RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Roots, Tubers and Bananas

CGIAR

SCALING SWEETPOTATO TRIPLE S PLUS: gender responsive options for quality planting material, higher yields and extended shelf life for storage roots in Ethiopia, Ghana

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IITA Research to Nourish Africa

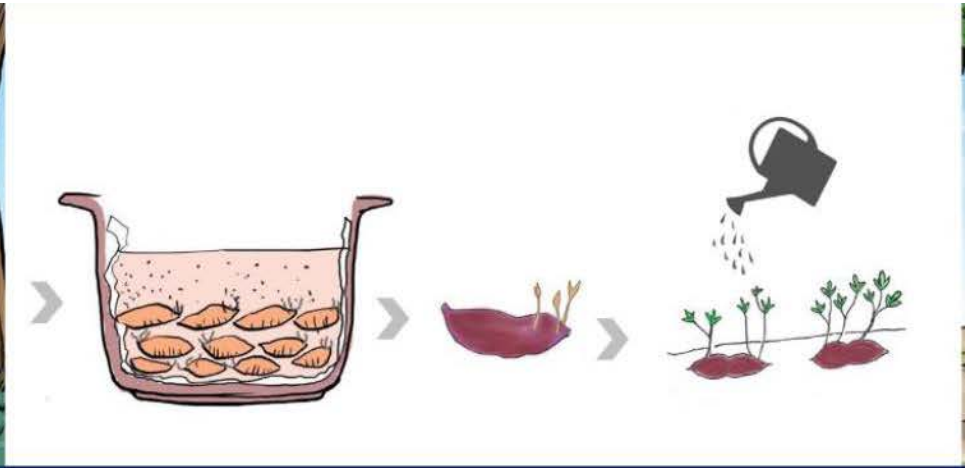
Why Triple S and what is it?

- Access to timely, quality and sufficient planting material key constraint to increase production in dry agro-ecologies
- Orange-fleshed sweetpotato is more difficult to store than white-fleshed SP (weevils, rot, shrinking)

1. Identification and pegging of healthy plants

Triple S: *Storage in Sand and Sprouting* → store OFSP over the dry season and produce quality planting material for early planting at household level

2. Roots stored in sand at start dry season



3. Roots sprout during dry season

4. Plant out roots in root bed & water

Sufficient quality planting material for early planting

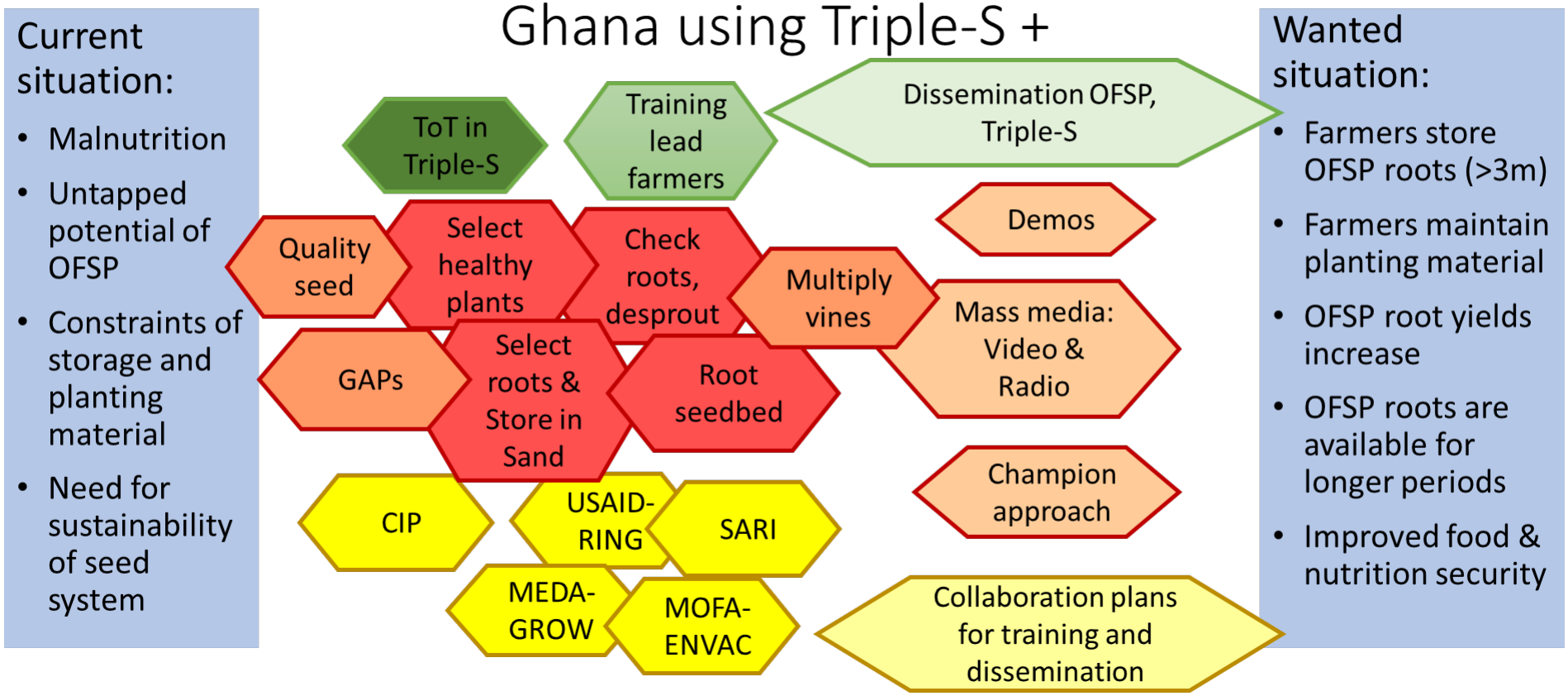
The big change anticipated?

- Smallholder farmers (especially women) maintain and quickly multiply their own, quality planting material
- Transform from vine-based, to root based seed system
- Increase yields, increase availability of roots for consumption and markets
- Improve nutrition, incomes and wellbeing of sweetpotato farming households

Components and vision for impact complementary components and partnerships

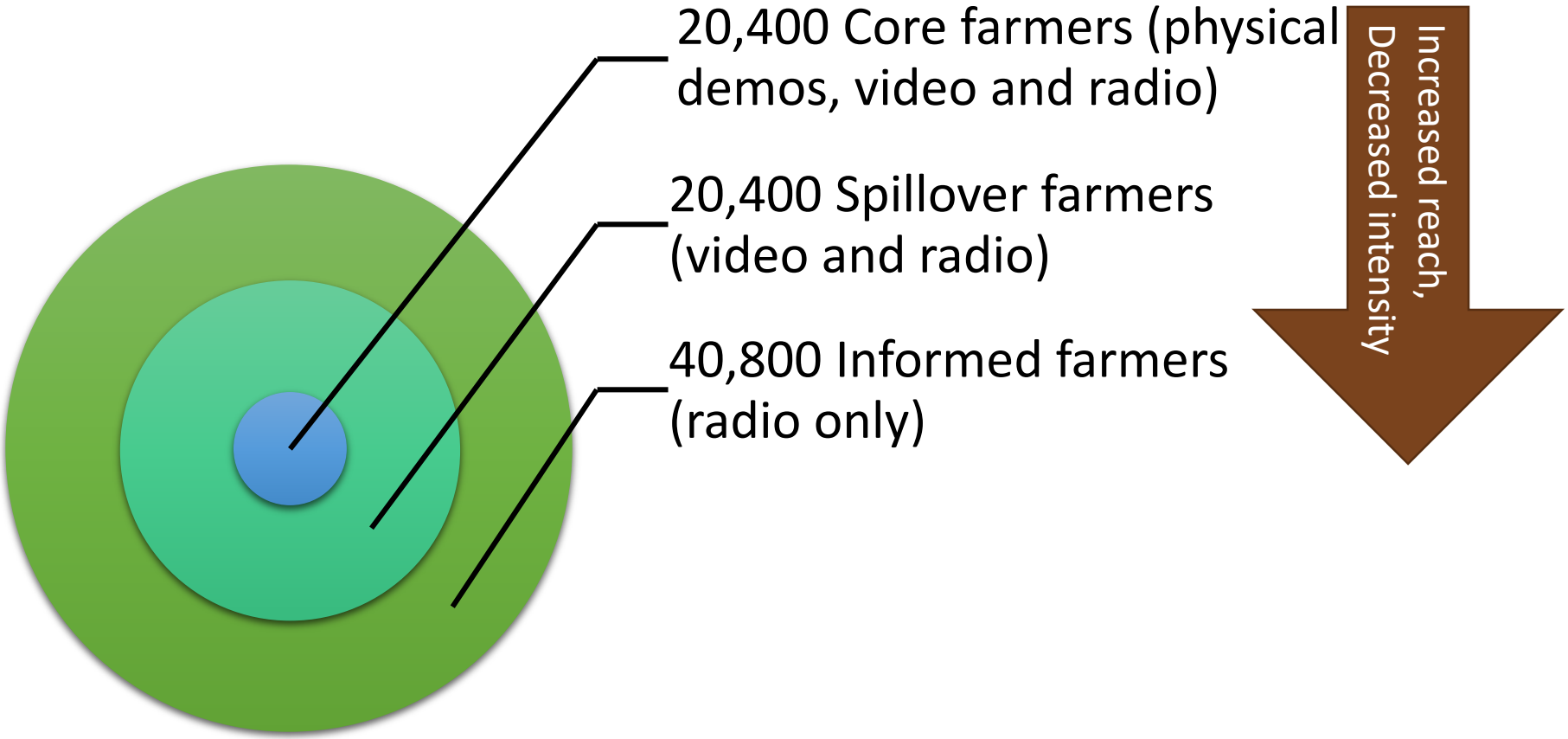
Vision developed with partners
Core components (red) complementary components (orange), Partners (yellow)

Vision for unlocking the potential of OFSP in Northern Ghana using Triple-S +



Targets, exposure to multiple communication channels to reach scale

Reach 81,600 smallholder farmers (50% women) in three countries with the Triple-S PLUS technology (Ghana, Ethiopia and scale-up country) by Dec 2019



Scaling partners & collaborators

Partner type	Ethiopia	Ghana
International NGOs, large projects	People in Need (PIN)	USAID-RING (Global communities), MEDA-GROW
Government projects	Digital Green, Video-based extension	MoFA-ENVAC, Modernizing Agriculture in Ghana (MAG)
Radios and journalists	Consultancy with radio journalists, linked to FM stations	Radio NorthStar, Savanna Radio, Radios Galki, Gmantambu, Radford Radio
Agricultural Training colleges	Sodo AGVET	Damongo Agricultural College
Government extension	BOARND (5 levels), Bureau of Health	Departments of agriculture (3 level)
Research	South Agricultural Research Institute	Savanna Agricultural Research Institute
Private sector		IWAD (seed company), Processors lightly involved
CBOs		Local NGOs (3)

Partners changed and diversity increased over time

Key events from Triple S Scaling to date

2018, year 1

Start-up workshop RTB scaling fund in Nairobi (March)

Country Start-up workshops in Ghana and Ethiopia (Mar, Apr)

Vine distribution & start TOTs in Ghana & Ethiopia (Jun-Aug)

SPHI Deep dive session (Sept 2018)

Start of Step-down training, videos in local language (Oct-Nov 2018)

2019, Year 2

Annual regional meeting, learning journeys (Jan)

Continue video based extension and step-down (Jan-Aug)

Plan for vine multiplication / distribution (Mar-May 2019)

Vine distribution & sales, GAP demos (Jun-Aug)

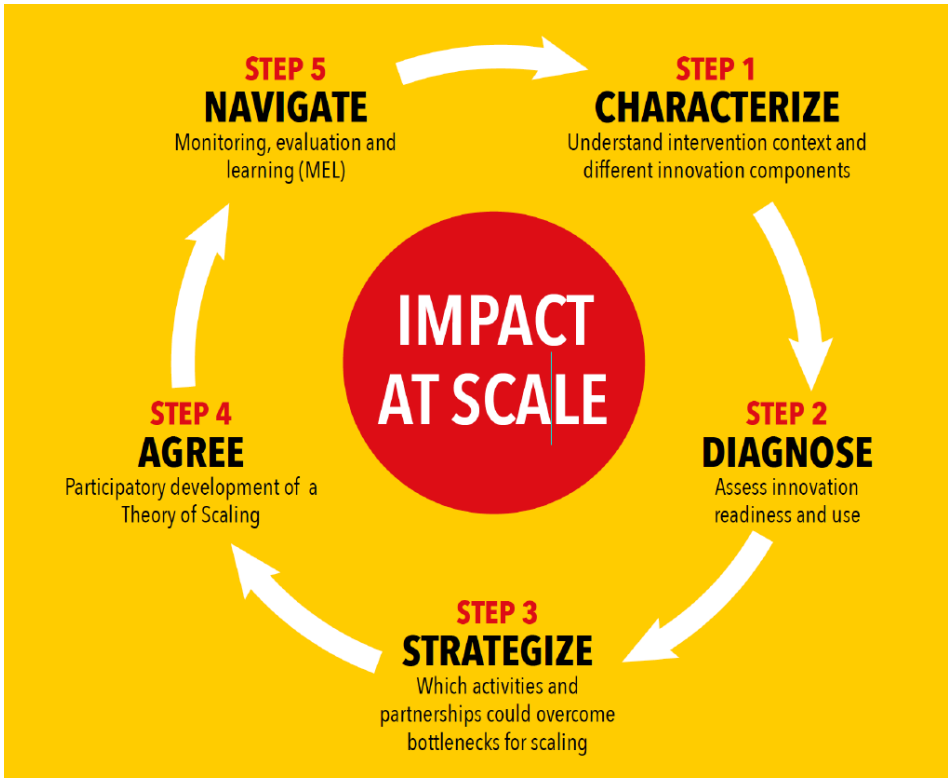
Scaling readiness approach, scaling process

Tools used for scaling process, RTB scaling fund

- Scaling readiness approach and assessment (5 steps),
- Online partner and stakeholder surveys

Tools used by Triple S scaling project and partners

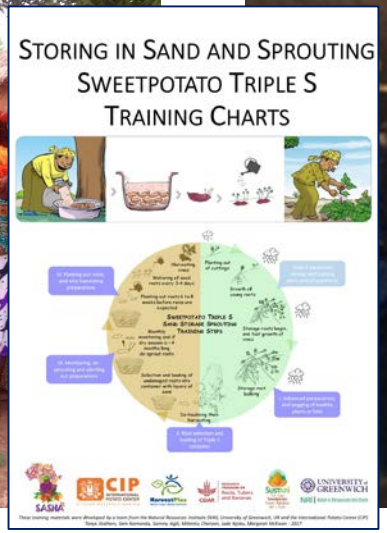
- Rich picture, vision for impact, learning journeys
- Partners' scaling capabilities assessment (6 domains)



Communication & learning tools developed

Farmer audience:

Direct demonstration, flipcharts, video based extension, radio, talking books



Advocacy materials:

- Blogs, Infographic, Briefs,
- Online sources in SPHI, Use of social media among implementers Facebook, barcode link

Achievements from Triple S Scaling to date

Reaching target audiences:

Ghana:

- 57,655 farmers (66.5% women) reached by video-based extension and step-down training
- Videos unleashed high demand for OFSP vine cuttings (7 million), need for private sector engagement
- >4,33 million vine cutting sold to >20,000 farmers, >80% women
- Radio programs popular with responsive audience (2544 call-ins, 17% women)

Ethiopia:

- 10,081 farmers (26% women) reached
- Targeted interventions (Healthy living club) more inclusive for women → (50%)

Lessons & reflections on technical aspects of scaling Triple S PLUS

- SARI Ethiopia proposes roots (not vines) to disseminate new varieties, SARI (and CIP) Ghana, still to make this move
- Availability of roots for storage low (consumed sold or lost, before farmers were sensitized on Triple S)
- Triple S successfully applied by the few early users in Ghana in first year
- Narrow window (weeks around harvest) for starting Triple S, risk to lose a year (Ghana)
- Need more detailed cost-benefit analysis, compare Triple S / maintenance of vines / rapid multiplication
- Decentralized Vine Multipliers vs. large farms vs. root based system, quality and source of vines

Lessons & reflections on process of scaling

Concept of scaling approach:

- Scaling readiness as approach still needs adaptation and validation
- Needs guidelines for independent use by project teams

Implementation of scaling with partners:

- Timelines / priorities among partners often don't align, needs long-term engagement
- Evolution of partners and partnerships, increasing diversity
- Videos and smart-projector kits highly appreciated by partners and farmers alike (high participation of women in Ghana)
- Appreciation of the synergy between technical and development partners (example: on-demand variety trials by local CBOs)
- Many opportunities for cross country learning (volumes of roots stored, engagement with agricultural colleges)
- Contracts and agreements major constraint, more flexibility required

Spill-over and demand for Triple S in other countries

- Stakeholders in other countries request training and materials for OFSP and Triple S
- Need for flexible funding to validate Triple S in new countries/contexts to prepare for further scaling

Country	Organization	Training provided in-country	Triple S validated
Senegal	NCBA-CLUSA, Min.Agric.	Yes	no
Togo	GIZ ProSecAl	No, but consultant trained in Ghana	Yes
Burkina Faso	HKI, INERA	No, some staff previously exposed to Triple S	Yes
Cote d'Ivoire	CNRA	No	No

Future perspectives, sustainability and exit strategy

Remaining 4 months:

- Assess gender responsive approaches and tools (FGD)
- Continue to monitor dissemination and use of Triple S PLUS
- End-of project workshop for evaluation and learning from process
- Develop manuscript on partners capabilities for scaling and lessons from partnering

Incorporation Triple S PLUS in curricula, workplans and policies:

- Used by Damongo Agricultural College, push for incorporation in national curriculum review workshop Aug 2019
- OFSP and Triple S in Department of Agriculture workplans and presidential agricultural initiative (PFJ)

Engaging new partners for Triple S validation and/or further scaling

- AfDB funded TAAT OFSP compact → plans for further scaling in Ghana, Togo, Burkina Faso….

Connect Triple S with value chain initiatives

- Create economic incentives for dry season root production for processors, also an opportunity for Triple S, link to aggregators and processors

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Acknowledgements

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Thank you

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