

**Sustainable
sweetpotato pre-basic
seed production Y4
Mid Year Report: June
2017 – November 2017**



Sweetpotato Action for
Security and **Health** in **Africa**



Ndirigwe Jean/ Rwanda Agriculture Board
Sweetpotato Seed Systems Community of Practice: 8th
Consultation- Sustainable Pre-basic Seed Production
SGA Progress Review. Nairobi, Kenya 21-22 November 2017

Production: capacities

Period: current status at mid year 4 (Nov. 2017)

Facilities	No. units	Irrigation (Y/N)	Total m²	Method (poly, pot, bench/trough, open)	RMT/ Conventional	Total no. of plants	Multiplication Rate
Screen house	2	Y	440	Pots, Boxes and Beds	RMT	21000	9
Mobile net tunnels	2	Y	192	Beds	RMT	6000	9
Open field multiplication	2	Y	520	Beds	RMT	24200	12
Basic seed multipliers							

Production: targets vs actuals?

Stage	Activities	Unit (& size)	Planned no. (for period: June - December 2017):	Achieved: June - November 2017	% achievement
1	TC initiation	Plantlets	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
	TC micro-propagation	Plantlets	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
2	Hardening	Plants	At least 6000 plantlets/ in semester	2550 plantlets	85%
3	Screen house multiplication	Cuttings	22500 cuttings planned	Around 21,000 cuttings of Pre-basic seeds are in the 2 SCs	93.33
	Mobile net tunnel multiplication	Cuttings	6000	5000	83.33
4	Open field multiplication	Cuttings	45000	24200	53.77

- Our multiplication calendar is on track with very little deviation in SC and MNT where our targets were not met
- More focus will be made to Basic seed production targets for the next 6 months/ to meet the demand

Use of business plan tools



- What was your pricing strategy
 - Pre-basic price: (for 3-node cutting?): **Sold at 34 Frw (\$0.040)**
 - Basic price: **17 Frw (\$0.02)**
- Any deviation and why: **In BZPLN: 31 Frw and 10 Frw officially**
- What is your profit margin? **\$ 15,219 (End of June 2018)**
- Do you need to change your pricing strategy? If so how?
YES-by increasing the price to 17 Frw in near future

Use of business plan tools



- What were your marketing activities:
 - Advocating the role of clean seed in enhancing productivity along the VC (value chain) and through Field days
 - All NGO's involved in nutrition and DVM network marketing
- Which marketing activity bought most orders?
Brochures and leaflets, Agri-shows, radio and TV
- Do you need to change your marketing strategy? **Not yet**

Use of revolving fund

Description	Local currency or US\$
<i>a. Balance of Revolving Fund bought forward from May 2017</i>	\$ 6878
<i>b. Gross income for this reporting period: June to November 2017</i>	
<i>c. Total disbursements towards seed production activities: June to November 2017</i>	\$2,850
<i>d. Other costs met from the revolving fund:</i>	-
<i>e. Balance of funds at end of reporting period available to be carried forward to the next reporting period</i>	???

US\$ exchange rate:

Explain any challenges for the revolving fund

Customer order book: future requirements

Customer name	December 2017 – May 2018		Comments
	Quantity Ordered	Advance payment?	
FtF	80,000 cuttings @ 31 Frw (Pre-basic)	???	Stuck due IFMS system at MINICOFIN
GoV (South Province)	150,000 (Basic)	Not yet paid	
GoV (North Province)	140,000 (Basic)	Not yet paid	
Army	82,000 (Basic)	Yes	Already paid

Comments on production targets



- Actions taken during year 4 to increase multiplication rates:
 - Applying urea in Nurseries and Pots
 - Use more trailers in Screenhouse and MNT
- Actions taken during year 4 to reduce costs of production:
 - Reduce the amount on plantlets at TC from 1000 to 500
- Key challenges for year 4:
 - IFMS system at MINICOFIN / How do we reconcile
- Lessons to share for year 4:
 - Army/Government involvement in SP production due to more advocacy for food security

Quality management: June November 2017



- Number of varieties under multiplication: 14
- What new varieties have been introduced in Y4?
 - No new varieties were introduced
- What new varieties will be added during remaining of Y4?
- No. varieties tested over June – Nov 17 and results
 - Variety: Gihangamukungu result: Negative
 - Variety: Vita result: Negative
 - Variety: Kabode result: Negative
 - Variety: Terimbere result: Negative
 - Most the varieties were negative / Test need to be repeated (Elisa kit was suspected to be expired??)
- Seed standards and inspection protocol
 - Current status: Approved and waiting for official publication by RBS
 - Are external inspections being conducted for field multiplication- Yes

Stakeholder meetings: June 2017 – Nov 2017, and planned



Date of meeting held	No. participants (M/F)	Types of participant	Main topics	Follow up actions
15 th Sept. 2017	79	DVMs	DVMs Forum on SEED producers requirements	DVMs mapping and capacity building to DVMs
Planned meetings (Dec 17 – May 18)				
Proposed Date	No. participants	Types of participants	Main topics	Proposed budget
January, 2018	40	All stakeholders	Stakeholders awareness raising workshop on SS and sources of quality seed	\$1000
February, 2018	45	DVMs, Crop Inspectors, CIP, RBS, RAB, NGOs	Impact of inspection & certification	\$1000

Training – in-country (June Nov 2017)



Date	Topic	No. participants (M/F)	Training materials available	Comments
16 th -17 th Aug. 2017	SP-QDS requirements	56	SP- QDS standard shared	QDS standards and Role of clean seed in enhancing productivity and identifying key partners
16 th to 20 th Oct. 2017	Refresh training on SPVD indexing	5 (2 F and 3 M)	-	All varieties SP indexed

Planned for Dec 2017 – May 2018

Date	Topic	No. participants (M/F)	Training materials available	Proposed budget
Feb-2018	DVMs requirements & seed quality assurance	RBS and Sub inspectors	SP-QDS standard	\$ 2200
Ap-2018	Elisa Lab tests on different samples	6	-	\$ 1000
May 2018	Refresh Trainings in hardening and SC-MNT management	15	Yes /To be shared with Kephis	\$ 1000

Marketing strategy: June 2017 – May 2018



	Target group	Message & activity	Time period	Channel/s	Responsible	Proposed budget	Indicator of success
1.	Root producers and local districts	Radios spots, Flyers, posters	All the semester	Sensitization meetings & Radios/agri-shows	District Extension agents	US\$ 1,200	Root production/ yield increased
2.	DVMs and FGs	QDPM protocol for effective seed distribution and DVMs networking	January and Feb. 2018	Trainings and meetings	RAB-Ndirigwe & Leonidas (Technicians, PI and socio-economist)	US\$ 1,000	Demand of clean seed by DVM and farmers increased
3	NGOs	Brochures, Flyers, posters	January and Feb. 2018	Workshop/Stake holders meeting	RAB-Ndirigwe & Leonidas	US\$ 1,000	Demand of clean seed increased

Dec 17 - May 2018: key areas for strengthening performance of bizplan



- **Technical:**

- Capacity building of Technicians in Indexing, data collection at TC, SC and MNT.

- Maintenance of SC and MNT

- Monitoring of data vs growing calendar

- **Institutional**

- Full operationalization of BZPLN strategic plan for EGS and participation of Gov for seed production

- **Financial**

- RAB core funds to scale-up seed production through MINICOFIN and MINAGRI

2 BEST PHOTOS



- OFSP planting by the Army
- Agri-Army Week (AAW) in Gisagara District
- August 2017
- Photo credit: Dusengemungu Leonidas

- Trailing vines for more cuttings in SC
- Rubona Research station/Rwanda
- August 2017
- Photo credit: Ndirigwe Jean