

Mitigating Impact of Droughts and Floods on Livelihoods in Mozambique through Resilient, Nutritious Sweetpotato

About 26,000 direct household beneficiaries have been reached by the project. Overall, this represents almost 108% more of the total 24,000 targeted project beneficiaries by December, 2018. 5,000 farmers were also exposed to different orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP) nutrition related messaging, while more than 200 direct beneficiaries participated in OFSP cooking demonstrations as result of social and behavior change communication (SBCC) training.



Fig. 1 Beneficiaries participate in OFSP cooking demonstrations (Credit A. Naico)

► What is the problem?

In response to recurrent droughts and floods affecting several provinces of Mozambique, with current severe effects in the south, the International Potato Center (CIP) designed a one year project (January-December 2018) aimed at increasing food security and improving the diets of 24,000 vulnerable households in Gaza, Inhambane, and Maputo provinces through the production and consumption of nutritious OFSP. This project is an extension of the previous 2016/7 project that reached about 22,000 direct beneficiaries in the south of Mozambique and was anticipated by a six month no-cost extension period carried out during the period August to December 2017.

► What do we want to achieve?

The specific objectives are:

1. To improve access to climate resilient and nutritious OFSP varieties for 24,000 households in 20 target districts in Mozambique;
2. To increase capacity for the multiplication and conservation of planting material, as well as improve production and storage among drought-affected communities; and
3. To enhance nutrition knowledge and capacity for OFSP utilization in vulnerable households with children under five years of age.

► How are we going to make it happen?

CIP will achieve these objectives through a combination of coordinated mass distribution of planting material, in part sourced from multipliers established through previous USAID-funded projects, and through the establishment of new, decentralized multiplication plots among selected farmers in new districts. Similarly, nutrition education and food demonstration activities will be centrally coordinated during implementation. The project is also leveraging capacities built through previous projects. The project's nutrition messaging aims to explicitly promote the diversification of diets and traditional food preparation methods (Fig. 2). This will enable fuller utilization of the nutritional value of OFSP at household level, through improved food preparation, young child feeding, and nutritionally beneficial combinations with other foods available locally. CIP will coordinate this project in close collaboration with the Instituto de Investigação Agrária de Moçambique (IIAM) and local partners engaged in food security and nutrition related initiatives.

Partners:

- Instituto de Investigação Agrária de Moçambique (IIAM)



Fig. 2 Dishes being prepared during a cooking demonstration during a nutrition training (Credit A.Naico)



Fig. 3 One of the local nutrition education trainings conducted in Maputo (Credit M. Manuel Magai)

► What have we achieved so far?

- About 26,000 direct household beneficiaries reached by the project. Overall, this represents almost 108% of the total 24,000 targeted project beneficiaries by December, 2018. This represents about 112% target for Maputo province, 109% for Gaza, and 93% in Inhambane province.
- About 81% of the farmers who directly received the planting material were women. Overall, there is an increasing participation of men in the production of OFSP in Inhambane (26%) and Maputo (24%) and Gaza (15%).
- Overall, about 22 ha was used for multiplication: almost 8.8 ha established at the primary or research station level, and the remaining 13.3 ha with the decentralized vine multipliers (DVMs). More than 186 tons of vines from 20 different OFSP varieties were distributed. The top 5 most distributed varieties were Irene (20%), Alisha (12%), Victoria (12%), Bitá (10%), Delvia (9%), and Sumaia (8%). The relative amounts of each variety distributed varies by province: Delvia (18%), Irene (14%), and Namanga (11%) in Inhambane, Irene (32%), Alisha (15%), and Delvia (12%) in Gaza, and Victoria (17%), Bitá (13%), and Irene (13%) in Maputo.
- Three trainings/workshops in nutrition social and behavior change communication with focus on OFSP were conducted. Overall, about 65 participants from the local District Directorate of Health, Women and Social Action, and community radio journalists from the districts of Boane, Magude, Matutuine and Moamba in Maputo province, Guijá,

Chockwé, Massangena, Mapai, Mabalane, Chigubo, Chibuto and Chicualacuala in Gaza province, and Morrumbene, Funhalouro, Mabote, Vilankulos and Govuro from Inhambane province were trained on the different nutrition SBCC strategies (Fig. 3).

- More than 70 field days that involved nutrition education and awareness creation were conducted in the three targeted provinces. About 5,000 direct farmers were exposed to different nutrition-OFSP related messaging, while more than 200 direct beneficiaries participated in nutrition OFSP cooking demonstrations as result of the SBCC training. Local community trade fairs and school demonstrations were also held.

► What is next?

While the focus of the first six months of the project was on the distribution of planting material, the next six months will see the strengthening of nutrition-related activities. As recommended by the donor after routine monitoring visits to the targeted areas, the nutrition, mainly food processing and conservation should be the focus of the project per the request of the beneficiaries.

This season will be used to conduct yield assessments under farmer conditions. Alongside this activity, some demos on the triple S conservation approach, which stores roots in sand for subsequent planting material production, will be established in partnership with local extension agents.

CONTACTS

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