

IMPACTS **Scaling Up Orange-fleshed Sweetpotato in Africa and Asia**

Over the past 15 years, the International Potato Center (CIP) has helped build robust evidence to demonstrate that pro-vitamin A rich, Orange-fleshed Sweetpotato (OFSP)

can combat vitamin A deficiency in children. CIP and its partners have shown that this new food is acceptable in traditional diets and that only one-half cup of OFSP provides the vitamin-A requirement for a single child. Since 2009, CIP and its partners have delivered OFSP to nearly 260,000 households in Mozambique, Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Angola, Kenya, and Rwanda. However, this is only the beginning and CIP is currently scaling up its research efforts and development impacts in Africa and Asia in an effort to reach 15 million households with orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP) by 2020.

The CGIAR's announcement to spend at least \$400 million on nutrition-sensitive agricultural research over the next three years, as well as £42 million in new funding from the UK to support biofortification efforts, with £12 million earmarked for CIP, underscores the importance of CIP's role in delivering OFSP to millions of impoverished peoples around the world.

This new support from the UK will enable CIP to reach 1.2 million women and young children in Rwanda, Kenya, Malawi, and Mozambique, by collaborating closely with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) efforts in those countries. In addition, the Government of Nigeria has made a commitment to partner with CIP and reach 102,000 households by 2017. In India, the state government of Odishia has made a major commitment to deliver OFSP to 250,000 households and USAID support will help bring OFSP to 100,000, mainly female headed households in Bangladesh.

The announcement of the UK funding to support this CIP effort was made by UK International Development Secretary Justine Greening at the Nutrition for Growth event organized by the UK Government in advance of the G8 Summit. In remarks made to the Nutrition for Growth participants, CIP Director General Pamela K. Anderson stated that, "working with businesses to drive consumption of orange-fleshed sweetpotato products is critical." Anderson accentuated the importance of working with local businesses by drawing upon the example of CIP's role with Rwanda's largest commercial bakery, SINA Enterprises. With the help of CIP, SINA Enterprises has incorporated orange-fleshed sweetpotato into a range of commercial food products – stimulating demand and reducing dependence on imported wheat flour.

At the event, CIP endorsed the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact along with a total of 94 stakeholders, including 26 governments and 27 business and science organizations. The event brought together heads of state, ministers, business leaders and representatives from donor, civil society, and UN agencies in order to push nutrition to the top of the international political agenda. It sought ambitious policy and financial commitments from participants to eradicate poverty, help countries to develop and prosper, and give every human being the opportunity to lead a healthy and productive life by ensuring the right to a safe, nutritious, and sufficient food supply.

NUTRITION FOR GROWTH

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Chinese Vice Ministers Visit CCCAP

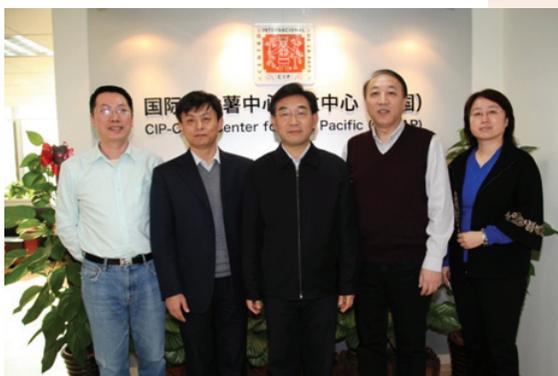
The CIP-China Center for Asia and the Pacific (CCCAP) received two top-level visits from the People's Republic of China.

On February 6th, 2013, Mr. Niu Dun, Vice Minister of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and five other high officials from the MOA visited CIP-China Center for Asia and Pacific (CCCAP) and its preparation office. CIP-DDG and DG of CCCAP, Mr. Lu Xiaoping, chaired the meeting, and reported on the progress made by CCCAP and the preparation office since 2010 and also listed the challenges that lie ahead.

On February 19th, 2013, Dr. Zhang Taolin, Vice Minister of China's Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and CIP Board member, along with Mr. Yang Xiongjian, Deputy Director, Department of Science, Technology and Education of MOA, visited CCCAP and its preparation office. Dr. Taolin stressed that CCCAP's work in 2013 should be carried out in accordance with the SMART rule (S=Specific, M=Measurable, A=Attainable, R=Relevant, T=Time-bound). They both congratulated CIP on its hard work and promised to continue helping the team, encouraging them to carry on working diligently throughout the year. The visit coincided with the Chinese New Year, and the two visitors wished the team a happy and prosperous Year of the Serpent.



Mr. Niu Dun (middle in the front row) and CIP-DDG and DG of CCCAP Mr. LU Xiaoping (to the right of Mr. Dun)



From left to right: Dr. Xie Kaiyun, Mr. Yang Xiongjian, Dr. Zhang Taolin, Mr. Lu Xiaoping, Ms. Zhang Li

CIP GAINS in India

In India, CIP launched the Odisha GAINS program in collaboration with the Odisha state government. GAINS stands for Generating Advances in Income and Nutrition through Sweetpotato and is focused on distinct conditions of the farmers and consumers of the Odisha region promote a specialized CIP developed Orange Flesh Sweetpotato (OFSP), which was bred for the regional environment.

The GAINS program is part of CIP's CGIAR Research Program Roots Tubers and Bananas. GAINS is a four year initiative that will encourage farmers to grow OFSP and help them market it to local consumers. In addition to providing farmers with additional income and consumers a valuable source of nutrition, OFSP can also help the region become more food secure.



Farmer in Odisha displays sweetpotato cuttings

RESEARCH Partnerships and Knowledge Sharing Key to 'Rooting Out Hunger in Malawi' Project

The International Potato Center (CIP), with its project 'Rooting Out Hunger in Malawi', has been working with relevant government agencies, NGOs, and communities to develop, cultivate and distribute new vitamin A-rich and drought-resistant orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP) varieties that have significant levels of vitamin A – something white varieties don't offer. The project is now in its fourth year and the demand among farmers, as well as among the government agencies and the NGOs, has far exceeded expectations. It was presented as a successful experience at Dublin's international conference on

Hunger, Nutrition and Climate Justice last month. The Government of Ireland and the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, hosted the conference jointly.

“The first-phase project target of reaching 70,000 households was reached several months before the end of the first four-year phase and has been surpassed since then,” says Simon Heck, Deputy Program manager for CIP’s Africa Sweetpotato Program (SPHI). “Orange-fleshed sweetpotato has become a ‘logical’ choice for farmers, as it grows quickly and prolifically under most agro-ecological conditions; and its taste is popular, especially among children - those most vulnerable to malnutrition”. Heck explains, “local farmers were trained to become ‘vine multipliers’ in order to improve availability of the materials at community level, and the farmers were connected to sources of improved seed from national research stations and primary multiplication sites.

For Putri Ernawati Abidin, the Project Manager, training of the trainers – agriculturists and lead farmers - was also key to reaching those at a grass-roots level and becoming an effective model that got full support from the implementing partners. The trainers subsequently educated approximately 4,000 change agents – 43% female – with each trainer training another five to 10 people.

The project has become a model by engaging in strong partnerships with relevant government services and NGOs, but also by increasing the demand for OFSP through awareness-raising, with a creative communication campaign that included radio programs, drama and theater, recipes, promotional messages on cloth worn by women (called ‘chitenje’), and even songs sung at field and demonstration days.

The project in Malawi will undertake a major household survey later in 2013 to compare how far they have come from where they started. A next phase is in preparation for the period 2014-2018. Second-phase objectives include expanding to more districts in the country, and exploring opportunities for value-chain development to increase income and get OFSP-based products and cured roots with longer shelf-lives into urban markets.

When Erna Abidin went to the Dublin Conference last month, she presented the project with support from Fanny Mafuli, a farmer and mother of three from the Phalombe district.



Training trainers in OFSP processing in Kasungu

In OCS CIP Leads the Way

CIP is at the forefront in the implementation of CGIAR’s One Corporate System (OCS), a management system established within ten different CGIAR centers around the globe to effectively integrate project, financial, procurement and human resource management



systems into a common platform to boost efficiency, increase collaboration, and improve the investment of donor funding. OCS consists of three central pillars, Finances, Project Management, and Human Resources, and CIP is helping to lead the way in building and testing Project Cost Building (PCBs) and Timesheets modules in order to drive the OCS machine. The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is another center paving the way forward for OCS, specifically within the Human Resources sector.

“CIP is deliberately taking on a leading role in this effort that will ultimately benefit all CG centers,” says Carla Lazarte from CIP’s Human Resources Department, “We will now take the lead by integrating these three pillars into a common platform, a key component of which requires the utilization of timesheets.”

The timesheet component of this management system is designed to manage how CIP serves its clients and donors. The purpose of these timesheets is to increase efficiency and ensure that CIP management can direct operations in line with the standards set by leading international organizations. The timesheets

are an important part of OCS as they allow for proper allocation of labor related costs. Labor costs make up 50% of CIP's budget, and in order to satisfy donors, CIP needs to fulfill a mandate to effectively manage labor in order to be economically sustainable. Michael Gerba, CIP's CFO asserts that, "timesheets are the fuel that drive the OCS engine, and OCS is a tool that will carry CIP forward into the future."

REGISTRATION **Regina Kapinga Recognized**

Judges named former CIP research scientist, Regina Kapinga of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as one of 10 Tanzanian women honored with the 2013 Tanzania Women of Achievement Awards (TWAA). On March 28, in a ceremony held at the Serena Hotel in Dar el Salaam, Kapinga was recognized for her tireless effort to promote the production and consumption of Orange Flesh Sweetpotato to combat vitamin A deficiency in Tanzania, and sub-Saharan Africa, and for her capacity building efforts and continued mentorship of young professionals, especially women in Tanzania and other countries, among other achievements.

Established in 2009, the TWAA recognizes women in different economic sectors of Tanzania. The objective is to pay tribute to the most exceptional women in the country who have achieved success in their respective fields and made a difference in communities and society as a whole. The TWAA gives awards to women who have worked passionately over many years and to uplift and increase prosperity of their families and communities in general.



Congratulations, Regina!

Online Mapping Tool Receives International Award

RTBMaps – a web-based GIS (Geographic Information Systems) tool to help planners visualize data and analyze options for using roots, tubers and bananas to improve food security, nutrition and income – has been selected for a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award, presented in July at the 2013 Esri International User Conference.

A collaboration of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the GIS teams at Bioversity International, the International Potato Center (CIP) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), RTBMaps harnesses the latest advances in GIS and cloud technology to help people in the world's poorest regions.

Some of the most important decisions to be made in the first years of Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB) concern where the research program's resources and activities can achieve the greatest impact. RTB crops are grown in regions with some of the world's highest rates of poverty and malnutrition; but where could work on specific crops or issues go the farthest in improving food security, nutrition or income? What is the distribution of the principal pests, diseases and other constraints to production? What areas present the greatest opportunities for RTB?

GIS specialists at the four research centers collaborating on RTB are helping the program's decision makers grapple with such issues by creating an online GIS tool to visualize production, constraints, and social indicators associated with RTB crops. The CGIAR Consortium hosts this online atlas for Spatial Information (CSI). Together, these organizations have created a series of maps on ArcGIS Online that uses cloud technology for GIS and allows users to build their own maps by combining layers.



RTBMaps accessible to all and free of charge

“With this project, we want to move the power of maps out of the GIS lab and into the hands of the RTB science community – CGIAR scientists and our partners worldwide,” said Glenn Hyman, who is coordinating the project for CSI. He noted that the website is user friendly, accessible to all and free of charge. “Anybody can use these maps. You don’t need specific software. You don’t need any GIS training. All you need is a web browser.”

EVENTS CIP Co-hosts the African Potato Association Conference in Kenya



The International Potato Center (CIP) co-hosted the 9th Triennial African Potato Association Conference in Naivasha, Kenya from the 30 June through the 4 July 2013. The conference brought more than 235 stakeholders and scientists from 23 African countries and other regions of the world to discuss innovative ways to exploit the food security and income-generating potential of potato and sweetpotato crops. It included the participation of private and public stakeholders, international agencies and organizations, non-governmental organizations, and governmental bodies.

The non-profit African Potato Association (APA) is an organization dedicated to potato research and promotion. Founded in 1985, the APA consists of scientists, experts, and practitioners from over 20 African countries. The APA collaborated with the Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture, the National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK), and CIP to organize this high level international conference.

Potato production in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has more than doubled over the past 20 years with 70% of this growth concentrated in eastern Africa. Potatoes are not only of increasing importance to rural farmers, but are a highly-preferred food in urban areas where consumption is increasing rapidly, giving potatoes high market potential.

Sweetpotato is equally important due to its high nutrient content – the orange-fleshed varieties are rich in pro- vitamin A-- and its ability to grow well under low input conditions under a broad range of agro-ecologies. Rustic sweetpotato is known as the classic food security crop in Africa—the crop that is there when the maize fails.

While there have been substantial increases in production in potato and sweetpotato in Africa over the past few decades, the continent is suffering from a number of problems and constraints that affect crop production. These include a lack of clean seed, unavailability of adequate improved varieties, inefficient use of organic matter, farm manure and other resources, insufficient nutrient supply to crops, and restricted market opportunities.

The conference discussed these problems by laying out three clear-cut objectives. These included an opportunity to review progress in potato and sweetpotato research in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA); giving participants the chance to engage with stakeholders and agents for development who exhibited, presented papers and posters, and participated in panel discussions; and lastly by promoting the public-public and public-private sector partnerships. The conference also encouraged public and private enterprises to interact with potato and sweetpotato stakeholders from outside of Africa.

Internationally recognized experts hosted the conference and encouraged dialogue on a number of subthemes. Participants visited potato and sweetpotato innovations in the field during various day trips over the course of the conference.



Sreekanth Attaluri, Hilda Munyua, Kiri Sindi, staff CIP exhibitions at APA 2013

In Memoriam

Former CIP science leader **Dr. Humberto Mendoza** passed away on Monday, July 22, 2013. Humberto was CIP Geneticist and Head of Genetics and Plant Breeding Department based in Lima from 1974 until 1994, and then Geneticist and Liaison Officer for Nigeria and Cameroon until 1997. More recently he was a professor at the National Agricultural University La Molina, Peru. His career in plant breeding has had a profound impact on both human capacity and potato variety development worldwide. Those who had the pleasure of knowing him could appreciate his passion for teaching and undying commitment to international agriculture. We send our most heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.



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