



Capacity development for Geita Farmers on OFSP processing and handling from 03 to 05/05/2017, funded by BNFb



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The training was conducted for three days at Nungwe village in Nungwe primary school from 3rd to 5th May 2017. All the participants invited managed to attend timely. Participants were from four villages which are; Saragulwa, Nungwe, Chigunga and Kabogozo villages. The training included the formally planned TUNU group members from Nungwe village, but also primary school teachers, and 'wajasiriamali' those who engage with small business like owning a 'hotel' – a village hotel may have simple breakfast, lunch and dinner. A 'mjasiriamali' can also be selling one or two products going door to door, or stationed in one place. The participants were men (7) and women (23).

The training was opened by the Nyamwilolelwa ward Councillor (*Diwani*) Mr. Shala William Kulwa. He welcomes the participants and emphasizes them to be attentive so that they go back with a package of knowledge that will help them and their neighbours to improve their lives.



*Nyamwililelwa ward
Councillor Mr. Shala
William Kulwa opening
the training.*

After the opening remark Ms Massawe thanked the Councillor and explain clearly what was the main objective of the training. She explained the objective of the training and the project (RAC2) that is to reach as many people who are involved in OFSP by making them agents of change, i.e. to build on the technology they already have to develop their capacity so that they use that technology for themselves and their families in improving their health, selling the products to get income, but also to reach their neighbors so that they get the same benefits. She also explain a bit about BNFB that it involve vitamin A (orange) maize and high iron /zinc beans, which draw their attention and were very interested with the OFM (orange fleshed Maize). Then the Cancellor excusses us as he had other assignments, so we took a group picture before he left.



The topics covered were theoretical part in First day while the practical was done in the next two days. The theory part covered; sweetpotato handling and processing which include good packaging, making products like michembe, doughnuts, cake, chichili, bans, biscuits, juice, jam, chapatti, bagia and kaukau. Good packaging and how to obtain a legal label for products was another sub topic.

Another topic was the good agronomic practices of sweet potato in a nut shell, to enable them to have high yields like land preparation, manure application, planting, selection of good and healthy planting material (seeds/vines), management of sweetpotato fields and where to get the seeds/vines. Here they were told that management of OFSP field is just like their own white fleshed sweetpotato. Another topic was on the challenges of sweetpotato production and how to overcome them. The big challenge was market. They explained that in the past they produced a lot of orange fleshed sweetpotato but they rot in the fields because in their local markets OFSP were not preferred since many people didn't know them, and those people from Mwanza who were buying them e.g TAHEA just bought some. Now that they have this knowledge of processing, they will utilize them to make different products and spread the technology for the benefit of the whole community. Another challenge was high water content which is not a big issue now as they will utilize them differently by making products rather than boiling every morning, so this challenge is minimized. Other challenges were diseases so were advised to source planting materials which are produced in **net tunnel**. These are free from diseases causative pests.



The participants were required to come up with the way forward. They have different plans since some were already involved in the small 'hotels' in their vicinity so those had a plan to include OFSP in their products and talk/teach different people including their neighbours about producing OFSP and processing into different products.

For the farmers who didn't have any business, some plan to start making products and sell for their income generation, while some few will make sure they produce more OFSP and sell in and outside their local market. Some men had good plan to teach their wives for the benefit of their family and selling for income generation.

For some members of Tunu group, after the training they will continue growing OFSP and start the business of making and selling chapatti, bans, and Juice, but also will train the neighbors.

The chairman of Nungwe SACCOS group will train the member groups on making different OFSP products and also train them on the benefits of OFSP. They will spread the knowledge even in their gatherings in church. Tupendane group will get the knowledge from Fatuma Selemani who attended the training.

Lastly the extension officer will try to followup on the participants' plans from Saragulwa, Nungwe, Chigunga and Kabogozo villages so as to assist whenever needed, and to see that the knowledge really spread. He will also make sure that he will communicate with research for availability of OFSP planting materials and markets of roots.

