

Farmers' participatory perspectives on sweetpotato cultivars in Makueni district of Kenya

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Abstract. Sweetpotatoes are a major source of subsistence and cash income to farmers in semi-arid regions areas of Kenya. KARIKatamani in collaboration with the International Potato Centre (CIP) has been selecting and breeding sweetpotato clones for resistance to major biotic and abiotic stresses. Sixteen promising sweetpotato cultivars were planted at Kampi ya Mawe, Makueni district during the 2001/02 cropping season. The crop was harvested in March 2002 and farmers evaluated the cultivars based on taste and appearance. The best cultivars selected by farmers was Kanziga 2-1,

Mogamba, Bikiramararia, 192100/103, Salyboro and Kanziga 1-1. The farmers' most important selection criteria were taste, appearance and yield in that order. Taste and appearance should be considered when breeders are developing new cultivars