Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Progress Report BMZ Project Funding

General Information

Implementing Organisation and Contracting Partner	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 40 53113 Bonn Tel. +49-(0) 228-44600 Internet: www.giz.de
Contact for project reports	Advisory Service on Agricultural Research for Development (BEAF) Tel. +49-(0) 228-4460-3883
Closing date	
Reporting period	November 2019 – April 2020
Submit by e-mail to	Silke.Schwedes@giz.de

Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

1. Basic data

The IARC applicant	International Potato Center (CIP)
Project title	Farmer Capacity Building and Institutional Development for Sustainable Potato Production and Commercialization in Cameroon
Funding type, GIZ Project Number and Contract Number	Project Funding, 14.0967.1-110.00 81232175
Reporting Period	November 2019 – April 2020
Project Coordinator and Project Scientists	Project Coordinator Dr. Peter Kromann (former) Dr. Dieudonné Harahagazwe (new) IITA-Cameroon Station, 1st, Main Road, Agricultural Research Institute for Development (IRAD), Nkolbisson, PO Box 2008 (Messa), Yaoundé, Cameroon Tel: +237691100523; Mobile: +237659211470 Email: D.Harahagazwe@cgiar.org Project Scientists • Dr. Monica Parker • Dr. Thomas van Mourik • Dr. Carlo Carli • Mrs. Victorine Fornkwa
Project Partners	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ): Ms. Silke Schwedes, Dr. Hubertus Meertens, Marthe Epassy, Arnaud Breitenstein, Laetitia Sossou. International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA): Dr. Cargele Masso, Dr. Komi Fiaboe, Giovanni Forgione. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER): Mrs. Eveline Ouokam, Mr. Stanislas Bila, Dr. Honoré Mafouo, Mr. Richard Anagho TOWA Lab: Mr. Jules Towa

2. Progress Report

State of Project Implementation

Below we briefly describe the state of implementation of the project activities by project components and indicators as per the logical framework matrix.

Objective 1: Stakeholder sensitization and engagement to further develop a sustainable national potato strategy based on existing support policies within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) for the potato value chain: *Ongoing*

1a. One assessment report on the policy and legal framework conditions in the potato sector: *Not yet started.*

1b. One value chain analysis focused on the identified bottlenecks: *Suspended*.

- A consultant was identified and the methodology developed. But the priority for the country has become updating the national potato strategy 2020–2030. That is why this activity was integrated into the amended proposal.

1c. Inputs to a white paper for a National Seed Potato Sector Development Strategy elaborated.

- Same as 1b.

1d. Inputs to a potato value chain promotion strategy (seeds development, production, mechanization, storage, marketing, PGS, etc.) developed: *Not yet started.*

1e. Road map for implementation of potato promotion strategy developed: *Not yet started.*

1f. Workshop with key stakeholders conducted.

- Two training workshops held (see 3.1e).

Objective 2: Building capacity of trainers, extension staff, and farmers in good agricultural practices (GAP++); innovative and agroecological farming methods; and business skills on the farm: *Ongoing.*

2a. Further adaptation of farmer field schools (FFS) and farmer business schools (FBS) systems to run with less resources on a farmer learning group (FLG) level in collaboration with MINADER services and private training organizations.

- New training approach based on the cluster-based FFS integrated into the amended proposal.

2b. Conceive a farm trial knowledge exchange system within, and between, neighboring FLGs based on the model farms: *Not yet started*.

2c. Elaborate a coaching tool with budget for advice on specific contents demanded by farmers: *Not yet started.*

2d. Forty-two trainers and 30 extension officers of MINADER supervised and continuously retrained on GAP++ and innovative, agro-ecological practices through a FFS approach and are capable of conducting FBS efficiently.

- This activity will start with the next reporting period. The priority was to finalize the training materials and tools, including printing.

2e. At least 100 innovative farmers coached to become small-scale input and service providers in their farming communities: *Not yet started.*

2f. Twenty model or innovation farms are created with the full package of innovations applied: *Not yet started.*

Objective 3: Improved access to quality seed of high-yielding, disease-resistant, and market-demanded varieties for increased productivity and resilience*: Ongoing.*

3.1. Increasing access to quality seed and capacity to produce high-quality seed in Cameroon: Ongoing.

3.1a. Training curricula for service providers and entrepreneurs with production manual for rapid multiplication technologies available for early generation seed potato multiplication available: *Not yet started*.

3.1b. Multiplication systems for rooted apical cuttings from lab to field established in Cameroon: *Not yet started*.

3.1c. Training curricula and production manual for seed potato field multiplication available in Cameroon and available for coaches and partner institutions.

- The development of seed manuals (French and English) started. They will be finalized during the next reporting period.

3.1d. Capacity of local seed production increased to at least 5,000 tons annually through tissue and stem culture, minituber, and field multiplication.

- Identification and visit of major seed potato growers in the West and Adamawa regions conducted to appraise their capacity in seed production and assess their needs.
- Conceptualization of a screenhouse for seed potato production (rooted apical cuttings and minitubers) conducted.

3.1e. At least 30 seed multipliers selected and trained on seed multiplication techniques through regular coaching visits.

- Training course to English-speaking seed potato growers held in Bandjoun, West region, on 5 December 2019. Nine participants attended this course.
- Training course to French-speaking seed potato growers held in Bandjoun, West region, on 6 December 2019. Ten participants attended the course.

3.1f. Business models with farm gate prices for improved seed calculated with local multiplication and minituber production through a lab—the models should be bankable: *Not yet started*.

3.2. Evaluation and dissemination of new varieties for improved agronomic performance and marketability in Cameroon: Ongoing.

3.2a. CIP will support the official variety release of at least two new high-yielding, resilient, and marketable varieties and include them in the seed system for widespread dissemination.

- Introduction of 220 kg of minitubers for two promising varieties ('Unica' and 'Chulu') and their multiplication in Batcha, West region, by a seed grower as service provider took place.

3.2b. Multipliers and producers of new varieties included in training and coaching with 30 selected as model or contact farmers: *Not yet started*.

3.2c. An *in vitro* seed multiplication scheme (laboratory, greenhouse, field multiplication) is set up with IITA, IRAD, and private partners using a business model.

- Trained technicians of TOWA Lab (a privately owned facility) on micropropagation and sanitary preventive measures on 14–15 February 2020.
- Provided technical advice to the lab manager on how to improve the operations and comply with the regulations for certification.
- CIP facilitated the first steps for the certification of lab activities and products.

3.2d. Description of the recommended varieties in simple innovation fact sheets available: *Not yet started*.

3.2e. A strategy for seed import (model A import, model B minitubers) according to legal procedures and adapted to the realities of Cameroon drafted: *Not yet started*.

Objective 4: Evaluating and implementing innovative services for farmer cooperatives and model farmers using services based on storage, mechanization, cooperative management, and marketing methods: *Ongoing.*

4.1. Evaluation and implementation of innovative agronomic measures: Ongoing.

4.1a. Smallholder-adapted agronomic packages developed for sustainable intensification of potato-based cropping systems and integrated into training curriculum and program.

- Sites selected for the demo plots on fungicide and fertilizer optimization in the West region.

4.1b. Information of market potential of newly registered varieties prepared for political advice and training: *Not yet started*.

4.1c. Updated recommendations of high- and medium-input natural resource efficient farming systems.

- Identification of appropriate and recommended potato fertilizers and pesticides on the local market in the West region conducted.

4.1d. Recommendations on innovative water use efficient irrigation systems and potato production systems published: *Not yet started*.

4.1e. Recommendations for using mechanization in potato farming systems: *Not yet started*.

4.1f. Innovations described in innovation fact sheets: *Not yet started*.

4.1g. A business model established for each innovation to make it bankable and replicable with external financing (credit, etc.): *Not yet started*.

4.2. Storage options for seed and ware potatoes: Not yet started.

4.2a. Cost-benefit analysis for seed and potato storage options.

4.2b. Manuals for construction and use of storage facilities.

4.2c. Two demo storage facilities built with a contribution from farmer cooperatives.

4.3. Facilitate farming as a business, market coordination and linkages, and value addition: Not yet started.

4.3a. Further development of existing ROPA *(renforcement des organisations de producteurs agricoles*) modules on coaching for principles of cooperative functioning, services, commercialization, financial management, and coaching techniques.

4.3b. Support to business plan development and market linkages for 14 cooperatives through facilitators or external experts.

4.3c. Initiation of a potato value chain committee with market actors to assure value chain development with the GIZ ProCISA project.

4.3d. Support to services developed with cooperatives and service/input providers that are provided through training centers and a pool of coaches (COOPEXP).

4.3e. Coaching of 300 cooperative members and service providers on ROPA through COOPEXP.

Objective 5: Validation of organic production systems for potato: *Suspended.*

- This objective was discontinued because it is no longer a priority for ProCISA. Therefore, this objective was taken out of the amended proposal.

Objective 6: Baseline data and documentation of progress and performance indicators by analyzing and monitoring the results is provided on all levels: *Ongoing*.

6a. Study and progress reports.

- CIP shares updates with ProCISA on the work progress through a biweekly meeting.

6b. Mapping of innovation centers (cooperatives), demo and model plots, farms producing in cooperatives, multipliers, innovative farmers, and active members of the cooperative using GPS.

- A database of seed potato stakeholders is being developed.

6c. Collection and compilation of monitoring data to feed the GIZ monitoring system plus socioeconomic data: *Not yet started*.

6d. Publications on effects of innovations at model and innovation farms on indicators of sustainable cropping systems (soil fertility, soil health, disease incidence, system productivity) on demo or model farms and disease analysis plus cropping system applied research (maybe related to climate effects, such as saving of water/drought resistance through humus, soil coverage, etc.): *Not yet started*.

General Achievements and Problems encountered

- New staff recruited: Victorine Fornkwa, potato specialist; Dieudonné Harahagazwe, project coordinator; and Gilles Fotue, driver
- New field office established in Bafoussam, hosted by GIZ-ProCISA
- Acquisition of a new pickup for Bafoussam office
- Two new varieties introduced from Kenya were successfully multiplied
- TOWA lab was formally pre-registered by the seed regulatory body to produce certified *in vitro* plantlets
- Trainer guide for ware potato production (French version) completed

The activities carried out during this period were slightly affected by the transition in the project coordination and the recruitment process of new staff.

IDO Contribution

Nineteen seed growers trained in field multiplication, four lab technicians/operators trained in tissue culture techniques, and one registered seed grower multiplied minitubers from Kenya.

Conclusions for the following Reporting Period

Upcoming reporting will be based on an amended proposal. Therefore, there will be several changes, including in the objectives and outcomes. For example, objective 5 on organic farming has been removed because it is no longer a priority.

Publications, Papers and Reports

- Bonnes Pratiques Agricoles de Production de Pomme de terre de Consommation au Cameroun, Manuel du Formateur, 40pp. Projet Centres d'Innovations Vertes pour le Secteur Agro-alimentaire (ProCISA), Cameroon. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Germany.

Summary

The implementation of the project on the ground was delayed due to a transition in the project coordination and the recruitment of new staff. The priority was to strengthen the project capacity for delivery. Therefore, it is during this period that the project coordinator was recruited along with other staff. A new field office was established in Bafoussam, hosted by GIZ-ProCISA. It is also during this period that a project vehicle was acquired.

Concerning the technical aspects, most field activities were aimed at identifying, visiting, and assessing the capacity of partners. That is why one seed grower was entrusted to multiply the minitubers introduced from Kenya. They will be harvested in June 2020. The project also empowered TOWA lab at different levels, including training, advocacy for the formal certification of the lab, and technical advice.