TAAT OFSP Compact

Highlights

- Promoted and introduced over 93 improved Orange-fleshed Sweetpotato (OFSP) varieties (nutritious, high-yielding and climate resilient) in different agro-ecological zones in 12 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Working with partners to develop sustainable seed systems and reaching over 50,000 beneficiaries producing and consuming OFSP
- Established more than 500 seed businesses
- Reached over 300,000 beneficiaries through sustainable intensification, nutrition education and awareness creation, agronomic training, post-harvest management training and roots storage techniques, and other value addition technologies
- Over 18,659 individuals trained on improved skills in agriculture enterprises development and over 555 new entrepreneurs engaged into Agribusiness-Small and Medium Enterprises (ASMEs)
- Worked with more than 40 OFSP processors processing OFSP into various products

What is the problem?
The production and utilization of sweetpotato in Africa although wide-spread and expanding, has remained largely limited to non-orange-fleshed varieties and to smallholder farming for household consumption and local marketing of fresh roots and leaves. Vitamin A deficiency remains a major micronutrient deficiency problem especially among children. Children without sufficient amounts of vitamin A are more likely to fall ill and even die than those with adequate levels of vitamin A in their bodies. However, to realize the full potential of sweetpotato for farmer income generation, job creation, rural economic growth, and nutrition at national level, there is need to intensify and diversify production and utilization of OFSP.

Compact description
The OFSP Compact is working with partners to scale up production, marketing, and processing of Vitamin A-rich OFSP varieties for improved incomes and nutrition.

What are TAAT OFSP Objectives?
1. Increased productivity and production of OFSP among smallholder and large-scale farmers
2. Improved income from sale of fresh OFSP roots and processed OFSP products, and from employment generated along the value chain
3. Improved income from production and utilization of sweetpotato-based silage to support small to medium scale livestock and dairy production

What are the TAAT OFSP Technologies?
1. 92 Nutritious, high-yielding and climate resilient OFSP varieties
2. Seed multiplication systems and businesses
3. Post-harvest management training
4. New sweetpotato storage systems
5. OFSP puree processing and storage technologies
6. Value addition technologies for commercially viable products

What have we achieved?
The OFSP value chain focuses on (i) processing of OFSP roots into nutritious, versatile puree for use in a range of bakery and other food processed products; and (ii) the use of sweetpotato vines, discard roots, peels, and other waste and by-products for animal feeds.
• 300,000 beneficiaries producing and consuming OFSP
• Promoted and introduced over 93 improved Orange-fleshed Sweetpotato (OFSP) varieties (nutritious, high-yielding and climate resilient) in different agro-ecological zones in 12 countries in Africa
• Reached over 100,000 beneficiaries through nutrition education and awareness creation, agronomic training, post-harvest training and storage, processing, and value addition technologies
• Trained over 18,659 individuals on improved skills in agriculture enterprises development
• Over 555 new entrepreneurs engaged into Agribusiness-Small and Medium Enterprises (ASMEs)
• Inclusion of OFSP in various national policies and strategies on agriculture and nutrition through advocacy. For example, through the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Ghana, OFSP is one of the priority crops for planting for food and jobs (PFJ) government initiative.
• Developed and disseminated farmer-to-farmer training videos on OFSP to increase demand for vines, Triple S technology, and vine multiplication
• Developed partnerships for going to scale with Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Ghana to include OFSP Training of Trainers (ToT) course in the national curriculum in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Agriculture colleges,

Were there any key challenges or lessons learned?
• Drought has a huge negative impact on seed production hence the need for irrigation technologies
• Slow uptake of the processing technologies

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