

# Sweetpotato Seed Systems Community of Practice (COP) discussion Topics: Update and follow up



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Sweetpotato Seed Systems Community of  
Practice: 8th Consultation- Sustainable Pre-  
basic Seed Production – SGA Progress  
Review. Nairobi, Kenya 21-22 November 2017

# Background



2014- Consultation meeting in Entebbe, Ug.

Participants deliberated on the formation of COP with the purpose of:

Facilitate networking among members

Exchange of experiences

Learning and generate new knowledge

Tackle crucial constraints in SPSS across SSA

# How are we doing this

- Bi-monthly web-based discussion forum on specific topics
- Annual physical meetings
- Ad-hoc communications
- Preparation of briefs and concept notes
- In each COP meetings main issues are identified and form basis for continue on-line discussion

# What have we achieved so far (Updates)



The COP since inception has actively ran for three years(2014-2017).

- On line discussion started in March, 2015 and 14 research topics were discussed and experience shared
- Averagely 17 contributors from 9 countries majorly from West, East, Central& Southern Africa
- Research question emanating from the topic are further discussed or investigated by researchers

# Highlights of research topics and follow up



No	Topic	Follow up action	Recommendation on next step
1	The use of positive and negative selection in the prod. Of clean planting materials	No follow up action came out of discussion	Research can be conducted though positive selection seem to be preferred
2	Seed degeneration through accumulation of virus diseases and potential of reversion in some varieties	Research on degeneration rate was conducted Confirmation on whether popular varieties do well	Research was conducted by a student in Nigeria
3	Phytosanitary practices and seed innovation		

4	<b>Packaging and transporting cuttings</b>	<b>Study on reducing the bulkiness of planting material for proper parkaging</b>	
5	Net tunnel technology	Plastic mulched for weed control Number of times vines can be harvested from Net tunnel	
6	Great ideas deserved to be shared	Sandy soil land has been secured for large scale production	
7	Alternative sourcing of insect proof materials for the net tunnel	No follow up yet	

8	<b>Sweetpotato seed systems enterprise models &amp; competitiveness</b>	<b>To be discussed in COP meeting</b>	
9	Technical description of sweetpotato seed classes	<p>Study to determine benefits of 'injection' of healthy planting materials</p> <p>Determine physiological vigour</p> <p>Different environment/ production condition etc</p>	
10(a)	Effect of ratoon on vine and root production	To study yield expression from	A student is current work on this study

<b>10(b)</b>	<b>How to determine the multiplication rate of sweetpotato</b>	<b>No possible action was suggested</b>	
11	Free sweetpotato distribution-opportunity or illusion	A vigorous study of the farmers system Study opposite spectrum of commercial seed systems	
12	Strengthening public private partnership for vine marketing	Private sector participation vital to sustainable production of quality seeds	
13	Fast-tracking development sweetpotato seed standards and inspection scheme	Enforcement of quality assurance will stimulate vine multiplication business	
14	Distinguishing seed class when purchasing planting materials	It will be easier for the buyer to trust the seed class if	

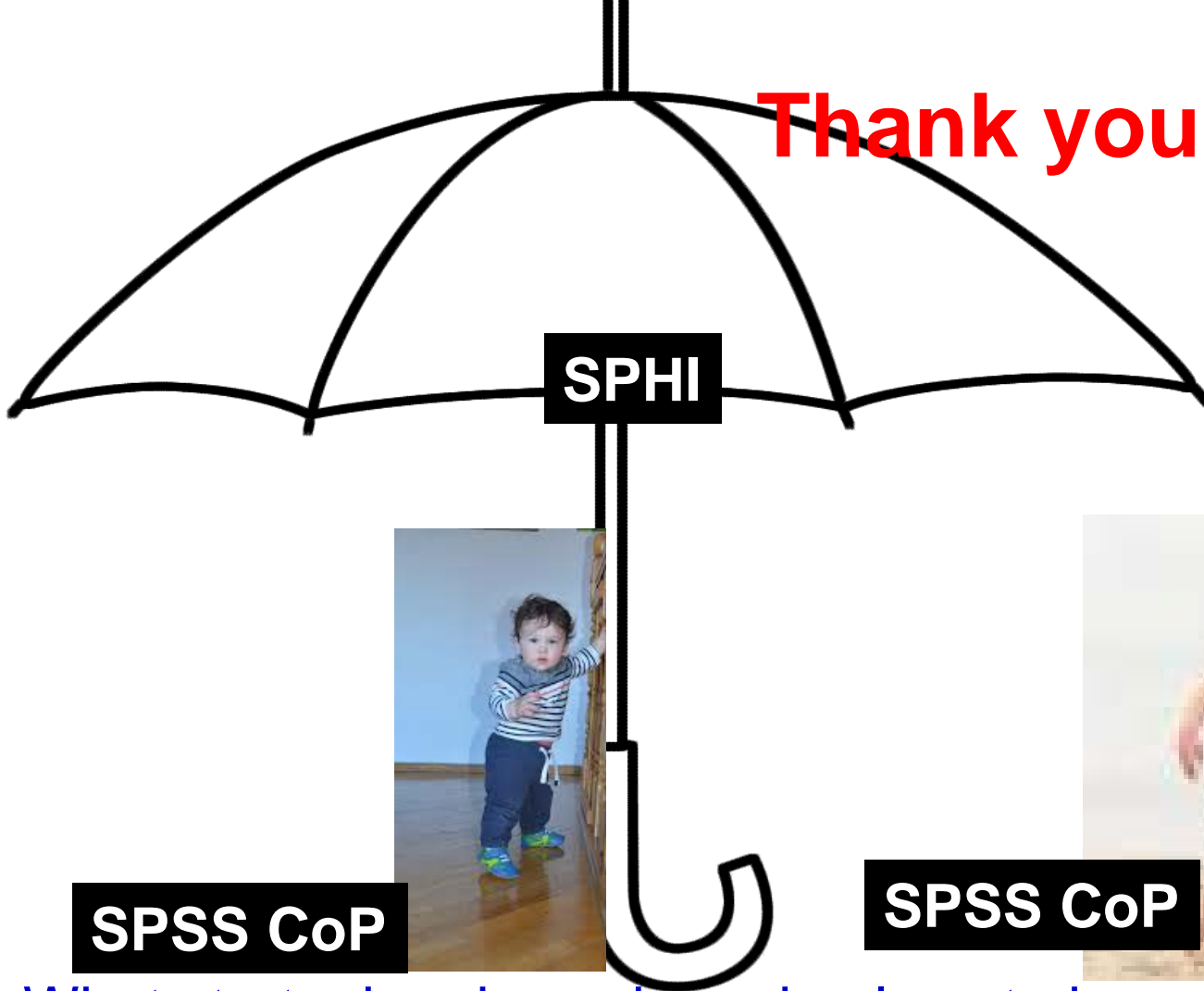


# Way forward / vision for the next 5 years



- Fund mobilization- small grants to follow up with research questions
- Mechanism to follow up action points/research questions to be put in place
- Expand COP membership beyond SSA including China that is highest global sweetpotato producer
- Youth participation will bring in vibrancy and new ideas
- Institutionalize COP in countries

**Thank you**



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What strategies do we have in place to keep running close and with our Umbrella ?!!! In case of rain