

Orange Fleshed Sweetpotato Vine Multiplication And Access: Lessons From The Most Vulnerable Households In Niassa Province, Northern Mozambique

SEED SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The seed system in Niassa was developed from 2013 where different scenarios were experienced until 2016. Lessons were learned from different early emerging potential DVMs during the on-farm trials implementation. Net tunnels were introduced and installed for potential DVMs to be as DVM1 at the first level of structure of conservation and production of high quality planting material free of pests and diseases. During the first distribution of adapted OFSP vines, other producers potential DVMs emerged and were advised to relay the vine multiplication as DVM2. DVM1 plant at the net tunnel and multiply once before supplying the DVM2 who sells to the end users.



Fig. 1: OFSP vine multiplication system

SCALING STRATEGY

Fifteen DVM1 located at eight districts served fifty-seven DVM2. Due to the low population density of 11-12 inhabitants/sqkm², the average of seven DVM2/district are not enough to cover all the districts. However, each locality is encouraged to have one small scale DVM. Yet, small households are encouraged to take small quantity of quality vines during the dry season, multiply at their house garden or at their lowland for conservation where they can use better selected OFSP vines during 2 to 3 years before sourcing a new healthy planting material. NGOs bought OFSP vines at DVM1 with 10-15 MZN/kg or DVM2 with 2.5-5 MZN/kg. The provincial government recommended since 2016 that all districts multiply OFSP vines. CIP supported this government initiative at the districts outside of intervention zones OFSP vines for their first multiplication. Most of households receiving small quantity of OFSP vines pay attention and conserve OFSP vines after the main harvest. The communities already having a distribution program should buy for their next request. Campaign on OFSP potentiality and to healthy diets are the key messages. Committed DVMs win more benefits such as house building, transport investment, root market. Successful DVMs increase their area and extend the planting period.

END USERS AND BENEFITS

28,044 households with 59% of women received quality OFSP vines from 15 DVM1 and 57 DVM2 from 2013 to 2016. The smallest households took advantage to get small quantity of vines from DVM1 and multiply during the dry season to make it available at right time for the main season in December-January. Vulnerable households and mostly women accept easily to get small quantities vines. Households could get some roots in December-January form their multiplication plots



Fig. 2: Dry season OFSP vine conservations

LEVEL OF ADOPTION OR USE

About 71% of total beneficiaries received 2 kg or less (53% women). At Baia village where 87% of total beneficiaries received 1kg or less with 67% women, more than 90% of households produce and maintain vines in lowland or in house garden for the next season. We learn that success is from management capacity of farmer. One DVM received 1 kg of vine on April 2015 and sold 10 tons of vines after one year.



Fig. 3: Multiplication process at community level

CRITICAL GAPS AND NEXT STEPS

At this stage, Niassa has limited big farms but progress of small scale farmers to medium farms is underway. Most of the households receiving small quantities of OFSP vines during the dry season continue to conserve vines after each harvest. The intervention approach need to be developed at different conditions and situations, keeping in mind interest and demand creations. Facilitating the root market for the progressive DVM will keeps the OFSP value chain sustainable.



Fig. 4: Lessons on interest



Fig. 5: Failure at community



Fig. 6: Successes of DVM

KEY PARTNERS FOR SCALING

The main partners for scaling are: IAM for maintaining healthy planting material in the screenhouse; DVM1 and DVM2 for OFSP vine conservation and multiplication; Government structure, projects, NGOs and Association working on Food Security, Nutrition and Education for scaling.