OFSP: Promoting OFSP Alongside Other Crops

CRS Experience

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## Current CRS Projects with OFSP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project(s)</th>
<th>Donor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>Gikuriro/Integrated Nutrition and WASH Activity (INWA)</td>
<td>USAID Mission Rwanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience</td>
<td>GIZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>UBALE</td>
<td>Food for Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>Programme Securite Alimentaire Et Renforcement De La Resilience</td>
<td>GIZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Mwendo Orphan’s and Vulnerable Children</td>
<td>USAID Mission/Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Livelihoods for Resilience – Oromia (LRO)</td>
<td>Feed the Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor- leste</td>
<td>Community Driven Nutrition Improvement Project</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CRS’ integrated programming

• Ag and nutrition benefits to address stunting:
  • Donor requirements for multisectoral programming e.g. USAID FFP projects;
  • objective of dissemination (e.g., commercialization, nutritional improvements, social protection, food security)
  • Demand for OFSP given its high vitamin A content, contributing to children’s nutrition – Ag sensitive.
  • Targeting same beneficiaries members of the Village Nutrition Schools and the Farmer Field Schools for other crops
New CRS Products: Spreading the Word

• Technical Brief 1
  • Nutrition Attributes
  • Agriculture Attribute (climate change)
  • Value-added products

• Technical Brief 2
  • Tools/technologies for conserving planting material
  • Info on country-specific varieties/breeders
  • State of seed systems
  • Scaling strategies
CRS Value chain prioritization tools

**Impact criteria**

- Nutrition
- Profit potential
- Climate Smart / Resilience
- Youth Friendly
- Women Friendly
- Employment
- Influence (industry policy and practice)
- Food Security
- Scalability
- VC activities in line with livelihood condition (All-year, use of family labor, environmental friendly, rapid returns)

**Feasibility criteria**

- Presence of other Organizations supporting VC activities in target counties
- VC support services in target counties/strong private sector
- Defined/growing market demand
- Extent of Small-holder/vulnerable inclusion
- Upgrading potential/opportunities
- Strong implementing partner
- Existing organized Farmer groups
- CRS staff/local Knowledge of crop
- Enabling environment/align with County Govt policy
- Crop calendar in relation to lean period/does the crop close the gap
Togo Pilot and OFSP (GIZ)

• 4,245 female producers in 23 villages to diversify diets of WRA and CU2

• Results:
  – Some producers took own initiative to create community-level nurseries to conserve cuttings
  – After national health fair, increased interest in OFSP production & consumption
  – awareness of the nutritional benefits of OFSP increase likelihood of a farmer deciding to plant OFSP varieties

• Producer Challenges
  – Pest: worms attacking tubers
  – Storage: need techniques that are appropriate for wet soils
  – Marketing: difficult beyond project zone where OFSP isn’t known

• Barriers to adoption
  – Culture: misconception consuming OFSP will make men less fertile
  – Storage: no national level practice on storage/conservation so many producers do not carry out large-scale production
  – Food preparation: Even white-flesh SP is not heavily consumed—with cooking demonstration beginning to incorporate into local dishes
Other Projects

Mwendo Project – partnership with CIP

• CIP provides explicit support to MoA and MoH with OFSP planting materials, nutrition and production technical support

• Challenges
  – target population is spread across a wide geographical area, posing a challenge in terms of assembling them together for meeting, training or even demonstration.
  – Many varieties of OFSP in the community which could lead to OVC caregivers getting poor quality planting materials. Now relying on the CIP vine multipliers
  – Concerns on crop prioritization – income vs Nutrition

Emergency Response with Nutrition Awareness Creation

Timor-leste – Community Driven Nutrition Improvement Project 2014–2018

• With El Niño, a widespread drought occurred in Timor-Leste, but because OFSP becomes drought resistant shortly after being planted, blanket distribution of OFSP vines helped to provide food security when other traditional crops, such as maize, were failing (CDNIP).

• Mothers were able to harvest and cook young leaves within three weeks of planting, providing both food and nutrients to their children’s diet during the drought.
OFSP distribution – DiNER fairs beneficiaries.

- 6,858 were selected as CRS UBALE DINER Fairs beneficiaries.
- Each beneficiary receive a voucher used to access one bundle of OFSP vines.
- In addition, each DINER fair beneficiary also received vouchers to access 1 PICS Bag for grain storage, 2Kgs of maize seeds, 1 Kg of NUA 45 variety of beans and 10grams of vegetable seed of choice.
- The Diner Fair beneficiaries were selected considering as a mix of factors that include vulnerability, ability to utilize the planting materials and others.
Thoughts: Promoting OFSP Alongside Other Foods

• Under-nutrition/Hidden Hunger Vs Over-Nutrition/Obesity
  – Whole meal Vs Processed

• Dietary Diversity Vs Diet Quality/Variety/Optimal Feeding Practices

• Urban crop Systems Vs Rural Crop Systems
Thank You