoku said Sweet potato is one food that has been neglected in Nigeria because it is not a main staple food and often regarded as the poor man's food.

Again he mentioned that Nigeria is the largest producers of sweet potato in Africa while china is the largest producer in the world. Some work needs to be done to increase farmers yield of sweet potatoes in the area of good agronomic practices.

He also said the newly OFSP variety can mature in less than 4 months, and can be cultivated 2 or 3 times in a year.. OFSP has more aggregate yield than cassava and yam. He also stated that sweet potato can be intercropped with other crops and also serves as weed suppressant.

He stated that Sweet potatoes have industrial potential such as adhesive, starch etc and so on can be gotten and a substantial amount of energy can be gotten in the sweet potatoes. Both humans and animals can consume both the roots and leaves. It is a good source of energy, dietary fiber and beta-carotene (in both the yellow and orange flesh potatoes).

On the Status of OFSP Production in Nigeria Dr Njoku said it is still very new in Nigeria and steadily making impact. t. Though yields are low in farmer's field, there has been a steady increase in production for the past decade. The importance of sweetpotato has attracted the attention of the Federal Government as it has been included in the Agricultural transformation agenda.

Two OFSP varieties have so far been released one in December and the other in June.by NRCRI, Umudike and now working closely with POFAN to disseminate clean materials to farmers.

He said decentralize vine multipliers were selected in 5 states; Benue, Nasarawa/FCT, Ebonyi, Kwara, Osun (Three persons per state). He added that by December 3 persons would be selected for Kaduna state too.

He gave the status of the multiplication as follows,

Status of multiplication, quantities + Uses

Umudike	MD + KJ	0.2+0.3 (.5)	Ebonyi (July)	DVM (12,500 ea)	Hholds (300 vines each)
Umuahia	KJ	0.5	Benue (May)	2+3	300
Taraba	MD	0.5	Benue (June)	3	300
Agbamu	MD + KJ	0.1+0.1 (.2)	Kwara (June)	3	300 (Benue)

In conclusion, he said investors could invest by building the capacity of the farmers and by creating market for OFSP.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS and RESPONSE

Mrs Beatrice Eluaka

1. Dr Phillipa Momah, Nigeria has been producing malnourished children according to data NDH2003 and 2008-these children may not compete effectively in the future especially with the nations vision 2020.
Can the investors here provide platform and insist that nutritionist, agriculturist and women empowerment groups get together and can “walk our talk” to address under 5 malnutrition using the food base approach?
2. Mrs Lizzy Igbine, asked how could we key into this by providing land for women and providing vines?
Secondly, how can we introduce it to infants at home?
3. Mr Efuntoye A. Titus asked if HKI has conducted a baseline of adoption of OFSP since the time it was introduced in Nigeria?
There is a need to plan for the funds that is about to be released for 2014 since 2013 is far spent
4. Mr Tim Ukuta said the viability should be promoted among youths in tertiary institution and the process of economic empowerment should be highlighted and promoted.
5. Mr Ayeni wants to know if improvement can be done in the area of preservation.

Mary Umoh, Mr S. Ayeni and Dr Jude Njoku’s Presentation

- I. Mr William Ezeagu commended the effort of HKI and other stakeholders for organizing the program. He also said the National Export Promotion council will assist with developing the packaging for finished products from OFSP which can be linked to market overseas..
- II. Dr Maryam Yaro from NISRAL(CBN) asked if a survey has been done on how much OFSP needs to be produces to address VAD in Nigeria, does it grow everywhere in Nigeria and where does it do well?
- III. Mr Efuntoye A. Titus says there is a need to key into the growth enhancement support scheme by getting farmers duly captured in the ministry’s database.

RESPONSES

Mrs Eluaka's response

- She said we have highlighted what we think needs to be done but the nutritionist investors, women empowerment approach and agriculture people to sit and talk and see how we are to move forward.
- Focus is laid on women because in some rural areas the women are the ones who do the farming and she agree that young ones, the youths and children are target for promoting OFSP.
- For the other questions it will be tackled during the group work and other presentations.

Dr Jude's response

- To know the farmers, each state has a desk officer that can give information's needed as the desk officers' deal directly with the farmers.
- The market situation is being addressed.
- Partners and government cannot do it alone, other investors by creating link with farmers and market.

GROUP SESSION

A group session was held where participants moved to the various group according to the organizations. The groups are:

- Banks
- Private Organization
- Development partners/ Donors
- Government.

Each group was given an hour to deliberate on how we can further enhance the potentials of OFSP, make connection with various organization projects to support farmers, what information is needed, for organizations that do not have it on their programmes how can they include it in their programmes and probably some challenges that could affect or have been affecting the potentials of OFSP investment.

PLENARY SESSION

Each group gave a presentation on what they came up with:

PRIVATE ORGANIZATION/FARMERS

- Government should come up with legislation to tackle the challenges of infrastructure; good access roads to get OFSP produce to ready markets.
- Investors to take up goods at the right price.
- Farmers' organizations should be strengthened especially in the area of budgeting. This will enhance credibility and increase production.
- Farmers need to know where to get adequate produce for investors to know where they can put in their money.
- Government should facilitate mechanization to encourage youth and women to adopt OFSP cultivation.
- Banks should give loans to farmers on a single digit interest rate. This will encourage production of enough OFSP.
- Development partners should "give" lands to encourage as many OFSP farmers as possible.
- Sensitization of farmers through the mass media.
- Government should link up farmers with investors who will buy the produce especially in large quantities for further processing.
- Database of producing farmers should be available and updated.
- Government should assist (women) farmers in lands' acquisition.

BANK GROUP

(UNION, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and Nigerian Agric insurance Cooperation(NAIC)

- Union Bank is currently working with POFAN through Zenith Energy Enzyme to supply them with organic fertilizer for them to cultivate OFSP after which they will buy back the product. This should be enlarged to accommodate the interest of the bank. However, they want to be involved from the beginning. Issue: How will POFAN get the vines?
- Union Bank wants to know how the vines will be distributed and how long will it last before they dry up?
- Bank of Agriculture has very low interest rate (12 - 14%) and only farmer groups and cooperative societies can have access to this.
- Nigerian Agriculture Insurance Cooperation(NAIC) safeguards farmers and their products through insurance.
- Nigeria Incentive-based risk sharing system for Agricultural Loan (NIRSAL), which is 100%, funded by Central Bank of Nigeria(CBN)would give advice as regards value chain as well as loss of loan. Other packages include interest rebate of 40% for farmers and technical assistance to farmer groups. They are also ready to work with individual farmers.

GOVERNMENT GROUP- Comprising of NCRCRI, FMARD, FMOH,

- Problems associated with OFSP production, utilization, processing and marketing
- Under Production, the identified narrow genetic base of OFSP as a problem. More varieties should be released. So also low yield and low awareness of the potentials of OFSP resulting to low production.
- Under Processing these problems were identified; inadequate value addition of OFSP and poor packaging.
- Uncoordinated marketing channels, fluctuating market prices and low price.

Steps to be taken:

- Encouragement of research through adequate funding by both government and other stakeholders as it is obtained in advanced countries
- Government will advocate or the inclusion of OFSP in the Growth Enhancement Support Programme
- Increased advocacy and organization of field days
- Propose the use of OFSP in complimentary food demonstration at Primary Health Centres(PHCs).
- Connect FADAMA 3 and link it with the advocacy of OFSP.
- Make discussions of OFSP imperative at Monthly Reviews Technology Meeting of ADPs in Nigeria.
- Fortnightly training is a vital platform to reach the grassroots farmers and village extension agents on OFSP.
- Involvement of Public Private Partnership in OFSP value chain.
- Linkage with Agric equipment processors on the OFSP policies and programmes.
- Identify potential investors such as Dangote and other flourmills to include OFSP in production channels.
- Creation of minimum price fee for OFSP through price regulation
- Introduction of buy-back mechanisms of OFSP products
- Packaging of the finished products for easy access to the market

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS (HKI, MI, NHRI and SPRING Project)

- MI is involved in programmes tackling micronutrient deficiencies. They will now looking at the possibility of integrating OFSP into their current programme and planning. Before Dec 15th MI Programme Officer will contact Mary Umoh for further discussions.
- NHRI has a programme they call “Catch them Young” nutrition clubs in primary school and Junior Secondary Schools where they provide NUTRITION EDUCATION, recently focusing on Vitamin A and will now include OFSP messages.
- Work with the National Root Crop in Nyanya Research Institute for access to roots and vines.

- Competition to encourage entrepreneurship amongst young people and pledged to include OFSP in the quest next year.
- Their challenge may be having a simplified pictorial guide to teach people about OFSP. There is a need for that.
- Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) focus is on IYCF. Train women through SUPPORT GROUPS on Exclusive Breast Feeding and infant feeding and will use this platform to train about OFSP (cultivation, cooking and sale). Now, that's wealth and health!
- HKI is looking at training down to community level women and men support groups at the community level especially in areas not covered by SPRING. Teach on growing, consumption and selling OFSP.
- HKI is interested in developing simple pictorial guides that can be used in capacity building especially at the community level. This will be done by the 1st quarter of 2014.
- Evaluation is not currently funded but it is very important to determine the impact of the project. Can other organizations meet this need?

REACTIONS.

- Good roads are indeed an incentive in agriculture.
- Fertilizer distribution should be effectively monitored so that the 'real' farmers get this input. Corruption should be chopped off!
- It is not feasible to expect government to provide funds. However, out-growers can be sourced.
- On the issue of tractors, government has sold them to farmer groups, universities etc. at subsidized rates.
- On the issue of land acquisition, government again is incapacitated. What then can government do exactly? They acquire land on behalf of farmers on lease, with terms and conditions attached. However, for small farmers village heads and traditional rulers can be approached for lands.
- On feeder roads, state and local governments should do it though it is the responsibility of federal governments too!
- Targeted areas for OFSP especially in the RAINBOW Project should also enjoy good access roads. Stable Processing Areas for OFSP should be created.
- What will government do to ensure OFSP is incorporated in the Staple Crop Processing Area initiative? It may not be feasible for now but there is hope for subsequent processing zones in the future.
- Information sharing is key and therefore it should be shared. Can it be downloadable on the ministry's website? Can the model be shared and adopted by other states not currently in the list of 6 selected states? The information needed is downloadable on the website of federal ministry of agriculture.

- Banks have in times past worked with Co-operative societies and failure was recorded due to several issues including corruption. And this time around, banks are looking to work with 'viable' farmer groups.
- Banks may have to look at partnerships with development partners, individuals and organizations to ensure accountability.
- HKI needs to have a market analysis done. What quantity needs to be produced to ensure that farmers pay back their loans and still make profit? The economics of this project needs to be worked out
- NIRSAL can facilitate a meeting with stakeholders to further discuss on these issues.
- Micro-loans are available to small farmers who don't have collateral to secure such loans. Requirement: have an ongoing project. The bank gets to know you for a period of 3months. Fill an application form and this will be processed.
- For SME loans, Open a savings account with Bank of Agriculture, discuss your feasibility study/business plan, fill the application form and this will be processed.
- There is an up-taker arrangement available to farmers for them to get the vines especially those who don't have collateral
- There is the need for a favorable policy to protect investors .National Policy on Food and Nutrition is in place and it is currently being revised.
- HKI should look at working with processors and there is the need to do market viability to be sure that it is feasible in Nigeria

WAY FORWARD/NEXT STEPS

- A meeting between NIRSAL and other stakeholders (HKI, NAIC, CBN) to further discuss key issues and perhaps formulate a programme (either large scale or small scale) to support OFSP.
- Can OFSP be given preferential treatment in banking policies and support this 'baby'?
- Farmers should look inward and put their house in order to encourage investors' support the project.
- Government SURE can do something! And there is the need to 'push' government to action to on markets; there will be following up on issues and relevant policies.
- Industry people will be meeting next year to hear their side of the story.
- Everyone should look in-house and see how to invest and Mary Umoh the [promotion expert will follow-up

LESSONS LEARNT

- There is need to follow up with invitees through phone calls and visits to ensure attendance or send the right representative to the meeting
- Subsequent donor meetings should take into consideration the need to have different forums or meetings for different groups as their investment plans are not always the same. For example the farmer groups should not be invited for such meetings with Government rather they should have a meeting where OFSP investment opportunities will be presented to them and they will be asked to develop their plans alongside the opportunities presented to them as it is observed that our farmers need a lot of capacity building that goes beyond planting of crops.
- Subsequent meetings should be tagged investment opportunities on OFSP instead of donor meeting as invitees might think they will be asked to donate money.
- There is need to develop a specific market strategy for marketing OFSP as potential investors want to know how they will get returns on their investments.
- The exhibition of processed products from OFSP during the meeting was another learning event for participants as they were seeing the potentials of OFSP for the first time.
- There is need for RAC to develop an investment model or plan to serve as guide for discussions with investors.
- Subsequent meetings should be for 2 days to allow enough time for discussions.
- The meeting was an eye opener to the funding opportunities for various groups from the banking industry.
- Involvement of FMARD gave a boost and credibility to the meeting although investors are worried if it will not turn out to be like the cassava programme where most investors are saying they did not get returns on their investments, the involvement of the Ministry was also challenging as most participants at the meeting saw it as an opportunity to dialogue with the Government on some gaps in terms implementation of agricultural policies.
- It was also observed from interaction with some of the donor agencies that they are still skeptical about investment opportunities on OFSP since it is not a focal crop in Nigeria.
- It was also observed during the meeting that private investors, government banks and the farmers' groups are very interested on the investment opportunities of OFSP.

CONCLUSION

Success was achieved as stakeholders present were sensitized on the health and wealth benefits of OFSP and possible ways of investing in OFSP were discussed. NIRSAL has also volunteered to host another meeting for further discussion with stakeholders.

Major media organizations were present to cover the event as the importance of the crop and the need for increased investments was aired severally by African Independent Television (AIT)

.

Participants were asked to go and look in-house, as there will be follow-up meetings next year. The Promotion experts Mary Umoh will follow-up it would be interesting to know where the follow-up will focus on to get some investments before the end of RAC appeal was made to stakeholders to give her the needed support especially the banks.

A brief closing remark was given by Mr S.O. Ayeni where he thanked the participants and also said the ministry of Agriculture will do its best to see that the project succeeds.

Finally he wished everyone a safe drive back home and said by next year we will sing a beautiful song on OFSP

Chief Okafor President of POFAN also thanked everyone on-behalf of the farmer and said OFSP has come to stay.

Dr Oladipo from MI said a closing prayer and then an Exhibition of products made from OFSP

ANNEXES

1. Picture of participants during the meeting



CROSS SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS DURING GROUP SESSION

2. List of participants

S/No	First Name	Surname Name	Organization	Email address	Phone number
1	Faraye	Tokunbo	FMOH	toksbeee@yahoo.com	08036213452
2.	Patricia	Ifeneme	Potato Farmer		08034251116
3.	Paul A.	Enoch	FMOH		07031944880
4.	Efuniye A.	Titus	FMARD		08057793476
5.	Pretty	Onyejaku	AIT		07060742086
6	Jubemi	Omabuwa	HKI		08033866576
7	Dr Eddy	Nwaogu	NRCRI		08035426788
8	Sewuse	Afoza	HKI		07035102878
9	Eno	Udongo	HKI		08163280087
10.	Faith	Ishaya	HKI	faithishaya@yahoo.co.uk	07034779456
11	Beatrice	Eluaka	SPRING		08033005903
12.	Faher	Ibrahim	CBN		08036647027
13	Dr J. C.	Njoku	NRCRI/CIP	j.njoku@cgiar.org	
14	Dr Ojinika	Geff	Alvera Farms		08033273950
15	Okoye	Finbair	Alvera Farms		08033703229
16	Yadua	J. C	CBN		08035896705
17	Kehinde	S. Jumoh	FMARD		07086887104
18	Ayeni	Olaekhinde	Food Farm News		08023529820
19	Tim	Ukuta	Greatness Digest		07034525199
20	Alex	Ukuta	Greatness Digest		
21	Azeez O.	Samson	Transparency Publishers		08029424390
22	Chief Dan	Okafor	POFAN		07030485130
23	Animashaun	Y. O	UNION Bank	yoanimasaun@unionbanking.com	07065712175
24	Mary	Iheonu	FCT ADP		07039893860
25	Benson	Onoja	EMS		08033577668
26	Prof C P E	Omaliko	Uni. Of Abuja	cpeomaliko@yahoo.com	08033023773
27	Dr T. J.	Odeyemi	FMARD	dasaad2001@yahoo.com	
28	William	Ezeagu	NEPC	ezeagu@yahoo.com	08033156149
29	Gunat	Joseph	NAIC		08035871937
30	Mrs Amaka	Nwankwo	HMFC		07030338062
31	Ahmadu	Prince	Pentalk Magazine		07051199703
32	Ayeni	S. O.	FMARD	ayenisegun84@yahoo.com	08024435617

33	Onwuka	Chris	Nigerian Courage News	amaonye@yahoo.com	08035977833
34	A.	Kagho	BOA		08037838541
35	Loveline	Nwike	AFAN		07037241912
36	Dorathy A.	Katampe	Karu L.G.C		08033881282
37	Lizzy	Igbine	Nigerian Women a9 Farmers		08034106448
38	Isaac S.	Ojonugwa	NIWAAFA	sijamnigeniso@yahoo.com	08037881549
39	Jane	Chinyelu	NIWAAFA		08023156424
40	Ado	Adeniyi	FMARD		08039213066
41	A. A.	Adegoke	FMARD		08029104044
42	Dr Maryam	Yaro	NIRSAL/CBN		08034049662
43	Molabo	William	NIRSAL/CBN		08058724325
44	Aniekan	Sunday	Cocoyam Growers		07068674899
45	E. M.	Yisa	UNION Bank Plc		08035892720
46	Dr Oladipo	A. R.	MI		
47	Dr Philippa	Momah	EHCS Abuja		08033022791
48	Benny	Mordi-Onota	NPFS		08033947191
49	Vincent	A. Yusuf	Daily Trust	Alwaza23@yahoo.com	08032813818
50	Goodness	Anyanwu	NHRI	Ganyanwu73@yahoo.com	
51	Aniekan	Sunday	Cocoyam Farmer		07068674899
52	Mary	Umoh	HKI		08038249017
53	Dr Ima	Chima	HKI		08026731000

3. Meeting agenda

08:30-09:00	Arrival of delegates and registration
09:00-09:30	Opening prayer/ Introduction
09:30-09:40	Welcome Address
09:40-10:10	Key note Address by Mrs Beatrice Eluaka
10:10-10:20am	Questions/ Discussion
10:20-10:35am	Tea break
10:35-10:50am	Update of OFSP activity in the country: Reaching Agents of Change (RAC) by Mary Umoh
10:50-11:05am	Update of OFSP activity in the country: RAINBOW Project by Mr Ayeni
11:05-11:25am	Current Status of OFSP production and dissemination in Nigeria. CIP by Dr Jude Njoku
11:25-11:55am	Questions/Discussion
12:00-1:00pm	Group session
1:00-1:40pm	Plenary session
1:40-2:10pm	Way Forward (Dr Ima Chima)
2:10-2:15pm	Closing Remark
2:15-2:20pm	Closing Prayer
2:20pm	Lunch/ Exhibition