

Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes in tackling 'hidden hunger in Sierra Leone



NATIONAL

Hamid Turay
Program Manager

What this program is about?

- To contribute to increased intake of Vitamin A
- Food-based approach that is more sustainable in the long term than VAS programs
 - improve the dietary diversity among 1000 days households
 - Strengthen household food security
 - creating income generating opportunities for farmers groups
 - develop and facilitate access to improved varieties
 - establish linkages for planting materials between SLARI, demonstration farmers and FBOs
 - increasing utilization of OFSP and its value-added produce

OFSP Programmatic strategy

Variety Development
Community Ownership
Supply chain management
SBCC strategy
Capacity Building
Monitoring /evaluation and
coordination of activities
Gender Integration



All 3 varieties out-perform farmers' varieties in terms of storage root yield, taste, cooking qualities, however, Mathuthu is being released.

Current approach

- Increase vines supply and production of OFSP

Availability



- Increase consumption of OFSP and pumpkin by children 6-23 months of age

Dietary
DIVERSITY

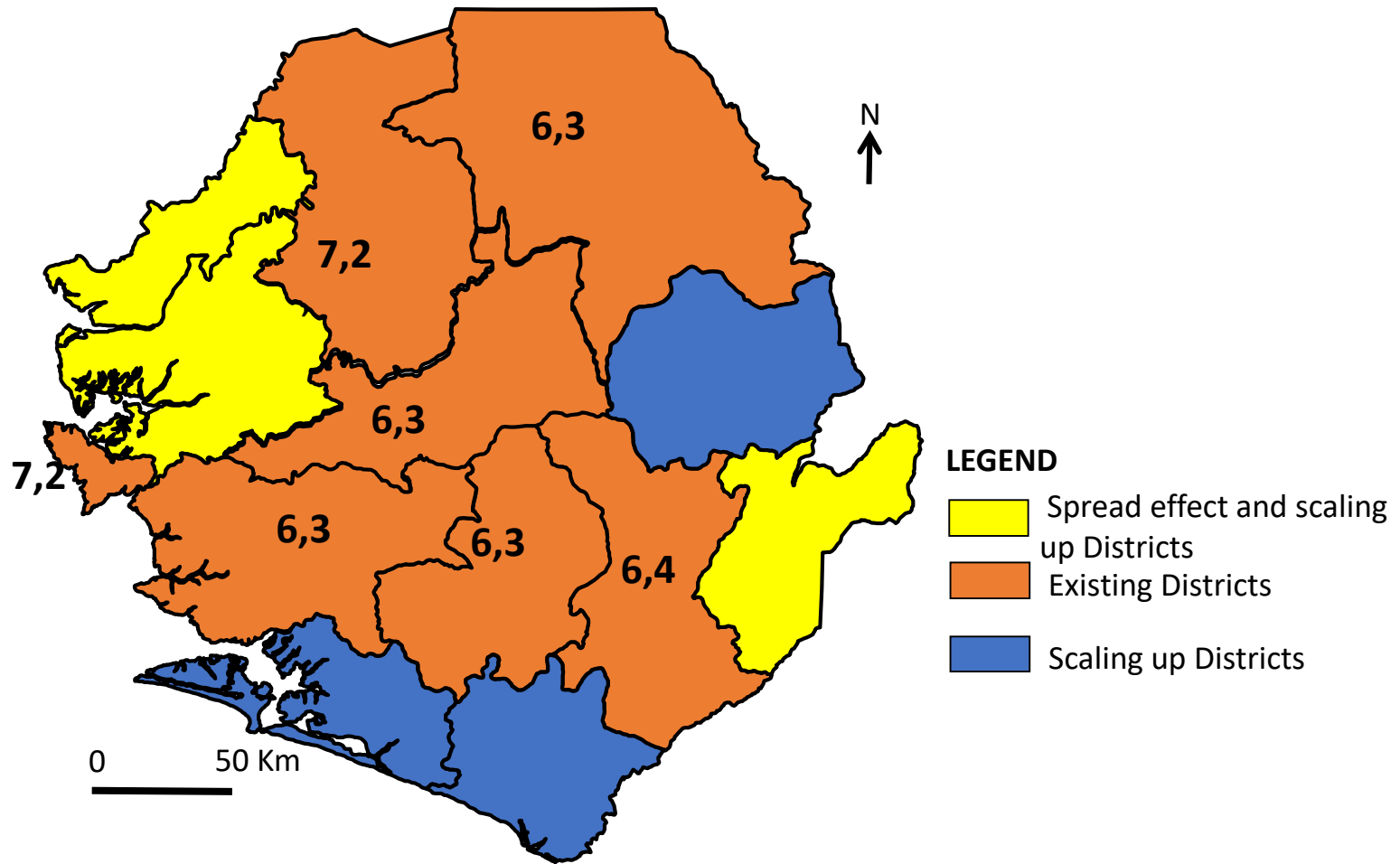


- Processing and product development

Value
addition

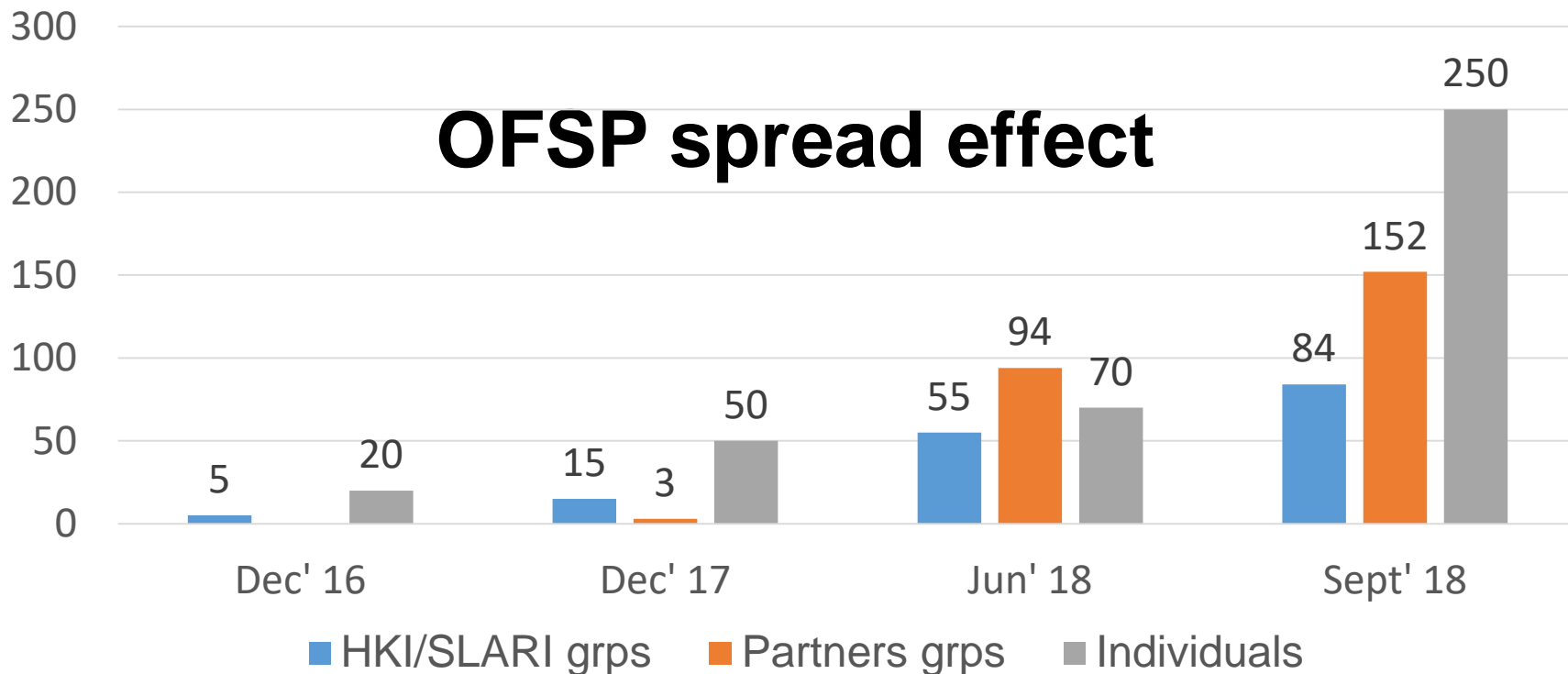


OFSP coverage in Sierra Leone 2018, '19



Selection is based upon commitment, suitable low land and upland and Functioning groups

Total existing groups is 64 (44 FBOs, 20 MSGs) plus 20 from the pilot study



Karena CO =1000 cuttings large scale multiplication

John Benjamin= Kailahun 40 bags 2000 cuttings

Commercial farmers in Yele= 30 bags

DMO Bombali = multiplier for his community

Conservation Alliance Organization ~ 1 acre of vines multiplication

MAFFS multiplication plots in all 7 districts

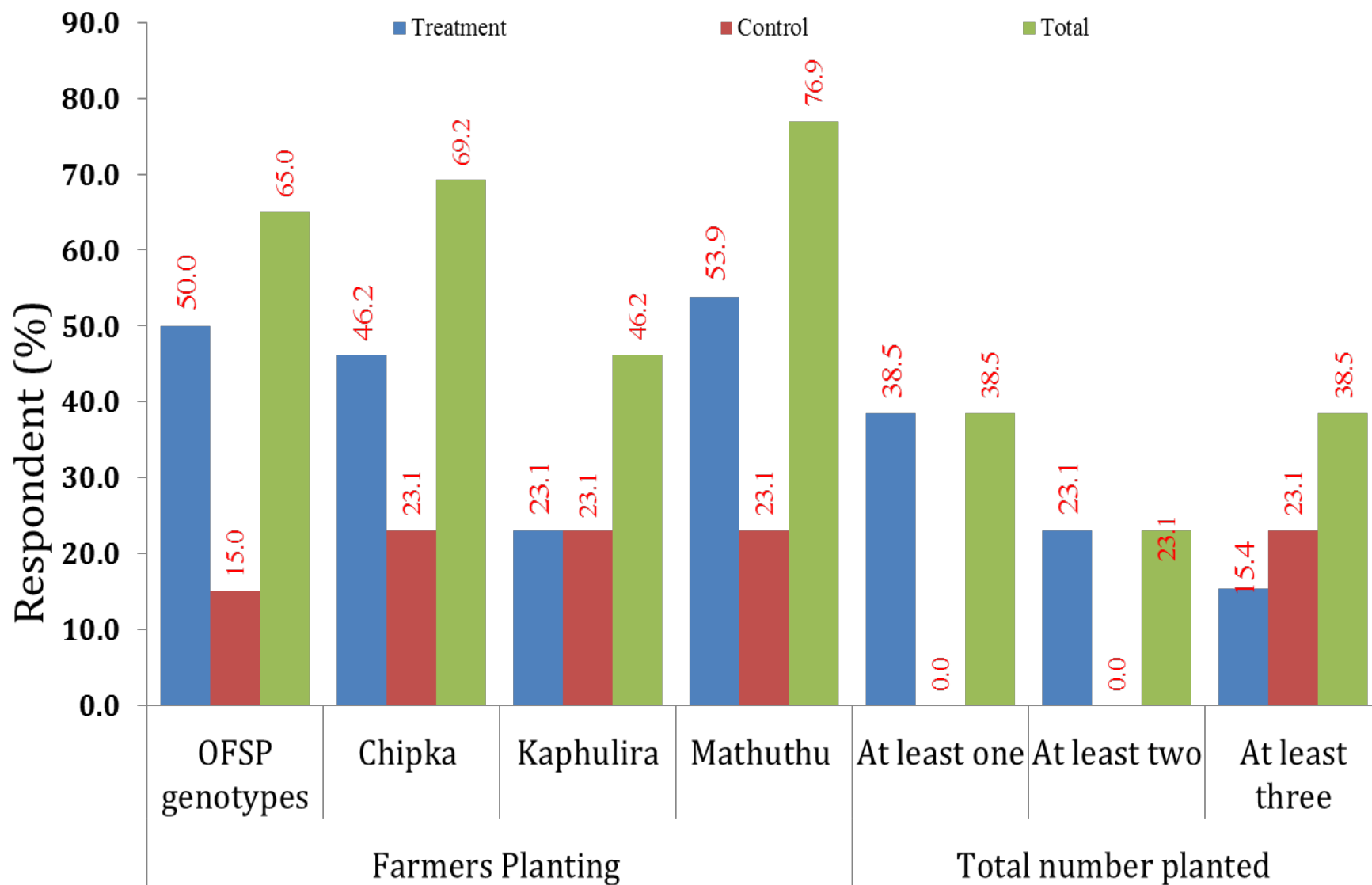
WFP-Pujehun?

BRAC-2000 cuttings

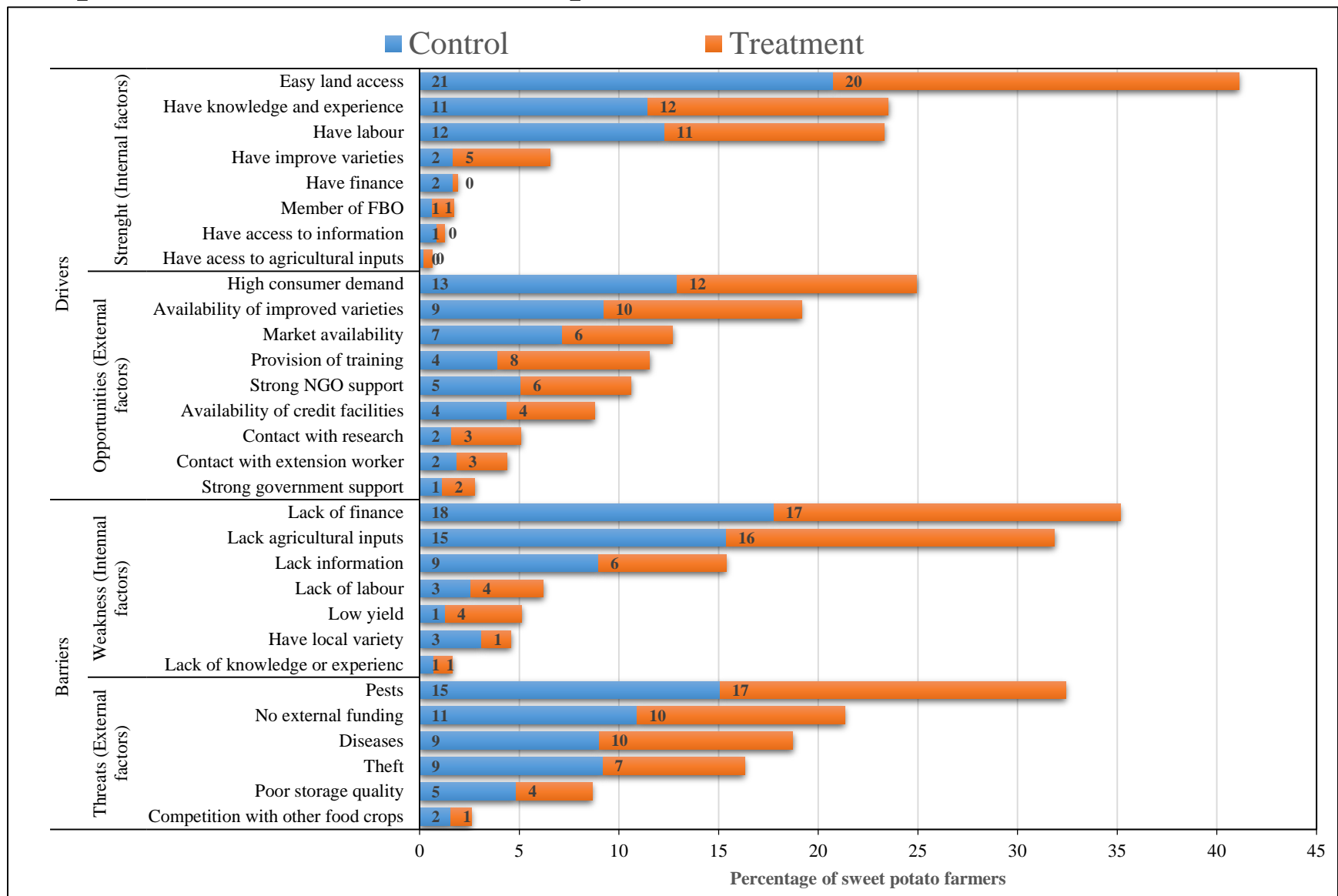
District	Partners [Groups]
Moyamba	Action Against Hunger (AAH) [11]
Bo	World Vision [50], Concern Mothers[3], Community Empowerment and Development Agency (CEDA) [3]
Tonkolili	Rofulta Development Association (RODA) [2], Mankind Activity for Development Activity Accreditation Movement (MADAM) [2], FreshSalone [22], JAM [half acre multiplication site]
Bombali	Inter Aide, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) (1,240 include Port Loko and Kambia]
Koinadugu	Catholic Relief Service (CRS) [targeting 309 schools for school feeding program]
WRA	AAH [3] Conservation Alliance [1 acre multiplication site]

1. Direct beneficiaries = **1,544 (M=606, F=938)**
2. Indirect beneficiaries= **4,869 (M= 1,899, F= 2,970)**

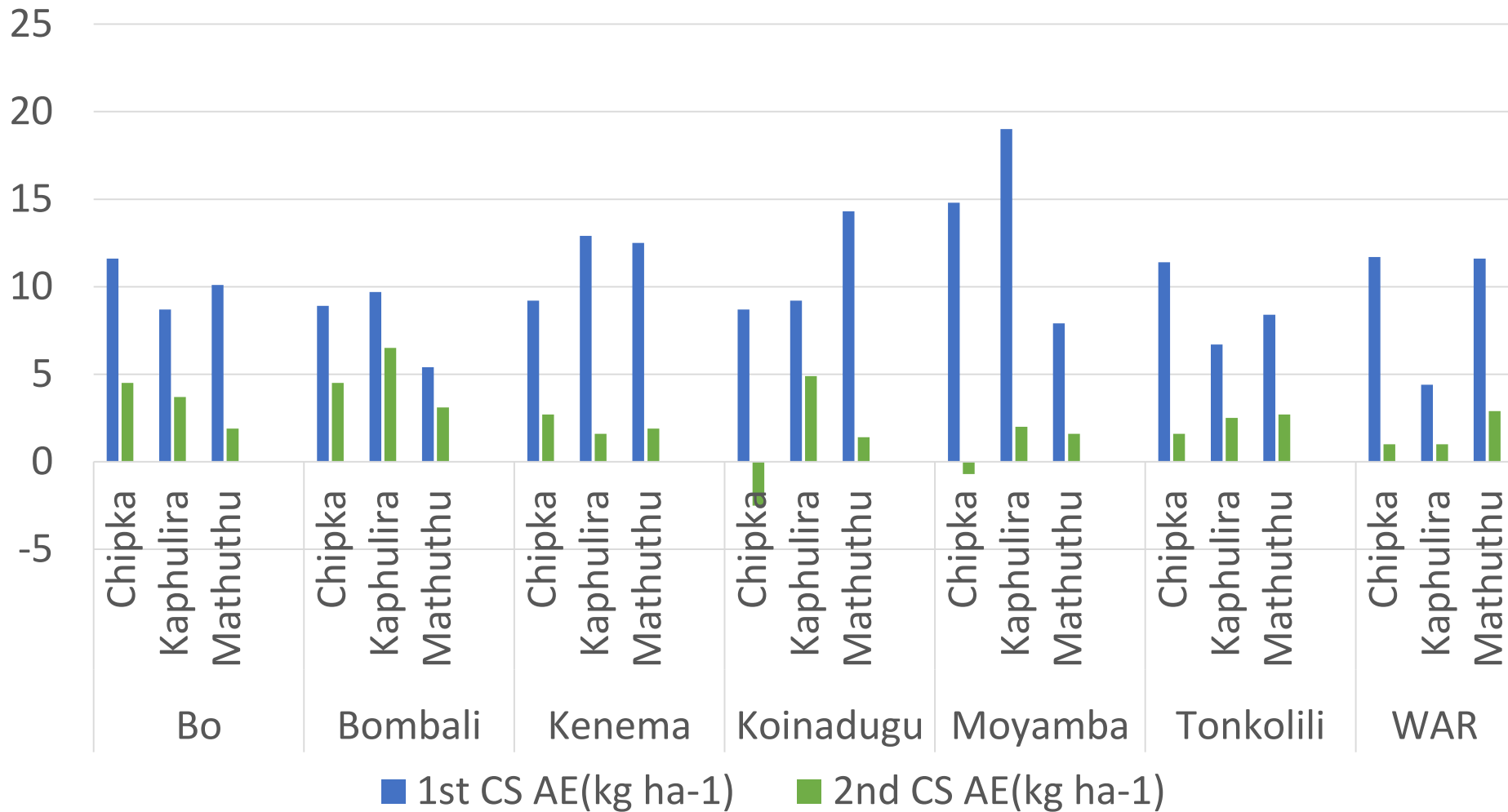
Cultivation of OFSP varieties



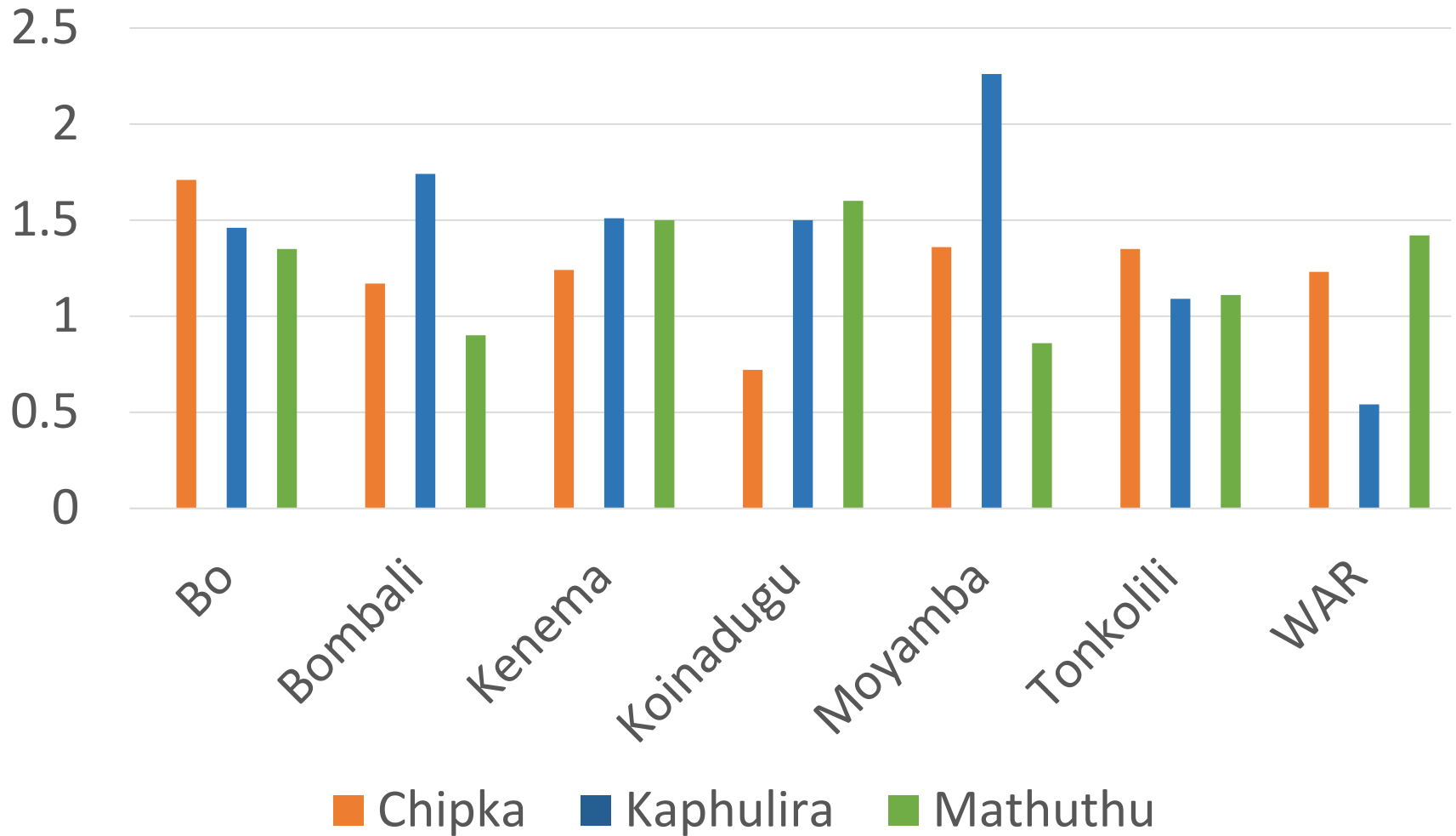
Drivers and barriers to adoption of improved sweet potato varieties



Agronomic efficiency (AE) of fertilizer during 1st & 2nd cropping season (CS)

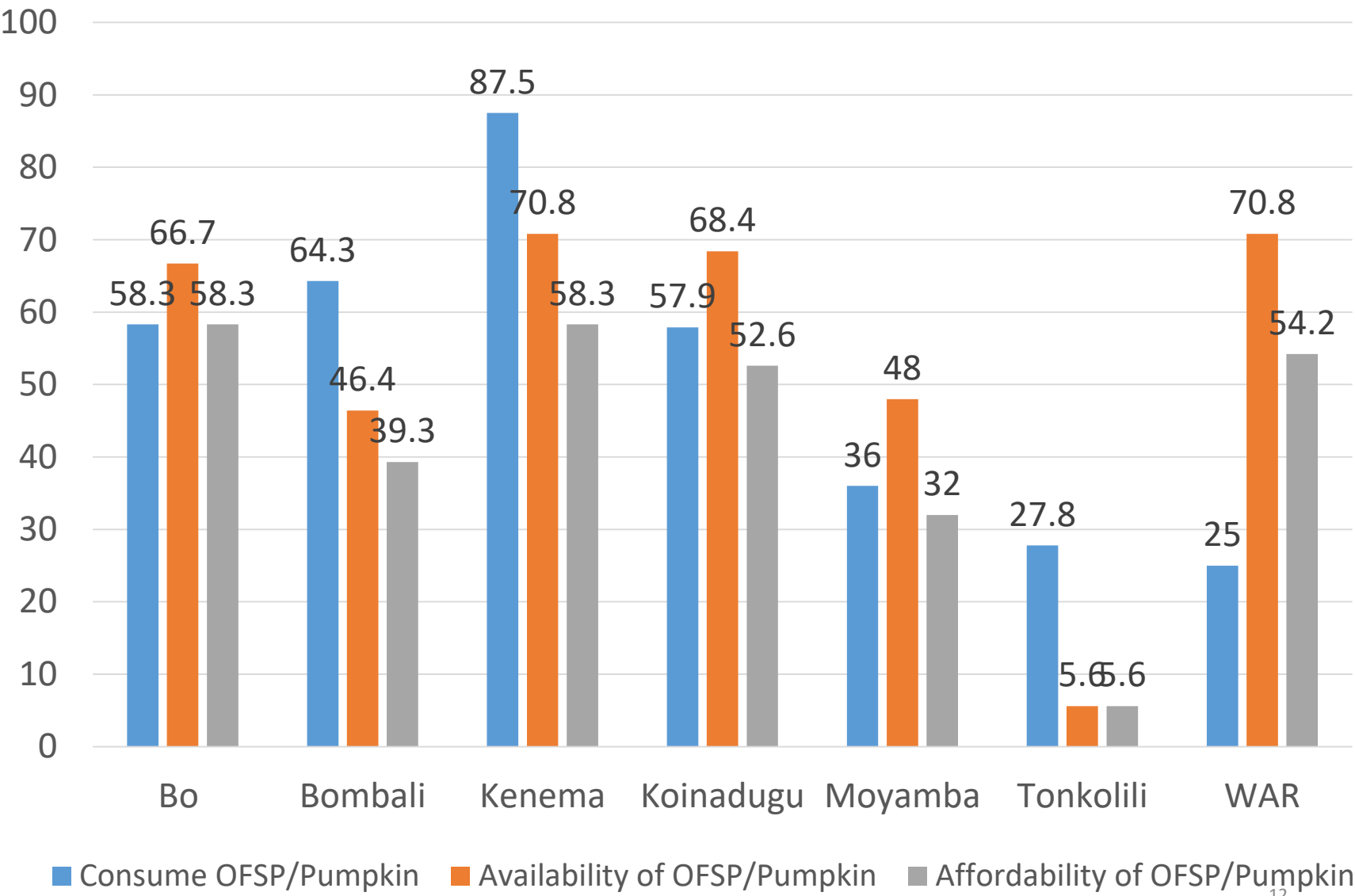


Economic efficiency of applying fertilizer



An average 32% boost to yields by the application of fertilizer(NPK 15:15:15 fertilizer at 270 kg/ha one month after planting)

Consumption, Availability and Affordability of OFSP among caregivers in sampled communities



Farmers' knowledge acquisition

Responses from farmers	Overall %
Knew they were to harvest 3 months after planting	89.8
Knew IVS should be used for vine maintenance during the dry season	83.3
Employed new methods of Value Addition after training by HKI	11.1
Prepare OFSP to sell	24.1
Knew 10-15 best agronomic practices for OFSP	50.9
Knew 2-7 best practices on IVS	33.3

Value addition
training to 168
farmers' group
representatives
across 7 districts



Plot Layout Plan for OFSP



Established plot, showing ridges and planting

Promotion of pumpkin production

Planting of Pumpkin



1

Select one or two viable seeds for planting



2

Drop seeds on the identified planting spot



3

Gently press seeds into the soil



When growing with other crops pumpkin should be planted far apart

Demand Creation via AYV TV and PICO Video

- Filming of best practices and messages of OFSP nutritional benefits were developed into a 2-3 minutes Pico-video and can be found on https://youtu.be/_uaNdh0mvII

Children eating OFSP at clinic



Pregnant woman and child eating boiled OFSP



Challenges

- Less rains leading to decrease in yield of all 3 varieties and districts compared to first cropping season.
- Incidence of the Stem Rot Disease in Kaphulira and Chipka across all districts except Koinadugu BUT tubers harvested were still excellent
- Theft of vines from one master farmers and half of the plot in Levuma Beach, WRA
- Less cooperation from some of farmers with respect to subsequent weeding of the plots after fertilizer application
- Complete destruction of plots in Talia, Kenema by goats
- Availability: poor irrigation, drought, seasonality of production

Challenges



Stem Rot Disease observed in almost all of the Districts esp. in Kaphulira

Challenges



Weeds overcoming OFSP plot in WRA

Vine Multiplication Site in Torwama, Bo



Vine Multiplication Site in Sumbuya, Bo



Lessons learned



- Timely planning and implementation
- Importance of partnerships
- Investment in capacity development
- Supportive supervision and monitoring is essential for course direction of programs especially during the dry season
- Technical support and collaboration with partners



SLAR*i*



Irish Aid

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Government of Ireland



Thank you