

## Commercialization of sweet potato planting material production to address the "Hunger Gap" in East Africa

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## Introduction

- SP is an important food security and cash crop in drought prone areas



Chipping roots for storage



Source of food



Source of income

## Introduction continued

- However, seasonal lack of adequate clean planting material limits the potential of SP
- Farmers depend on second growth (sprouts from unharvested roots) as the main source of PM



Sprouts from un-harvested roots

- Poor and inadequate PM
- Delayed planting time
- Reduced yield potential
- Therefore sustained food insecurity and poverty



Vine conservation limited



Planting material inadequate



- Demand for OFSP increased since promotion in Mwanza and Soroti
- OFSP roots failed to successfully regenerate
- In response the increased vine demand, CIP's partners namely TSAEE (Mwanza), Soroti local Gov't and interested farmer groups piloted commercial vine multiplication and conservation
- Youth entrepreneurial and sweetpotato graduate FFS groups in Mwanza (Tanzania) and Soroti (Uganda) respectively had shown interest

### What happened?

#### Mwanza scenario

- ✦ Six entrepreneurial youth groups prioritised improved vine multiplication and conservation
- ✦ Tailored training on improved techniques was conducted
- ✦ Established multiplication sites (Mid-June to mid October)
- ✦ Technical and logistical backstopping provided
- ✦ Linked up with prospective buyers and sold PM

### What happened in eastern Uganda?

#### Soroti scenario

- ✦ Graduates of SP FFS had established small vine multiplication schemes
- ✦ Widespread demand necessitated expansion
- ✦ Farmers saw business potential
- ✦ Multiplied the 2 OFSP (Kakamega and Ejumula) and 1 yellow (Tanzania) vines in 3 pilot sites (Mid-Dec to mid-March)
- ✦ Linked up with prospective buyers and sold the vines

### Production and marketing of SP vines in Soroti

Group	Number of bags sold per variety			Total no. of bags	Average price (US\$)
	Kakamega	Ejumula	Tanzania		
Abuket	774	353	611	1738	4
Apa Mora	406	167	409	942	
Eketakinos	364	88	-	412	
Total	1544	608	1020	3172	
✦ Total number of vines planted: 7 bags (10,500 vines)					
✦ Total income: \$12,688					
✦ Average gross income per farmer: ≈\$300					
✦ National annual average farm income: \$230					

### Who bought the 3,000+ bags of vines in Soroti?

Who	Identity	Percent of total vine purchases
NGOs	APEP/USAID, World Vision, NAADS, Prime Minister's office	90
Local community	Individual farmers, schools, churches	10
Total		100

### Who bought the 2,000+ bags of vines in Mwanza?

Who	Identity	Percent of total vine purchases
NGOs	World vision in Shinyanga (> 160 km) , Mara Local Government (300 km)	76
Local community	Individual farmers in Mwanza	24
Total		100

### Field follow ups



### Summary and recommendations

- ✦ The aim of timely availability of planting material was successful
- ✦ The two scenarios have stimulated vine enterprise and **changed perception**: farmers are gradually accepting to offer value for vines
- ✦ Indeed the NGO vine support for food security resulted into fast and wide spread of the new vines

### BUT

- ✦ To what extent can it result into corresponding root commercialisation? And sustainability?
- ✦ The implication of the 10 to 20% of the vines bought locally should be further understood
- ✦ Continuity and replication?

### NANNI, Bravo, Thank you all

