



Quality Inspection of the planting material (Credit: Aimé Ndayisenga)

with children under five years. The partners participate in OFSP vines multiplication, distribution, and demonstrations, as well as in nutrition education and counseling campaigns. At least 250 staff from Government of Rwanda institutions and NGOs will receive training in agronomic and nutrition extension related to OFSP. At least 370 community groups will receive training in child health and nutrition interventions to support nutrition counseling and demonstrations in food preparation and storage.

### Where we will be working?

The target beneficiaries of the project are rural households with children under five years of age, as these are the most vulnerable to micronutrient deficiencies. The project provide OFSP vines as an entry point to nutritional supplementation. Through higher production we contribute to improved income and nutrition outcomes. The ten targeted districts are: Gatsibo, Bugesera, Burera, Musanze, Rubavu, Ngororero, Rutsiro, Karongi, Nyamagabe, and Nyaruguru.

### Expected results:

- Improved utilization of OFSP among 200,000 households with at least 300,000 children under five; supported through demonstrations of safe and nutritious food preparation and storage, including options for OFSP utilization as a complementary baby food. Strengthened sector-wide human and institutional capacity for nutrition-sensitive and market-oriented agricultural development linkages with the health and nutrition sector at national and local levels. Consumer demand increased through

public awareness campaigns and additional demand created through technical support to food processors to include OFSP as an ingredient in their existing and new products.



### What we have achieved so far:

In the first season, October 2015 to January 2016, the project gave 20,379 OFSP vines, nutrition and agronomic messages. In March 2016 we have already supplied OFSP vines, agronomic and nutrition messages to 14,991 legible households. We are therefore on course to deliver the same to estimated 25,000 households as planned for the march 2016 to June 2016 season. We will then follow these households to provide extra agronomic, nutrition trainings, cooking demonstrations, and thereafter market linkages. The project is identifying and establishing Decentralized Vine Multipliers (DVMs) in all districts to lead vine multiplication. These will be linked to Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB) Sweetpotato basic seed program for access to clean and new material.

### Key Partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB)  
Local implementing Partners Local Government:  
Gatsibo, Bugesera, Burera, Musanze, Rubavu, Ngororero, Rutsiro, Karongi, Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru District.

### Other partners

UNICEF  
FAO  
Rwanda Cooperative Agency  
Ministry of Health  
World Vision  
One Acre Fund  
Gardens for Health,  
Caritas  
CRS  
Techno Serve  
Urwibutso Enterprises  
La Gallette  
DUHANGE KUBY'IWACU,

**Feed the Future Rwanda Orange Fleshed Sweetpotato (OFSP) for Income and Nutrition Activity** is a three year project (2015 – 2018) financed by USAID and implemented by the International Potato Center (CIP). The project aims to reach 200,000 households and 300,000 children under 5 years in ten districts of Rwanda, contributing to inclusive agricultural sector growth, income generation and improved nutritional status of women and children through the promotion of OFSP production and consumption. The project is strengthening sector-wide human and institutional capacity for nutrition-sensitive and market-oriented agricultural development. It also fosters linkages with the health and nutrition sector at national and local levels. The project will increase the demand for OFSP through public awareness campaigns and technical support to food processors.

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# The Feed the Future Rwanda Orange Fleshed Sweetpotato (OFSP) for Income and Nutrition Activity

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The season A Vine dissemination of The Feed the Future Project (Credit V. Uwase)

## What is the Problem?

Significant investment in Rwanda's agricultural sector has played an important role in the rapid and sustained economic growth which the nation has witnessed in recent years. This growth has benefited millions of smallholder farmers and contributed to the steadily declining poverty rate throughout the country. Despite these advances, however, the incidence of poverty remains stubbornly high. This is especially true of rural areas, where 24.1% of the population – classified as “ultra-poor” – still struggle to meet basic needs. Moreover, malnutrition remains widespread and it is estimated that 39% of children under the age of five are deficient in vitamin A and about 38% stunting rate national average. Therefore, a comprehensive response is thus required to address rural poverty and malnutrition challenges. Approaches that combine interventions from a range of agricultural, economic, health, infrastructure, and social service sectors are key if Rwanda is to make further progress. Nutrition-oriented agricultural development can make significant contributions given the pivotal role of agriculture as the main source of food and income for the rural households estimated to be 70% of the total population. This is critical, since ensuring household food and nutrition security remains a priority for the Government of Rwanda.

## What do we plan to do?

**1. Fostering partnerships:** Eliminating malnutrition and laying the foundation for an increasingly prosperous rural economy requires a comprehensive approach which brings together government, civil society, and the private sector to achieve integrated agricultural, nutritional, and market chain development. To this end, the project is building upon a long-standing partnerships between CIP and the Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB), as well as other local- and national- level government bodies, national and international NGOs, farmers, and other stakeholders. These partnerships will strengthen human and institutional capacity, foster inter-sectoral linkages and achieve nutrition-sensitive and market-oriented agricultural development.

**2. Cultivating Solutions:** The project aims to reach at least 200,000 smallholder farming households, equivalent to about 5-6% of the resident population in the target districts. Local implementing partners, working closely with local authorities, community health workers and agricultural extension staff select beneficiary households with children under five years old to be included in OFSP multiplication, working closely with local authorities, community health workers and agricultural extension staff, select beneficiary households



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