

# DONATA

Enhanced uptake and adoption of orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP) technologies in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda



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Funded through the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and the African Development Bank

The **DONATA** project is working in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda. Its overall objective is to improve livelihoods and increase economic growth for resource poor farmers in East and Central Africa (ECA). DONATA works through multi-stakeholder platforms consisting of National Agriculture Research Institutes (NARIs), non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, farmer organizations, private sector, public sector extension agents, and universities. They work together at district level to increase production, consumption and marketing of pro-vitamin A-rich orange fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP) fresh roots, vines and processed products. This will bring about improved food security and nutrition, increase incomes and employment opportunities -- all of which will contribute to improved livelihoods and economic growth in ECA.

This is being achieved through transfer and promotion of proven, available, and emerging technologies for production, storage and

processing of OFSP into higher value products, as well as by providing market information, linking farmers to markets and through the development of agro-enterprises. Success stories on the impact of transferred technologies on the livelihoods of poor people in target areas will be translated into best practices or lessons learnt for scaling-up and scaling-out.

## Implementation strategy

Innovation Platforms for Technology Adoption (IPTAs) are being formed in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. These aim to bring together relevant value chain stakeholders to develop institutional mechanisms that will support the up-scaling of OFSP technologies (e.g. new varieties, agronomic practices, and post-harvest activities).

## Expected results

1. OFSP technologies made available to uptake pathways in the 5 countries
2. Best bet approaches for up-scaling OFSP technologies generated and promoted



The Sweetpotato for Profit and Health Initiative (SPHI) is a ten-year initiative designed to improve the food security and livelihoods of poor families in Sub-Saharan Africa by exploiting the untapped potential of sweetpotato. It seeks to reposition sweetpotato in food economies of Sub-Saharan African countries to alleviate poverty and under-nutrition in 10 million African families in 10 years.

3. Capacities for disseminating and up-scaling OFSP technologies in the production-to-consumption continuum strengthened
4. Information on OFSP technologies and uptake approaches made available to intermediate and end users in ECA.

## Progress to date

### Multiplication and promotion of clean improved orange-fleshed sweetpotato planting materials:

Currently it is estimated that a total of 27 ha is under orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP) multiplication. This consists of: Uganda: 7.4 ha; Kenya 11.1 ha; Tanzania 2.2 ha; Rwanda 6.3 ha.

### The improved OFSP varieties which are being promoted include:

Ejumula, Kabode, Vita (Kenya); Ejumula, Kakamega, Vita and Kabode (Uganda); Ejumula, Carrot-Dar and Jewel (Tanzania); Cacearpedo and 97-062 (Rwanda), and in Ethiopia virus-free start up material has been taken from tissue culture for Tulla, Kulfo and Koka 12. Thus 11, OFSP varieties are under multiplication across the DONATA IPTAs.

**Training of Trainers (TOT) courses and training for farmers:** To date 169 extension agents have been trained in basic sweetpotato root production and quality seed vine multiplication. 672 women farmers and 706 male farmers have been trained in root and seed vine multiplication.

### Awareness and promotion activities:

in Busia District, Kenya, OFSP market promotion activities were undertaken reaching an estimated 4,850 people. In the different countries field days have been conducted; pamphlets and

promotional materials produced, and live radio programmes on OFSP broadcast.

DONATA provides the opportunity to test different approaches for up-scaling OFSP technologies. As the DONATA OFSP innovation platforms for technology adoption (IPTAs) evolve we will also be able to deepen our understanding of how multi-stakeholder partnerships can best work to support these processes. In each country the context for the up-scaling process is different. In Ethiopia, the national coverage of the Farmer Training Centers offers mass coverage for broad uptake; in Kenya, the presence of strong community based organizations provides the opportunity for highly participatory approaches; in Rwanda, there is keen interest from private food manufacturers to develop OFSP processed products for urban markets; in Tanzania, effective government decentralization provides the opportunity to link with other service providers at the local level; in Northern Uganda, returning Internally Displaced People (IDPs) are keen to re-establish their own agricultural production, and there is a wide-spread network of Farmer Field Schools (FFS).

## Links to the Sweetpotato for Profit and Health Initiative

DONATA is proud to be part of the Africa wide SPHI. Greater synergies among the different projects which are part of the SPHI will enable exchange of lessons learned across countries and leverage opportunities for broader impact on the livelihoods of small-scale farmers.



Members of Mwasonge Group in Misungwe District, Tanzania have used swamp areas to maintain OFSP planting material during the dry season.



DONATA colleagues from the Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research (EIAR) and Awassa Research Centre (SNNPR) discuss with CIP colleague Dr. Berga Lemaga screenhouse conditions for hardening OFSP material originating from tissue culture.

## Contact

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