

# TOWARDS USE OF QUALITY AND CERTIFIED SWEETPOTATO SEEDS IN TANZANIA

## SWEETPOTATO SEED STANDARDS

- We follow seed regulation act published on 20/01/2017, after amendment of seed regulations of 2007 where Current status of seed regulations.
- Classes used are; Pre-basic, Basic, Certified 1, Certified 2
- The inspection is functioning especially for Pre-basic and basic seeds
- Cost are paid by multipliers for example pre-basic produced in research are paid by institute
- Inspection is conducted by officers from Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI)
- Mikocheni Agricultural Research Institute (MARI) for Laboratory test
- Training to district extension officers and farmers on inspection of pests and diseases

Table 1: Parameters for certification of pre-basic seeds.

Off type	Virus Symp	Lab virus(%)	Other Diseases (%)	Mites(%)	Aphids(%)	Whitefly(%)
0	1-No sym	0	0	5	0	0

## STRATEGY

- TOSCI have been working together with researchers to be familiar with standards
- Some multipliers were trained on quality declared seeds through projects
- Training on quality declared are organized by different sweetpotato projects where researchers and TOSCI facilitate
- Main actors are TOSCI (inspect), Researchers (source of pre-basic and basic), Private Tissue culture Lab (Source of Pre and basic seeds), seed multipliers (source of pre-basic, certified 1 and 2) , roots growers (buyers of clean seeds)
- Farmers have started to understand importance of using clean seeds and accept to buy
- Policy environment to roll out provide positive support to campaign and shows
- TOSCI has no facilities and skills for laboratory test hence this is done by MARI

## END USERS AND BENEFITS

- End user of clean seeds are roots growers who are benefiting by minimizing losses caused by infected seeds
- Currently we have noted both men and women are interested to know about and use clean seeds of sweetppotato
- The system still hindered by cost for inspection which is not high but business to private multipliers is not fully
- Stakeholders especially farmers need to get inspectors near to their areas
- Climate can have effect where seeds can be inspected but not sold due to unreliable rainfall

## LEVEL OF USE OF SEED STANDARDS

Table 2: Number of Inspectors trained by 2017 and 2020

Zone	Eastern	Lake	Southern
By 2017	3 F	3(2M/1F)	10(6M/4F)
By 2020	8(6M/2F)	14(9M/5F)	10 (6M/4F)

Table 3: Number of Multipliers trained by 2017 and 2020

Zone	Eastern	Lake	Southern
By 2017	18 (11M/7F)	16(11M/5F)	30 (M 15/F15)
By 2020	20 (7M/8F)	40(15M/25F)	120 (M60/F60)

## CRITICAL GAPS, CONCERNS AND NEXT STEPS

- Few number of inspectors with sweetpotato skills in field and laboratory
- Farmers who are ready for mass multiplication and follow QDS regulations
- TOSCI lack skilled personnel for and molecular lab for virus testing
- Lack of irrigation system in multiplication and root production which affect flow to end user especially when rains are low



Photo: Certification stages; A: Field inspection; B: Lab test; C: certificate

## KEY PARTNERS FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE

- TOSCI who inspect and participate in training-George Swella,
- Research Institutions who are source of prebasic and basic- and Laboratory testing (Kibaha, Ukiriguru, Uyole, MARI)
- Private Laboratory (Crop-Bioscience, Arusha)
- Multipliers who are keen to get clean vines-Word Vision, VISTA project, Fest

