



FEED THE FUTURE RWANDA: ORANGE-FLESHED SWEETPOTATO FOR INCOME AND NUTRITION ACTIVITY

FY 2017–2018 QUARTER 2 PROGRESS REPORT

January–March 2018



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ACRONYMS

AEE	African Evangelistic Enterprise
CHAIN	Community Health and Improved Nutrition
CHWs	Community health workers
CIP	International Potato Center
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DERN	Programme de Développement Rural du Nord
DVMs	Decentralized vine multipliers
FXB	François-Xavier Bagnoud
HH	Household(s)
IMBARAGA	A farmer syndicate NGO (not an acronym)
IP	Implementing partner
MIYCN	Maternal, infant and young, child nutrition
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
NRVCC	Nutrient-rich value chain commodities
OFSP	Orange-fleshed sweetpotato
OSEPCCA	Organization for Support to the Environment Protection and Climate Change Adaptation
RAB	Rwanda Agriculture Board
SKP	Sweetpotato Knowledge Portal
UNICOOPAGI	Union des Coopératives Agricoles Intégrées
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 Summary of Major Achievements in Q2 of FY 2017–2018

The Feed the Future Rwanda Orange-fleshed Sweetpotato for Income and Nutrition Activity is a 3-year project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It is being implemented by the International Potato Center (CIP) in collaboration with five local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) as implementing partners (IPs); one public institution, the Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB); and in partnership with the Community Health and Improved Nutrition (CHAIN) Rwanda project, community health workers (CHWs), agri-promoters, and district local governments officers. The project contributes to the Feed the Future objectives of inclusive agricultural sector growth and improved nutritional status, especially for women and children.

For the reporting period (FY 2017–2018 Q2), the major achievements of the project were the following:

- The project distributed planting materials of orange-fleshed sweetpotatoes (OFSP) to 6,235 new households (HH) with children under 5 or with pregnant women.
- These same HH received agronomic and nutrition training at the time of receiving planting materials.
- The project assisted 7,932 continuing beneficiaries by providing nutrition training and counseling during in-home visits.
- The project trained 2,493 continuing farmers on good agronomic practices in addition to home visits.
- Through trained agricultural promoters, the project continued to train the farmers who had received vines this year, through follow-up training sessions conducted in groups and during home visits; 5,622 farmers were trained in groups and 1,613 HH received field visits.
- The project started to harvest the demo plots in some district; this project continues and results will be reported in the Q3 report.
- The project has conducted a crop cut to measure the production at HH level.
- The project continued to link CHAIN partners with the established CIP/partner decentralized vine multipliers (DVMs) for the acquisition of vines for distribution in CHAIN partner farmer field schools.
- The value of OFSP products (vines, roots, and processed products) sold in Q2 was \$17,836, corresponding to the incremental sales of \$9,432.85.
- For the reporting period 6,774 new children under 5 were reached.
- The project trained 59 new CHWs who will work in new locations where the project started to work this year. Through these trained CHWs, the project continued to provide nutrition training to farmers who had received vines (from the start of FY 2018). The training was delivered through follow-up training in groups and during home visits. These trainings were provided to 17,516 farmers in groups, and 3,186 HH received nutrition counseling through home visits.

1.2 Summary of Major Challenges

During the implementation of activities in Q2, the project encountered some challenges, mainly in seed system and agronomy (Table1).

Table 1. Challenges and proposed solutions Q2

Problem	Solution Proposed	Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible
Flooding on vine multiplication in Nyaruguru	Dig the drains where it was possible; replace the plant destroyed by flooding	Establish permanent drains; plant the trees along the river	Ongoing	CIP & local partners in partnership with the local government
Some DVMs who showed concern about how to get the multiplication certificates	Working with partners to identify who needs the certificate and make sure they meet requirements	Working with the Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) to help DVMs who need multiplication certificates to get them as quickly as possible	Ongoing	CIP, local partners, and RAB
Two out of four demo plots in Ngororero have been stolen before data were collected	It was not possible to identify the thieves.	In collaboration with local government, disseminate vines to many people so that farmers will have enough food to eat. Sensitize the local communities on the importance of trials.	Sept.– Dec. 2018	CIP, local partner, and local government

1.3 Brief Discussion of Q2 Achievements

In this section we discuss three notable project achievements in Q2 of Y3.

1.3.1 OFSP vines delivery

The project continued to distribute and deliver vines to eligible beneficiaries, reaching 6,235 new beneficiary HH with the planting material. We had earlier targeted to reach 15,000 in Q3 with OFSP vines—a deficit due to the project having exceeded its target in Q1. We therefore decided that the partners should concentrate on the trainings and demo harvesting, which were more urgent since the rainy season was just starting and the rest of the HH would be reached in April and May 2018. The remaining 25,000 HH will be reached with vines in April and May 2018 depending on their location. Hence, the annual target will be achieved by the end of Q3. One of the CHAIN partners (Caritas) was also linked to the project DVMs. The results from this linkage will be reported in Q3 after they finish distributing planting materials to their different farmer field schools.

1.3.2 Agronomic training

At the time of vine distribution, farmers were trained on good agronomic practices that include land preparation, recommended planting practices, and crop management. They were then given communication material (brochures) with the same information on agronomic and nutrition as those received verbally during the initial contact. For Q2 all 6,235 farmers (5,451 females, 784 males) who came to pick vines received the same training. The agri-promoters then continued with the follow-up training through organized groups and during their home visits as a way of providing technical support. In Q2 5,622 new farmers (4,511 females, 1,111 males) who got vines in the reporting year were trained. In the same period, 1,613 farmers (953 females, 660 males) were visited to provide technical support. The agri-promoters also continued to follow up with the continuing beneficiaries (farmers who got vines last reporting year but are still benefiting from the project through trainings). In Q2 1,422 continuing farmers were trained in groups, and 1,071 continuing HH were visited for technical support.

1.3.3 Nutrition education and counseling

In each year the project expands the area covered to new cells in the same sector or an entirely new sector as per the discussions with the local government authorities. Hence, it is always necessary to train CHWs in the new areas with the necessary skills. Therefore, in Q2 59 CHWs in these new sectors were trained on maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN). This is to ensure that all beneficiaries receive the same level of knowledge in all project areas. With these trainings we can ensure that we standardized the training protocol for maximum impact on the beneficiaries. During Q2 the project, through CHWs, provided follow-up nutrition training to mothers and caregivers. The training delivered was based on MIYCN using nutrition counseling cards developed under this OFSP project. A total of 17,516 persons (4,456 males, 13,060 females) were reached through these group trainings, and 3,186 farmers (1,508 males, 1,678 females) received nutrition counseling through home visits. These figures are from new beneficiaries (i.e., those who received vines in project Y3). In the same period, 6,182 continuing beneficiaries (who got vines in Y2) also received general nutrition training in groups and 1,750 continuing beneficiaries received nutrition counseling by trained CHWs.

1.4 Progress on Challenges Identified in Q1

Because the demand for vines from the government bodies is difficult to gauge, DVMs are routinely overproducing vines against the advice of the project. To alleviate the problem caused by overproduction, these farmers have been encouraged to also set up roots production plots because there has been a shortage of OFSP roots in the market. However, there are other USAID-funded projects (e.g., Hinga Weze) that are currently buying (although they did not participate in the seasonal vines demand estimation process that is organized by CIP to plan for the coming season). Hence, we expect that DVMs with excess vines will manage to sell their production to these institutional buyers and, we hope, the government during the Army Month. The outcome will be reported in the Q3 report for Y3.

2. DETAILS OF MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING Q2 PER OBJECTIVE

2.1 Introduction

The Feed the Future Rwanda Orange-fleshed Sweetpotato for Income and Nutrition Activity has continued its work of promoting the production and consumption of orange-fleshed sweetpotatoes (OFSP) in 10 districts in the Feed the Future zones of influence in Rwanda. These districts are Burera, Musanze, Rubavu, Bugesera, Gatsibo, Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Karongi, Rutsiro, and Ngororero.

The overall project goal is to increase the production and consumption of OFSP, enhance incomes of smallholder farmers, and improve the nutritional status of women and children under 5 years. Below we discuss each objective and present its corresponding Q2 achievements.

Objective 1: Increased production of OFSP among smallholder farmers

During Q2 the project distributed OFSP planting material to 6,235 new beneficiaries. The farmers who picked vines also received basic agronomic training, together with brochures containing agronomic and nutrition messages. In addition to this initial training they received on the day of vine distribution, the agri-promoters continued with follow-up training in groups. Through this follow-up the project reached 5,622 new farmers and 1,422 existing farmers with trainings. Agri-promoters also conducted field visits to provide technical support. Through these field visits they reached 1,613 new farmers and 1,071 continuing farmers.

As part of efforts to increase root production in Q2, 12.4 ha of new land was put into OFSP root production. The project also continued to work with Community Health and Improved Nutrition (CHAIN) project partners; the results from that collaboration will be reported in Q3.

Objective 2: Improved incomes from OFSP along the value chain

Under this objective, the project continued to follow up and assist the decentralized vine multipliers (DVMs) in vine production and linking them to potential buyers. The DVMs produced and sold 2,044,500 cuttings of OFSP planting material to the project partners, other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working with OFSP, and to individual farmers. Those cuttings sold are valued at \$12,262.12. At the same time, new root production sites totaling 12.4 ha were established to increase the supply of roots in the market. From the root production sites, 17.77 t of OFSP roots were sold for \$3,880.96. From survey results 4.5% of farmers sold OFSP roots. Hence 2,107 farmers sold the average of 2.5 kg each, which totals 5,292.718 kg (5.3 t) sold at the value of \$795; the total value of the roots sold was \$4,675. The project also continued to follow up with trained processors who started using OFSP in their bakery products. For Q2 the total value of the processed products sold by trained processors was \$898.70.

Objective 3: Improved nutrition outcomes for women and children under 5

The project continued to provide nutrition training to both new and continuing beneficiaries. In Q2 17,516 new beneficiaries were trained through groups and 3,186 received nutrition counseling through home visits. Also, 6,182 continuing beneficiaries received nutrition training and 1,750 continuing beneficiaries were reached through counseling sessions.

2.2 Project Indicators

This section reports on the Feed the Future indicators on which the project is supposed to report. (Table 2 shows the achievements by indicator and explanations on the deviations from the planned targets.)

Looking at the indicator, *Number of households benefiting directly from USG assistance under Feed the Future*, the project reached 6,235 new households (HH) with clean OFSP planting materials and brochures containing agronomic and nutrition message. At the same time 7,932 beneficiaries got nutrition training and home visits for counseling. This latter number had received vines in the previous years but still benefited from the project through training. Hence 14,167 HH (both new and continuing) benefited from the project in the reporting period. The target for the quarter was 16,000 for both new and continuing beneficiaries.

The project underachieved on this number because it was a deliberate decision to concentrate on other activities that required action before the rains. This decision was because, in the previous season, the project had overachieved on the same area and we decided to focus on other areas. The project plan is to continue this project during Q3 and meet the yearly target to ensure that there is enough time to wind down the activities in this, the project's final year.

All the new beneficiaries received agricultural training on OFSP management before receiving OFSP planting materials. The training was conducted at the designated distribution point where HH members received their OFSP vines. In Q2 under the indicator of *Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agriculture training*, 8,728 farmers (6,235 new, 2,493 continuing) were trained. For new beneficiaries, 6,235 farmers (5,451 females, 784 male,) received agronomic training on the day they came to pick vines. In addition, together with the ones who received vines last quarter, they also received in follow-up training from agri-promoters in groups or at home. During home visits all HH members were invited to participate. The group follow-up training was attended by 5,622 farmers (4,511 females, 1,111 males), and the home visits reached 1,613 (935 females, 660 males) HH where technical support was provided. For the continuing beneficiaries, 1,422 farmers (1,218 females, 204 males) received training in groups, and 1,071 HH (706 females, 365 males) received technical support through home visits.

Under the indicator *Number of hectares under improved technologies*, 419.45 ha of new land was under OFSP compared with the target of 245 ha in Q2. The breakdown of the area under OFSP was 16.01 ha (DVMs and OFSP root production) established in the Q2. The other 403.44 ha was under 46,818 farmers who got vines in Q1. The survey results showed that 100% of farmers planted vines after receiving them, and among them 80.75% replanted them after harvesting.

For the *Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technology*, the survey results showed that out of 46,818 HH who received vines in Q1, 4.9% are male, 58.4% are female, and 36.7% for both male and female were involved in OFSP production. Under this indicator, 64,200 (consisting of farmers who received vines in Q1, DVMs, and root producers) applied improved technology in the reporting quarter.

Under the indicator *Value of smallholder incremental sales*, the value of the vines sold by the DVMs to different partners was \$12,262.12, whereas the total roots sales value was \$4,675. This value comes from two sources: the first was \$3,880.96, which is the sales recorded from partners in Q2. The second source comes from the survey results showing that 4.5% of people who received vines sold an average of 2.5 kg of roots. At the average unit price of 127 RwF, the value of those sales was \$795. The sales recorded from trained processors using OFSP as an ingredient was \$898.70. These processors processed doughnuts, cakes, bread, and biscuits. The total value of sales made in Q2 is, therefore, \$17,836 against the quarterly target of \$12,000. This reported value of sales corresponds to the incremental sales of \$9,432.85.

Under the indicators, the *Total quantity of targeted nutrient-rich value chain commodities produced by direct beneficiaries with USG assistance that is set aside for home consumption*, the survey results and partners' records showed that 3,060.91 t was either consumed or saved for home consumption. This quantity of OFSP was meant to be consumed by a total of 195,676 beneficiaries.

The indicator *Number of children under 5 reached by nutrition programs*, the project identified and worked with new HH with children under 5 or with pregnant/lactating women. In Q2 the number reached in new HH who got vines from the project was 6,774 children (3,315 females, 3,459 males).

The indicator *Number of people receiving nutrition-related professional training* target for Q2 was 50. The project trained 59 CHWs (20 females, 39 males) from the new sectors where the project is being implemented as part of expanded coverage.

With regard to the targeted total number of seven *private-profit enterprises, producers' organizations, water user's associations, women's groups, traders, and business associations and community-based organization (CBOs) that applied improved organization-level technologies or management practices with USG assistance*, the project reached four new organizations working with OFSP in Q2. These comprised one private organization, one farmer's cooperatives, one women's group, and one CBO. All these organizations collaborated with the project's implementing partners (IPs) and CIP in vine and root production, either for nutrition or for income through sales.

Table 2. Summary of Q2 progress toward indicator targets and associated deviation narratives

Indicators		FY 2018 Targets	Q2 Targets	Q2 Progress	Comments on Deviation
EG.3-1 Number of households benefiting directly from USG assistance under Feed the Future		80,000	16,000	14,167	The project distributed OFSP vines to few new beneficiaries compared with the quarterly target, due to the overachievement in Q1. We decided that partners were to focus more on follow-up training than to the distribution to new beneficiaries. In addition, nutrition training and home visits were provided to continuing beneficiaries (people who received vines last year).
Status	New	75,000	15,000	6,235	
	Continuing	5,000	1,000	7,932	
Location	Rural	80,000	16,000	14,167	
EG.3.2-1 Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural training		75,065	15,050	8,728	The project usually gives initial agronomic training to beneficiaries on the day of vines distribution, then the same beneficiaries continue to get interventions through follow-up training in groups. The reported figures are for the beneficiaries who were trained on the distribution day, whereas the figures for the follow-up training are reported further in the narrative. The project trained an additional 2,493 beneficiaries from the previous year's cohort, who required additional interventions.
Farmers	Farmers	75,000	15,000	8,728	
	Male	26,000	6,000	1,353	
	Female	49,000	9,000	7,375	
People in government	People in government	0	0	0	
	Male	0	0	0	
	Female	0	0	0	
People in private sector	People in private sector	10	5	0	
	Male	6	3	0	
	Female	4	2	0	
People in civil society	People in civil society	55	45	0	
	Male	40	25	0	
	Female	15	20	0	
EG.3.3-11 Total quantity of targeted nutrient-rich value chain commodities produced by direct beneficiaries with USG assistance that is set aside for home consumption		5,000 t	3,000 t	3,060.91 t	The rainfall was very good, hence farmers received good yields.
Commodity	Sweetpotato	5,000	3,000	3,060.91	

Indicators		FY 2018 Targets	Q2 Targets	Q2 Progress	Comments on Deviation
	Tons consumed	5,000	3,000	3,060.91	The figures are from the survey work. The results showed that 100% of HH who received vines planted them. Of that number, 4.9% were male, 58.4% were female, and 36.7% were both male and female participating in OFSP production-related activities.
	Beneficiaries	67,500	45,000	195,676	
EG.3.2-17 Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies		67,500	45,000	64,200	
Commodity	Sweetpotato	67,500	45,000	64,200	
Actor type	Producers	67,500	45,000	64,184	
	Others	0	0	16	
Technology type	Crop genetics	67,500	45,000	64,200	
	Cultural practices	35,625	27,000	45,941	
	Disease management	40	30	39	
	Postharvest management	1500	500	16,761	
	Value-added processing	150	100	382	
Sex	Male only farmer	16,875	11,250	19,535	The project overachieved on this indicator because of a deliberate effort to encourage more farmers and DVMs to set up roots production plots to meet the demand of the market.
	Female only farmer	50,625	33,750	44,665	
EG.3.2-18 Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance		390	245	419.45	
Commodity	Sweetpotato	390	245	419.45	
Actor type	Producers	390	245	417.95	
	Others	0	0	1.5	
Technology type	Crop genetics	390	245	419.45	
	Cultural practices	324,6	200	410.17	
	Disease management	15	5	16.01	
Sex	Male	18	11.5	27.46	
	Female	226	148	67.95	
	Joint	131	80.5	309.66	
	Association–Applied	15	5	14.39	
EG.3.2-19 Value of small-holder incremental sales generated with USG assistance (in US\$)		65,000	12,000	9,432.85	The value of incremental sales was lower this quarter than the target because beneficiaries had started to harvest only small quantities from the vines that were distributed in October and November 2017. And there were few sales of vines because the planting season started after March 2018.
	Value of incremental sales	65,000	12,000	9,432.85	
Tons of OFSP sold		40	16	23	CIP started to work with a private company, Agrivision Modern Company by supplying it with OFSP vines and providing technical field support. Union des Coopératives Agricoles Intégrées (UNICOOPAGI), an project IP, started working with 1 farmer group, Imbereheza FG, in root production and field support. Organization for Support to the Environment Protection and Climate Change Adaptation (OSEPCCA) has started collaboration in processing with a woman's group bakery in Mushubati Sector in Rutsiro. UNICOOPAGI started the partnership with Kibeho Parish to improve nutrition status of Christians by establishing root production plot at parish place.
EG.3.2-20 Number of for-profit private enterprises, producer's organizations, water user's associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied improved organization-level technologies or management practices with USG assistance		14	7	4	
Organization type	Private enterprises	3	2	1	
	Farmer organization	7	3	1	
	Women groups	2	2	1	
	CBO	2	0	1	

Indicators		FY 2018 Targets	Q2 Targets	Q2 Progress	Comments on Deviation
HL.9-1 Number of children under 5 reached by nutrition programs		100,000	20,000	6,774	This indicator aligns with the number of new HH reached in Q2. Distribution was mainly in March and reached 6,235 new HH. Hence we expect that the number of children would be lower than the target. The vine distribution will be finalized in Q3. We anticipate that the project will cover the shortfall on the number of children because we expect to be above the Q3 target.
Sex	Male	49,000	9,800	3,459	
	Female	51,000	10,200	3,315	
HL.9-4 Number of people receiving nutrition-related professional training		100	50	59	As the project continued to expand into new sectors, the increased number of new beneficiaries required that additional CHWs be equipped with skills needed to train the beneficiaries in nutrition.
Sex	Male	60	30	39	
	Female	40	20	20	

2.3 Objective 1: Increased Production of OFSP among Smallholder Farmers

2.3.1 Accomplishments related to increasing production

To achieve the goal of increasing production, CIP worked with project IP agronomy teams to ensure that established vine multipliers were well maintained in the multiplication sites as well as expand the area under production. Specifically, these teams were to ensure that vine multiplication proceeds as planned and achieve the expected number of cuttings needed for distribution, mainly to other organizations who needed them. The second goal was to continue training beneficiaries to improve their agronomic skills to increase crop productivity per unit area. Agri-promoters trained through group training and field visits.

Vine and commercial roots production. For the reporting period, the project continued to increase the area under root production and to follow up with DVMs to ensure good vine production (Table 3). In total 16.01 new hectares were established. Of these new areas, 12.4 ha was for roots production and 3.61 ha was for vines multiplication under DVMs.

Table 3. Area covered by vines and roots production during Q2

Multiplication Type	New/Continuing	RAB	YWCA	Imbaraga	UNICOOPAGI	OSEPECCA	DERN	Total Area (ha)
DVMs	New in Q2	0	0.00	0.49	1.65	0	0	2.14
	Continuing from Q1	0	1.2	2.03	2.29	1.7	3.55	10.8
Partner multiplication	New in Q2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Continuing from Q1	0	0	0	0.8	0	0	0.8
CIP	New in Q2	0	0	0	1.5	0	0	1.5
	Continuing from Q1	3.3	0.8	0	0	0	0	4.1
Commercial roots	New in Q2	0	0.20	5.639	0	0.35	6.18	12.4
	Continuing from Q1	0	0	3.44	0.69	2.7448	12.27	19.1
Total Area New/Continuing								50.82
Total Area Newly Established in Q2								16.01

NOTE: DERN = Programme de Développement Rural du Nord; YWCA = Young Women's Christian Association.

Agronomic trainings. Agri-promoters train beneficiaries on the best practices for improving production at the point of first contact during vines distribution. Following this first training, agri-promoters divide beneficiaries into groups according to their home location. The groups formed serve as learning units through

which training is provided to beneficiaries. Agri-promoters then select a sample of the beneficiaries who are visited in their fields for more technical trainings.

For Q2, the partners focused on the follow-up trainings and home visits (Tables 4 and 5).

Table 4. Individuals trained in groups by IP in Q2

Organization	Males	Females	Total Farmers Trained
YWCA	154	1,211	1,365
IMBARAGA	241	259	500
UNICOOPAGI	109	752	861
OSEPCCA	607	2,289	2,896
Total	1,111	4,511	5,622

Table 5. Households that received individual field visits by IP in Q2

Organization	Males	Females	Total Farmers Trained
YWCA	326	418	744
IMBARAGA	119	155	274
UNICOOPAGI	67	68	135
OSEPCCA	148	312	460
Total	660	953	1,613

In Q2 5,622 farmers received follow-up training on vines multiplication and conservation. Farmer promoters visited 1,613 farmers in their fields to assess the conditions of their vines in the field and assist them where needed.

Demo plots harvesting and consumer sensory testing. In collaboration with project partners, 40 demo plots were established in Q2. Out the total number of these demo plots, 20 in five districts were harvested (Table 6). The data recorded from the harvest are weight of marketable and non-marketable roots, vine weight, and weevil damage. Yield and productivity were calculated using clone selector.

At the same time as harvest, farmers are invited to participate in sensory consumer testing of the roots. The project does this for farmers to have an opportunity to evaluate more varieties than they grow and gauge consumer preferences of different attributes (skin and flesh color, texture, flavor/sweetness, fibrousness, aroma, and general acceptability). The results from these two activities will be reported in Q3 after the harvest of all demo plots.

Table 6. Demo plots harvested per district

District	Number of Demo Plots Harvested
Bugesera	4
Gatsibo	4
Musanze	4
Ngororero	4
Rubavu	4
Total	20

Yield estimation using crop cut. As stated in the objectives, one of the goals of the project is to increase productivity through provision of new technologies to the beneficiaries. To evaluate the extent of success toward this goal, the project regularly monitored yields of OFSP in farmers' fields. Farmers are randomly selected in the 10 districts where the project is being implemented. We use a crop cut method to estimate the

yields farmers are achieving under their own management practices (Table 7). The results show that OFSP varieties clearly outperform the local ones. It also shows that the farmers utilize the same management practices on their local varieties, thereby increasing yields from 3 to 5 t/ha to 7.7 t/ha; OFSP realizes a yield of 15 t/ha.

Table 7. Average production of OFSP and local variety

District	Type of Sweetpotato and Production (t/ha)	
	OFSP	Local Variety
Nyaruguru	16.00	10.42
Nyamagabe	14.27	5.52
Karongi	13.79	5.81
Rutsiro	14.34	7.17
Rubavu	18.50	9.02
Ngororero	13.19	6.38
Musanze	15.29	7.24
Burera	14.12	6.79
Gatsibo	17.05	9.07
Bugesera	14.51	9.86
Average production	15.11	7.73

2.4 Objective 2: Improved Incomes from OFSP along the Value Chain

2.4.1 Accomplishments related to increasing income

The project is implementing marketing activities in collaboration with IPs. Root production and marketing are one of the primary activities that generate income. In Q2 new plots measuring 12.4 ha were set up (Table 8).

Table 8. Established OFSP root production sites in Q2

IP	RAB	YWCA	Imbaraga	UNICOOPAGI	OSEPECCA	DERN
OFSP established (ha)	0	0.2	5.639	0	0.35	6.18

For marketing activities, in Q2 CIP started working with SIMBA and FRULEP supermarkets by supplying them with OFSP roots as a way to increase availability of OFSP to different consumers. In Q2 more than 400 kg were supplied to those supermarkets over 2 weeks. We expect that these supermarket and others will continue buying roots from the beneficiaries.

Some of the trained processors continued to produce assorted products incorporating OFSP as an ingredient. The main products made were doughnuts, bread, cakes, and biscuits. In Q2 the total sales value of these assorted products was \$898.70 (Table 9).

Table 9. Processed products and their value per processors by IP

Organization	Product	Total Quantity Sold (No.)	Total Value (RwF)	Total Value (\$)
IMBARAGA	Doughnuts	1,300	130,000	153.66
OSEPECCA	Doughnuts	130	13,000	15.37
DERN	Doughnuts	2,150	215,000	254.14
	Breads	730	73,000	86.28
UNICOOPAGI	Doughnuts	443	44,300	52.36
YWCA	Doughnuts	500	50,000	59.10
EASTER'S AID	Breads(big/small)	232	24,000	28.37
	Doughnuts	2,000	200,000	236.41

Organization	Product	Total Quantity Sold (No.)	Total Value (RwF)	Total Value (\$)
	Cookies	55	11,000	13.00
Total			760,300	898.70

Under this objective, the project also continued to link DVMs with vines buyers (Table 10). In Q2 vine sales were valued at 10,373,750 RwF (\$12,262.12), with the average price per cutting of 5–7 RwF.

Table 10. Number of cuttings sold by IP and their value

Organization	No. of OFSP Cuttings	Unit Price/Cutting)	Total Value (RwF)	Total Value (\$)
IMBARAGA	137,000	5	685,000	809.69
OSEPCCA	153,750	5	768,750	908.69
DERN	1,247,000	5	6,235,000	7,369.98
UNICOOPAGI	146,750	5–7	885,000	1,046.10
YWCA	360,000	5	1,800,000	2,127.66
Total	2,044,500		10,373,750	12,262.12

OFSP root production sites continued to produce roots for consumption; 17.77 t were sold at RwF 3,283,290 (\$3,880.96) (Table 11). Besides that quantity, the survey results showed that 5.3 t were sold by the project beneficiaries for \$795. In Q2 the total sales value of roots was RwF 3,955,050 (\$4,675).

Table 11. Roots sold by IPs via commercial roots plots

Organization	No. of OFSP Roots (kg)	Unit Price (per kg)	Total Value (RwF)	Total Value (\$)
IMBARAGA	7011	100–200	1,236,890	1,462.04
OSEPCCA	888	180–250	187,500	221.63
DERN	8285	200	1,657,000	1,958.63
UNICOOPAGI	1586	170–200	201,900	238.65
Total	17,770	-	3,283,290	3,880.96

2.5 Objective 3: Improved Nutrition Outcomes for Women and Children under 5

2.5.1 Accomplishments related to improved nutrition among women and children

During the reporting period, the project trained 59 new CHWs to update their knowledge on nutrition-sensitive programming and key concepts on MIYCN. These CHWs and agri-promoters then trained the beneficiaries through group training and visited selected HH at home for more intensive nutrition counseling. A total of 17,516 (13,060 females, 4,456 males) went through group trainings. Through the intensive home-to-home visits, 3,186 were trained (1,508 males, 1,678 females) (Tables 12 and 13).

Table 12. Individuals trained through nutrition group by IP

Organization	Males	Females	Total Farmers Trained
YWCA	120	954	1,074
IMBARAGA	1,008	1,393	2,401
UNICOOPAGI	481	1,934	2,415
OSEPCCA	2,847	8,779	11,626
Total	4,456	13,060	17,516

Table 13. Households that received individual visits for counseling by IP

Organization	Males	Females	Total Farmers Trained
YWCA	609	69	678
IMBARAGA	411	453	864
UNICOOPAGI	121	328	449
OSEPCCA	367	828	1,195
Total	1,508	1,678	3,186

2.6 Accomplishments during Q2 on CHAIN Collaboration

For Q2 the OFSP project continued to facilitate the access to vines for CHAIN partners by linking them to DVMs who had vines to meet their project requirements. Among other CHAIN activities, CIP staff also attended different meeting with other CHAIN partners. One of the main activities being planned for Q3 is the district “1,000 Days” campaign. Numerous planning meetings have been organized in which CIP actively participated. CIP is leading the campaign in Burera and will take part in other district events where the project is being implemented. There was a joint monitoring and evaluation tools workshop that CIP attended. Two of CIP staff also attended a training on behavior change communications.

3. CROSSCUTTING OBJECTIVES

3.1 Gender

Gender plays a key role in the project, as all activities undertaken have gender considerations. During Q2 women and men were involved in the activities carried out (Table 14). For nutrition training, more women than men attended because mothers or women are more involved in childcare and hence naturally attend the sessions. (This same observation was made in the other quarters.) Women are the primary caregivers for children in Rwanda; they are responsible generally for preparing meals for the family, including for the children. Hence it was expected that more women attend the trainings. The project is working with partners to encourage more men to participate because of the key role they can play in ensuring that their HH are nutrition and food secure. In our project areas, men own most of the resources and land and are instrumental in the decision-making process within the HH on issues related to resource allocation.

In Q2 more women participated in vine distribution than men: 6,235 farmers (5,451 females, 784 males) picked vines. However, during the follow-up training on agriculture and nutrition, more men participated compared with previous seasons as a result of having IPs encourage the participation by both sexes. For the agronomic activities, out of 9,728 farmers trained through groups and field visits for both new and continuing beneficiaries, 7,388 were women and 2,340 were men. In the nutrition training and home visits for counseling for both new and continuing beneficiaries, 28,634 beneficiaries (20,250 females, 8,384 males) were trained. Out of 64,200 people reported in Q2 as applying improved technology, 44,665 were female and 19,535 were male.

Table 14. Summary of women empowerment-related activities achieved in Q2 of Y3

Problem/Constraint to Address	Explanation of activities done to address the constraint	Indicators																				
Women/men do not have equal or adequate power or input into HH or community decision-making processes related to agriculture at any stage of agricultural value chains, are excluded for decision-making processes, or make decisions based on external pressures.	CIP, with its IPs, has worked hard to sensitize both men and women to take opportunities for OFSP vine and root production, and to see this as an agriculture-related business. From this sensitization, and from the other years' experience, men and women have started or increased land under OFSP production. Each owner of the plot has full control over his/her product at any stage of the production. For Q2 we observed that many hectares under OFSP belong to both men and women and both have equal power to take decision over it.	EG.3.2-18 Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance <table><tr><th>Sex Disaggregates</th><th>Q2 Achievement</th></tr><tr><td>Male</td><td>27.46</td></tr><tr><td>Female</td><td>67.95</td></tr><tr><td>Joint</td><td>309.66</td></tr><tr><td>Association Applied</td><td>14.39</td></tr></table>	Sex Disaggregates	Q2 Achievement	Male	27.46	Female	67.95	Joint	309.66	Association Applied	14.39										
Sex Disaggregates	Q2 Achievement																					
Male	27.46																					
Female	67.95																					
Joint	309.66																					
Association Applied	14.39																					
Women/men have low or inadequate skills/knowledge levels in activities that are economically profitable or socially beneficial.	<p>CIP has emphasized the importance of both agronomic and nutrition training as a way of increasing human capital. Through agronomic training, both male and female trainees acquire the knowledge which helps them to boost their production. This provides profitable opportunities for farmers through participation in the OFSP value chain. In addition, the nutrition training affords trainees the chance to use what they have learned in their homes on issues related to good nutrition, dietary diversification, and MIYCN. This gives the HH information and the tools to attain adequate nutrient status.</p> <p>As proposed, the project targets mainly women as the first line of nutrition decision-making in the HH. However, to achieve this goal we endeavor to train both males and females. Sweetpotato in Rwanda is well gendered as it is a very important food security crop to most rural HH. Hence the labor activities are divided, depending of the effort required. However, women are the ones who take care of the children, so targeting women is very important because they are the ones who mainly feed the children.</p>	EG.3.2-1 Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural training: (1) Agronomy follow-up group trainings and field visit for technical support: <table><tr><th colspan="2">Disaggregates</th><th>Q2 Achievement</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Farmers</td><td># of Males</td><td>7,388</td></tr><tr><td># of Females</td><td>2,340</td></tr></table> (2) Nutrition follow-up group trainings and home visits for counseling: <table><tr><th colspan="2">Disaggregates</th><th>Q2 Achievement</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Farmers</td><td># of Males</td><td>8,384</td></tr><tr><td># of Females</td><td>20,250</td></tr></table>	Disaggregates		Q2 Achievement	Farmers	# of Males	7,388	# of Females	2,340	Disaggregates		Q2 Achievement	Farmers	# of Males	8,384	# of Females	20,250				
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	# of Females	2,340																				
Disaggregates		Q2 Achievement																				
Farmers	# of Males	8,384																				
	# of Females	20,250																				
Women/men lack adequate access to important technologies that can improve their economic productivity or they do not use or apply beneficial technologies or practices for some reason.	The access to OFSP vines is considered as improved technology. CIP, through partners, has encouraged both men and women to pick up OFSP vines from the distribution points; however, more women than men seem to be doing this. If all members of the families have access to that new technology, they are likely to adopt it. CIP will continue to work with partners to encourage more men to be involved too.	No. of HH who received vines <table><tr><th>Sex Disaggregates (by HH)</th><th>Q2 Achievement</th></tr><tr><td>Male headed</td><td>3,325</td></tr><tr><td>Female headed</td><td>2,910</td></tr></table> No. of people who came to pick up vines <table><tr><th>Sex Disaggregates</th><th>Q2 Achievement</th></tr><tr><td># of males</td><td>784</td></tr><tr><td># of females</td><td>5,451</td></tr></table> No. of people applying improved technology <table><tr><th colspan="2">Disaggregates</th><th>Q2 Achievement</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Farmers</td><td># of Males</td><td>19,535</td></tr><tr><td># of Females</td><td>44,665</td></tr></table>	Sex Disaggregates (by HH)	Q2 Achievement	Male headed	3,325	Female headed	2,910	Sex Disaggregates	Q2 Achievement	# of males	784	# of females	5,451	Disaggregates		Q2 Achievement	Farmers	# of Males	19,535	# of Females	44,665
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	# of Females	44,665																				

4. COLLABORATION, LEARNING, AND ADAPTING

CIP has continued to strengthen its collaboration with six project IPs through partner meetings and implementation reviews. The core IPs are DERN, an agriculture-focused NGO; IMBARAGA, a farmer's organization; OSEPCCA; RAB; UNICOOPAGI; and the YWCA. After the event held in Q2, the Kigali Nutrition Week, many people around the country and in Kigali itself showed increased interest in OFSP. There is also an overall increase in the number of organizations and individuals seeking more information about OFSP production and access to the roots. CIP is partnering with the SIMBA and FRULEP supermarkets to increase access to OFSP roots in the supermarkets as well as in the main fresh produce markets.

5. PUBLIC EVENTS PARTICIPATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PLANS FOR Q3

During Q2 of Y3, the OFSP project started the consumer sensory evaluations to measure consumer preferences about different attributes (skin and flesh color, texture, flavor/sweetness, fibrousness, and aroma) and general acceptability of OFSP varieties. We intend to use the location organoleptic sensory difference in targeting varieties to regions where they are most desired.

In Q2 the project printed more than 15,000 different OFSP communications materials and distributed them to beneficiaries across the country. It also provided different stories in the media, chiefly through CIP's Sweetpotato Knowledge Portal (SKP) (Table 15).

Table 15. Media coverage in Q2 of Y3

Story Title	Where Published
My only weakness was that I could not see a woman doing something and be successful—Kambibi Vestine	SKP
Meet Habimana Felix, the famous sweetpotato root producer in Karongi District	SKP
Improving Nutrition in Rwanda through a Community based Approach	SKP
Empowering women in Rwanda through Orange-fleshed sweetpotato farming	SKP
Top 5 rural and Urban activists transforming women's lives in Rwanda	Adobe Spark

For Q3 the project is planning to conduct a refresher training on nutrient-rich value chain commodities (NRVCC) for OFSP for field officers and district officials who work with CHAIN partners and processing training, together with the postharvest handling training to CHAIN. The project will also conduct a training on postharvest handling, processing, and marketing that will be open to all CHAIN partners (Table 16).

Table 16. Proposed schedule for CHAIN training in Q3 of Y3

Activity	Proposed Dates	Who Will Participate	Methodology	Requirements	CHAIN Partners	Deadline
1. Training on NRVCC (OFSP & HIB)	22–23 May 2018	Field officers	Training will be on seed system, crop management, and postharvest handling strategies	List of participants (from each IP)	AEE, Caritas, CIP, CRS, FXB, Global Communities, Harvest Plus, TTT	For better planning of this training, CIP will need IPs to confirm their participation and numbers of participants by 27 April 2018
	Venue: TBD	Districts officials that work with CHAIN partners		Cost sharing		
2. Training of processors in improved processing techniques	29–30 May 2018	Processors	Training will be on different protocols of OFSP processing	List of processors and others from each IP	AEE, Caritas, CIP, CRS, FXB, Global Communities, TTT	For better planning of this training CIP will need IPs to confirm their participation and numbers of participants by 27 April 2018
	Venue: TBD	Others working with IPs	Postharvest handling techniques	Cost sharing		

NOTE: AEE = African Evangelistic Enterprise; CRS = Catholic Relief Services; FXB = François-Xavier Bagnoud.

We also plan to attend the “1,000 Days” campaign in different districts where the project is being implemented.

The demo plot harvesting and consumer sensory evaluation will continue into Q3.

6. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROJECT

No significant issues were faced in project administration and management during Q2. The project team remained the same, and the project continued to work with the four interns hired last year for data entry.

ANNEX 1. INDICATORS

Indicators		FY 2018 Targets	Q1 Achievement	Q2 Achievement	Comments on deviation
EG.3-1 Number of households benefiting directly from USG assistance under Feed the Future		80,000	54,361	14,167	OFSP vines were distributed to fewer new beneficiaries compared with the quarterly target. This was as planned after overachieving in Q1. We decided that partners were to concentrate more on other activities such as trainings. The shortfall will be covered in Q3 when we intend to meet the annual target.
Status	New	75,000	46,818	6,235	
	Continuing	5,000	7,543	7,932	
Location	Rural	80,000	54,361	14,167	
EG.3.2-1 Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural training		75,065	51,394	8,728	<p>The project usually gives initial agronomic training to beneficiaries on the day vines are distributed, then the same beneficiaries continue to get interventions through follow-up training in groups.</p> <p>The reported figures are for people who got trainings on the distribution day, whereas the figures for the follow-up training are reported further in the narrative.</p> <p>The project also trained another 2,493 beneficiaries from the previous year's cohort, who required additional interventions.</p>
Farmers	Farmers	75,000	51,394	8,728	
	Males	26,000	13,671	1,353	
	Females	49,000	37,723	7,375	
People in government	People in government	0	0	0	
	Males	0	0	0	
	Females	0	0	0	
People in private sector	People in private sector	10	0	0	
	Males	6	0	0	
	Females	4	0	0	
People in civil society	People in civil society	55	0	0	
	Males	40	0	0	
	Females	15	0	0	
EG.3.3-11 Total quantity of targeted nutrient-rich value chain commodities produced by direct beneficiaries with USG assistance that is set aside for home consumption		5,000	***	3,060.91	The rainfall was well distributed, hence the good yield.
Commodity	Sweetpotato	5,000	***	3,060.91	
	Tons consumed	5,000	***	3,060.91	
	Beneficiaries	67,500	***	195,676	
EG.3.2-17 Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies		67,500	887	64,200	The seasonal indicators survey shows that 100% of HH who got vines planted them. The OFSP production participants in HH were 4.9% male, 58.4% female,

Indicators		FY 2018 Targets	Q1 Achievement	Q2 Achievement	Comments on deviation
Commodity	Sweetpotato	67,500	887	64,200	and 36.7% both male and female.
Actor type	Producers	67,500	887	64,184	
	Others	0	***	16	
Technology type	Crop genetics	67,500	887	64,200	
	Cultural practices	35,625	887	45,941	
	Disease management	40	887	39	
	Postharvest management	1500	***	16,761	
	Value-added processing	150	***	382	
Sex	Male only farmer	16,875	535	19,535	
	Female only farmer	50,625	352	44,665	
EG.3.2-18 Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance		390	58.356	419.45	The encouragement of many farmers to increase the area under OFSP roots production has had the net result that we have higher hectarage under improved technologies and management practices than we had planned for.
Commodity	Sweetpotato	390	58.356	419.45	
Actor type	Producers	390	58.356	417.95	
	Others	0	0	1.5	
Technology	Crop genetics	390	58.356	419.45	
Type	Cultural practices	324,6	58.356	410.17	
	Disease management	15	36.186	16.01	
Sex	Male	18	6.88	27.46	
	Female	226	4.49	67.95	
	Joint	131	8.94	309.66	The value of incremental sales was lower this quarter than the target because beneficiaries had started to harvest only small quantities from the vines that were distributed in October and November 2017. And there were few sales of vines because the planting season started after March 2018.
	Association Applied	15	38.046	14.39	
EG.3.2-19 Value of smallholder incremental sales generated with USG assistance (in US\$)		65,000	46,279.20	9,432.85	
	Value of incremental sales	65,000	46,279.20	9,432.85	
Tons OFSP Sold		40	18.9	23	

Indicators		FY 2018 Targets	Q1 Achievement	Q2 Achievement	Comments on deviation
EG.3.2-20 Number of for-profit private enterprises, producers' organizations, water user's associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied improved organization-level technologies or management practices with USG assistance		14	7	4	CIP started to work with a private company, Agrivision Modern Company, by supplying it with OFSP vines and providing technical field support. UNICOOPAGI, an project IP, started working with 1 farmer group: Imbereheza FG in root production and field support. OSEPCCA has started the collaboration in processing with a woman's group bakery in Mushubati Sector in Rutsiro. UNICOOPAGI started a partnership with Kibeho Parish to improve nutrition status of Christians by establishing root production plots at parish place.
Organization Type	Private enterprises	3	1	1	
	Farmer organization	7	3	1	
	Women groups	2	0	1	
	CBO	2	3	1	
HL.9-1 Number of children under five reached by nutrition programs		100,000	48,752	6,774	This indicator goes together with the number of new HH reached in Q2, as this quarter we distributed vines only to 6,235 new HH. The number of children also was lower than the target. We plan to finish the distribution in Q3, and we expect an increased in the number of children too.
Sex	Male	49,000	24,765	3,459	
	Female	51,000	23,987	3,315	
HL.9-4 Number of people receiving nutrition-related professional training		100	78	59	More CHWs were trained. In response the project continued the expansion into new sectors.
Sex	Male	60	49	39	
	Female	40	29	20	

ANNEX 2. FINANCIAL REPORTING

Financial Table 1: Cumulative Expenditures

Budget Cost Category	Total Budget (\$)	Cumulative Expenditure (\$)	Balance Remaining (\$)	Comments (Budget Realignment, Significant Variances, etc.)
Personnel	1,237,047	918,894	318,153	
Travel & Transportation	155,163	102,987	52,176	
Operational Expenses	1,354,366	1,080,261	274,105	
Equipment	152,990	112,990	40,000	
Partners	509,129	384,172	124,957	
Indirect Costs	511,304	390,199	121,105	
CG System Cost	80,000	80,000	-	
Total Project Expenditures	4,000,000	3,069,504	930,496	
Cumulative Obligated Amount		<u>4,000,000</u>		
Undisbursed Amount		<u>930,496</u>		
Number of Months to Spend Undisbursed Amount		<u>6</u>		

Financial Table 2: Quarterly Expenditure

Budget Cost Category	Planned Quarter Expenditure (\$)	Current Quarter Expenditure (\$)	Comments (Explain Significant Variances, etc.)
Personnel	148,433	137,533	The variance is not significant.
Travel & Transportation	19,074	7,697	The level of travel activities were lower than expected. More supervisory work are in quarter 3 as opposed to our earlier plan.
Operational Expenses	122,742	74,774	A slightly lower activities were recorded than expected. We expect an increase in this quarter based on the current plans.
Equipment	10,000	-	The process of purchases the equipment has started and will be reported in quarter 3
Partners	64,476	-	Partners expenses will be reported in quarter 3
Indirect Costs	54,709	33,001	This budget line is defendant on the level of the total expenditure.
Total Expenditures	419,433	253,005	

ANNEX 3. SUCCESS STORIES AND PHOTOS

Meet Habimana Felix, the famous sweetpotato root producer in Karongi District

It is one thing to be a successful farmer and another to be exceptionally famous on a particular crop like sweetpotato. However, Habimana Felix from Murundi sector in Karongi district is all this. He is one of the many decentralized vine multipliers (DVMs) established by CIP's Feed the Future project funded by USAID. He was recruited to be a seed multiplier by the project in 2016. At first, he did not think that growing sweetpotato could make money leave alone make enough money to change his life.

Through support from CIP's implementing partners in Karongi District (OSPECA), Habimana slowly started growing sweetpotato though he was very skeptical that anything will become of the venture. He had a lot of experience growing beans, various fruits and vegetables that had not had much impact in his life except giving him food for his family. However, he was in for a sweet surprise. After his first sale of vines he realized that indeed, one could reap a fortune from sweetpotato farming.

Farmers in the local area started embracing orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP) farming. This was not usual because sweetpotato in the past was used as a food security crop and the vines had no market. The 42-year-old farmer was overwhelmed with how people in his area embraced these new sweetpotato varieties. He even quickly started hiring day casual workers for his vine production plot because with the vines proceeds he could afford to pay them. Even more shocking was that the workers were willing to be paid in kind instead of cash. They would accept to be paid with OFSP roots and vines. In the process a market for OFSP vines and roots got established in the areas and farmer liked them a lot.

Habimana confessed that people started calling him asking for OFSP roots for their home consumption, others needed some to take to the market. He realized that he had a ready market for all the parts of the crop. People like these sweetpotato roots due to their good taste as well as their big size, and high yields compared to the local varieties that flooded the area before.



“Most people who heard that I was venturing into growing sweetpotato did not see any difference from what I was doing before. However, after the first harvest, everyone was so surprised at how much I produced and how big my sweetpotato were, since we were all used to the normal varieties which gave poor yields. Since then, OFSP became a hot topic and commodity in my area. People went around telling others to come to my place and see a new variety of sweetpotato,” he said.

By using these mobile net tunnels, Habimana preserves his planting material so that he can have vines to plant throughout the year.

The father of four said that due to their good soil and a good variety (Kabode), some of the roots he harvests weigh up to two kilograms. “That’s why I do not find any losses in paying my laborers sweetpotato instead of cash,” he explained.

Although at the beginning he could see himself being a sweetpotato grower, he has dedicated almost 80% of his entire land to growing orange-fleshed sweetpotato for root production and vine multiplication.

In two years of doing this job, he has created a name for himself in Karongi district and he is known as the best root producer among his peer the DVMs. From the proceeds of sweetpotato business he has bought more land to increase his produce. He also built a good house for his family. The proceeds have enabled him buy two Friesian cows. From them he is now able to get milk for his children.

He is also considered a sweetpotato resource person in the Murundi sector. Therefore, potential growers come to him for training of sweetpotato production as well seeking seed. Being a DVM is his fulltime job. The trainings he has received from the project has enabled him to transform his crops production.

In future, he plans to buy a motorbike which he intends to use for transport business to increase his incomes.



Habimana with his wife and some of his children pose in their house he was able to renovate from vine sales.

My only weakness was that I could not see a woman doing something and be successful-Kambibi Vestine

As the saying goes, “Life begins at the end of your comfort zone.” Time came when Vestine Kambibi could not keep looking down on herself, hence she decided to take some action.

Kambibi, a mother of two children is one of the many women who used to think without education, she had to be satisfied as a homemaker. Always lacking self-confidence, Kambibi, never at one point saw herself able to do more than being a stay home mother.

Deep in her heart she felt a great dissatisfaction with her life, it had little meaning, she was not happy. She was contented in being wholly dependent on her husband for the family and personal needs. Never in her imagination had she ever seen herself doing business.

One day, while in an agricultural meeting at the sector, one of CIP’s successful DVMs, [Drocella Yankulije](#) from Muhanga District gave a testimony of how being an Orange Fleshed Sweetpotato vine multiplier has changed her life. Kambibi got interested to know more about this lady. What was her secret? What was the magic was behind her success? She wondered if she could replicate such successes following Drocella’ footsteps of growing OFSP vines and roots.

“After I contacted Drocella, she gave me an appointment to find her at her home in Shyogwe, Muhanga District. After my visit, I was challenged and become a changed person. This was an elderly widow who has been able to take her children through university, living in a decent house, acquired land and has sufficient food for her family. All that achievement was from being a vine multiplier. From that day, I decided, I must do the same work and become successful just like her.” Kambibi confessed.



One of Vestine’s vine multiplication sites in Karongi District, Western Rwanda.

A year later, in the beginning of 2017, the 33-year old became a vine multiplier. She started small with an are measuring only 0.25 hectares in Gitega cell, Cyarubariro village in Karongi district. From this small piece of land, she has been able to harvest and sell vines three times. She has earned RwF 1,350,000 equivalent to

\$1,560. From then on life changed and started to have a different meaning. In just a year of doing this work, Kambibi started fulfilling her dreams to do business. She started a charcoal depot business in Muhanga where her family stays. She also bought a dairy cow that gives her milk for family and the surplus sold for income. From these enterprises she can meet all her needs including paying school fees for the children.



As if this is not enough, Kambibi also acquired another 0.40 ha in Gisiza cell, Gitwa village in Karongi district where she is producing OFSP root for the market. From the 0.25 ha she started with she now owns a total of 0.65 ha and all of it is under her sweetpotato related business.



Vestine poses in her charcoal store which provides extra oncome that compliments her OFSP vine multiplication and roots production business.

“My only weakness was that I couldn’t see a woman doing something and be successful. I would look down on myself but today, all that is behind me,” added Kambibi.

She has joined a savings and loans co-operatives that helps her save her money as well as earn some interest. These days she can meet her family and her own financial needs.

She no longer relies on husband for her needs. She is now a modern self-reliant woman. With a smile, she confessed how she feels proud of herself. She is now a valuable member of her family and society at large. To give back to the society she is mentoring 10 neighbors to be OFSP vine and roots producers. The greatest source of joy for Kambibi is the new-found self-confidence and self-worth as a respected business lady in the society.

Kambibi plans to keep buying more land from her businesses returns. Hence, she will expand her OFSP business. She extended her special appreciation to USAID, CIP, and RAB for giving women like her, opportunities to change their fates and positions in the society.

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