Promotion of Seed Yam Production Using Yam Minisett Technology

The yam minisett technology constitutes the most effective method for the rapid multiplication of seed yam needed for increased and sustained production of the crop.

Yam is a major staple for over 100 million people in West and Central, and is also tied to some socio-cultural life of the peoples in the humid forests. More than 95% of the global production of yam is in the yam belt of West Africa, with Nigeria alone producing 71% or 37 million tons. These potentials are indications that the crop could contribute to export earnings should production increase. However, one of the most critical constraints to increasing production is the scarcity and high costs of healthy seed yams. The availability of healthy seed yams is of utmost necessity to combat falling yam yields and declining yam quality in West Africa.

This CAADP-aligned project seeks to deploy the most rapid multiplication methods to produce seed yams and make them available to farmers, thus ensuring a higher significance of yams in food security. This project is based on the principle that high quality seed yams of improved varieties can exert tremendous positive influence on field productivity and storability of yam tubers as sources of nutrients for the initial growth of the crop, free from major pests and diseases. This project is being implemented in Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo.

Yam market in Togo. Photo credit Wanderlust

Main Beneficiaries

Rural farming communities will benefit from improved and sustained supply of seed yams. Seed yam producers will benefit from new techniques in seed yam production and distribution. The stability in the seed yam production chain will encourage increased investments in the sub-sector. The participating national research scientists will also share in the experiences of each country.

Main regional Benefits

Knowledge on yam minisett technology, production and distribution management of seed yams will benefit countries of the sub-region.

Partners

This project funded by USAID is coordinated by CORAF/WECARD. The implementing partners are National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI) Umudike, Nigeria; Crop Research Institute (CSIR-CRI) Kumasi Ghana; Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique (ITRA); Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Benin (INRAB); International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Ibadan, Nigeria; Root and Tuber Improvement and Marketing Program, RTIMP (Ghana) and Programme de Development des plantes a Racines et Tubercules, PDRT (Benin); national extension and advisory services; farmers' organizations and NGOs.

Components	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
1 **Technology Demonstration**	• Improved and healthy varieties of mother seeds identified • Mother seeds produced • In vitro plantlets produced • Manual for demonstrating yam minisett technology produced	**Outcome 1** Effective adoption of best practices in seed yam production **Outcome 2** Increased producer uptake of improved techniques **Outcome 3** Tools and best practices assimilated by yam producing communities	**Improved productivity of yams in Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo.** **Improved income and wellbeing of yam farmers**
2 **Seed Production**	• Farmer seed producers identified • Appropriate seed production and distribution information dissemination materials adapted to each community use developed	**Outcome 4** Improved productivity of yams **Outcome 5** Improved cost effectiveness in seed yam production and distribution **Outcome 6** Increased seed yam marketing	
3 **Capacity Strengthening**	• Capacity of seed producers strengthened • Capacity of farmers to use minisett technology to produce seed tubers from regular mother tubers strengthened • Capacity of farmers in field management and storage of yam minisetts strengthened	**Outcome 7** Effective implementation of best practices **Outcome 8** Knowledge of small scale rural seed yam producers and marketers enhanced	

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