

### DESCRIPTION OF VISTA MOZAMBIQUE

Viable Sweetpotato Technology in Africa (VISTA-Mozambique) is one of the biggest projects implemented by the International Potato Center (CIP). Funded by USAID, this 7-year project will benefit more than 100,000 households directly, and an additional 375,000 households indirectly through farmer-to-farmer diffusion of nutritious orange fleshed sweetpotatoes (OFSP) by 2021.

### SEED SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

VISTA disseminates 15 drought-tolerant and high yielding OFSP varieties through decentralised vine multipliers (DVMs) in 16 districts of Zambezia and Nampula province. Each beneficiary household receives 8 kg of vines, approximately 400 cuttings of 30 cm of at least two varieties, and pays 2 Mts for that. The producers are trained in field installation techniques to enhance vine conservation practices such as net tunnel, Triple S and post-harvest techniques.



Fig.1. Woman, on her OFSP field (Gurue, Zambezia)

### SCALING STRATEGY

Primarily, the project works with village-based DVMs, selected to reach remote communities with planting materials. Farmers, extension agents, health sector professionals, breeders, seed system specialists and implementing organizations regularly interact to solve challenges and coordinate resources towards the common goal of reducing malnutrition.

### END USERS AND BENEFITS

Households with children under 5 and lactating and pregnant women are the target segment of the population. The end users are differentiated by gender, children by age (under 5, under 2), pregnant and lactating women, who are at high risk of vitamin A deficiency and other forms of malnutrition. In phase 1 of VISTA, there was low participation of women in training events, which needs to be addressed by improving awareness creation activities, in order to achieve sustainable impact.

### LEVEL OF ADOPTION OR USE

As of May 2017, the project has reached more than 37,000 households. It is expected to reach 102,500 households with quality planting materials in 500+ communities in 16 districts. The project targets 80% women participation in all value chains. The uptake is relatively better in districts where sweetpotato is commonly grown, and other CIP projects have been implemented previously.

### CRITICAL GAPS AND NEXT STEPS

The major challenge in Northern Mozambique is rainfall variability and climate uncertainty that influence supply of quality planting materials at the right time. Therefore, strategies to off-set the negative impact of rainfall variability and climate uncertainty need to be designed and are critical to improve the success and sustainability of the OFSP seed system. These strategies include identifying DVMs with potential to expand the area under vine multiplication, planting in low lands, and investing in irrigation equipment. These strategies will enhance the capacity to secure sustainable vine supply during the dry season.



Fig.2. DVM training farmers on vine conservation (Monapo, Nampula)



Fig.3. OFSP field on the farm of a trained DVM (Monapo, Nampula)

### KEY PARTNERS FOR SCALING

