Achievements and Lessons Learned from the Building Nutritious Food Baskets Project



Building Nutritious FoodBaskets

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Outline

- Background
- Key achievements of BNFB
- Lessons Learned
- Conclusion

Combating hidden hunger though nutritious food baskets



Building Nutritious Food Baskets (BNFB) Project



- Three-year project (Nov 2015 –Oct 2018) funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Adopts a multi-crop nutritious 'food basket' approach
- Implemented in Nigeria and Tanzania builds on the Reaching Agents of Change (RAC) project
- Led by CIP and implemented through a consortium: (CIAT; CIMMYT; IITA; HarvestPlus; FARA; Governments of Nigeria and Tanzania; African Union; NEPAD & a range of partners)

... Background



"scaling up is dependent on supportive policy environment, strong institutional capacities and proven technologies"

Key Achievements – Objective 1 - Advocacy







- **3** advocacy strategies developed and implemented at national and regional levels.
- Strengthened the capacity of 101 advocates and champions (national / regional levels - who are advocating for policy change / raising new investment.
- Supported and facilitated the raising of over \$6.1M in support of initiatives on biofortification.
- Integrated biofortification into 11 major policy documents to guide implementation of programmes addressing hidden hunger.
- Influenced the inclusion of biofortification in 5 programmes aimed at reducing micronutrient malnutrition.
- National multisectoral policy platforms strengthened and discussing biofortification.

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... Key Achievements – Objective 1 – Media Advocacy





- Trained 41 journalists who are producing high quality print / online articles, features, documentaries, radio programs.
- BNFB web page developed and is providing regularly updated information and knowledge on biofortification.
- **Social media** active in promoting biofortification through Tweets, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp.
- Biofortification Excellence in Journalism Media Awards in Tanzania – incentivizing objective reporting on biofortification.

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Key Achievements – Objective 1 – Advocacy & Behaviour Change Communication Materials

 Diverse Advocacy and social and behavior change communication materials developed and widely disseminated and used to support advocacy and behavior change.

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Facts on Biofortification

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Key Achievements – Objective 2 – Capacity Development

- Strengthened the capacity of 40 national and community institutions – which are designing and implementing gender sensitive projects on biofortification.
- **4 key learning toolkit** have been developed and used for training:
 - (1) updated ToT manual on Everything you ever wanted to know about sweetpotato;
 - (2) Biofortification: a sustainable solution to hidden hunger;
 - (3) High-iron and zinc beans: a biofortified solution for iron deficiency; and
 - (4) Pro-vitamin A maize: a biofortified solution for vitamin A deficiency.

6,405 (3,190 female) change agents trained, who are training others along the BNFB training model.

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Key Achievements – Objective 2 – Seed systems

- BNFB fast-tracked the **release of 7 varieties** of biofortified crops including **'Solo Gold**'- a new OFSP variety in Nigeria.
- More than 980,865 households growing and consuming biofortified crops (includes data from HarvestPlus – using their own funds).
- The capacity of 4 private sector agripreneurs strengthened to process and market biofortified food products - (1) AFCO Investment Co. Ltd - PVA maize and OFSP flour; (2) Mama Organic - OFSP flour; (3) JAGEF Group – high iron and zinc bean flour; 4) Mahauty Health Solutions - OFSP infantweaning products.

6 crop-specific platforms - OFSP, PVA maize and high iron and zinc beans established to accelerate uptake of

biofortified crops. Combating hidden hunger though nutritious food baskets



Lessons learned

BNFB Project Design:

Observation 1 – Assumed:

- Availability of technologies that were ready to scale up;
- No varieties of high iron beans and PVA maize varieties Tanzania;
- Seed of PVA maize and high iron and zinc beans will be available in October 2018;
- PVA maize seed was not available for farmers;
- Additional varieties of OFSP expected to be released in 2019.

Lesson 1

- Fast-tracking the release of biofortified crops and scaling up their production and consumption is a long process;
- Multiplying seeds to ensure access by farmers is dependent on seasons (2 years for PVA maize)
- Projects that entail fast-tracking the release of biofortified crop varieties and scaling up should take a minimum of 5 years to allow adequate time for release, seed multiplication to pave way for advocacy, capacity development, growing, processing and utilization.

... Lessons learned

Advocacy:

Observation 2

- BNFB identified advocates and champions at national and regional levels;
- Advocates and champions were at different levels of understanding the benefits of biofortified crops and how to conduct effective advocacy.

Lesson 2

he most important factors for successful national/regional advocacy for biofortification is a critical number of well equipped advocates and champions from multiple sectors and organizations located in strategic organizations.

Equipping advocates and champions with appropriate skills, tools and materials enables them exploit opportunities to influence the inclusion of biofortification in policy documents / implementation and advocate for new investment.

Lessons learned

Capacity Development:

Observation 3:

- Assumed availability of ready-to-go technologies for scaling up;
- No varieties of high iron beans and PVA maize varieties released in Tanzania at project inception;
- Few training activities on PVA maize and high iron and zinc beans were carried out.

Lesson 3:

• The project focused on interventions targeting seed multipliers (private and public sector) and selected agricultural officers.

Capacity development interventions aimed at strengthening national / community research and extension capabilities should be done for technologies that have been officially released and where seed is available to farmers.

Lessons learned

... Capacity Development – seed systems:

Observation 4

- Market linkages were weak;
 - Sellers did not know who was producing OFSP;
 - Processors did not know where to get regular supply of good quality roots because the OFSP value chain was not well developed.

Lesson 4

Coordination and collaboration across multiple sectors and actors is crucial for developing value chains. Creating national crop-specific platforms (e.g. OFSP) is fundamental for strengthening linkages among key actors along the value chains of biofortified crops.

The WhatsApp groups provided a quick forum for joint problem solving, finding markets for roots and products which helped to stimulate demand.

Conclusion

- Scaling up biofortified crops calls for effectively managed multidisciplinary and multi-organizational partnerships that prioritize the inclusion of nutritious crops into policies and programmes.
- Achievements of the BNFB scaling up model of multiple biofortified crops have demonstrated that <u>effective scaling up is</u> <u>dependent on</u> supportive policy environment, strong institutional capacities and proven biofortified technologies.

Thank you for your attention!

Building Nutritious FoodBaskets

Combating hidden hunger though nutritious food baskets

The Building Nutritious Food Baskets: Scaling up Biofortified Crops for Nutrition Security seeks to reduce hidden hunger by catalyzing sustainable investment for the production and utilization of biofortified crops (Orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP); vitamin A (yellow) cassava, vitamin A (orange) maize and high iron/zinc beans) at scale. The project is implemented in Nigeria and Tanzania, to demonstrate how biofortified crops can be scaled up through a multi-crop ("food basket") approach. BNFB draws on complementary expertise for scaling up through a partnership between CGIAR centers and programs, regional organizations and other public and private sector agencies to create a movement that will eventually reach the target populations. BNFB's hypothesis is that scaling up is dependent on supportive policy environment, strong institutional capacities and availability of proven technologies.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



















National implementing partners – public, private civil society organizations