

## Progress Report BMZ Project Funding

### General Information

<b>Implementing Organization and Contracting Partner</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 40 53113 Bonn Tel. +49-(0) 228-44600 Internet: <a href="http://www.giz.de">www.giz.de</a>
<b>Contact for project reports</b>	Advisory Service on Agricultural Research for Development (BEAF)  Tel. +49-(0) 228-4460-3883
<b>Closing date</b>	
<b>Reporting period</b>	May–October 2021
<b>Submit by e-mail to</b>	<a href="mailto:Silke.Schwedes@giz.de">Silke.Schwedes@giz.de</a>

## 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	May–October 2021
Project Coordinator and Project Scientists	<p>Project Coordinator Dr. Dieudonné Harahagazwe IITA-Cameroon Station, 1st, Main Road, Agricultural Research Institute for Development (IRAD), Nkolbisson, PO Box 2008 (Messa) Yaoundé, Cameroon Tel: +237691100523; Mobile: +237659211470 Email: <a href="mailto:D.Harahagazwe@cqiar.org">D.Harahagazwe@cqiar.org</a></p> <p>Project Scientists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Monica Parker, Program leader</li> <li>• Mrs. Victorine Fornkwa, staff</li> <li>• Mr. Albert Apan, staff (until June 2021)</li> <li>• Mr. Ibrahim Adamu, staff</li> <li>• Mr. Eric Tiozang, Local consultant</li> </ul>
Project Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</li> <li>• International Institute of Tropical Agriculture</li> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</li> <li>• Institute of Agricultural Research for Development</li> <li>• Structure Towa (private seed potato company)</li> <li>• Certified seed potato growers</li> <li>• Centre Polyvalent de Formation de Mbouo</li> <li>• Action pour la Promotion de la Santé, la Production et l'Environnement</li> <li>• University of Dschang</li> <li>• Regional College of Agriculture, RCA Bambili</li> </ul>

## 2. Progress Report

State of Project Implementation

**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**

CIP participated in establishing and strengthening the **national potato platform** under the leadership of the Andreas Hermes Akademie. CIP took part in the workshop held in Bafoussam on August 24–26, 2021. The goal of the workshop was to launch the platform, and define its vision, work packages, and activities. As per the workshop report, which shows that the goal was achieved, CIP is expected to play a key role in implementing the resulting work plan, including updating the national potato strategy.

The second significant achievement is the positive response from the minister of agriculture, who addressed a letter to ProCISA management, with immediate effect, to **formalize CIP collaboration with the Department of Regulation and Quality Control of agricultural Products and Inputs (DRCQ)**. By virtue of this letter, dated October 18, 2021, CIP will partner with DRCQ to equip plant pathology laboratories and train controllers and inspectors for quality assurance of seed potato in the three major potato-producing regions. This outcome was the result of year-long negotiations with this institutional partner.

On October 25–26, 2021, CIP had the privilege to host a workshop of the Extended Task Force appointed by the minister of agriculture to **update the national potato strategy**. The workshop aim was to critically analyze the previous potato strategy and develop the terms of reference for recruiting a consultant. The Extended Task Force includes officials from MINADER, ProCISA, CIP, Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD), seed and ware potato growers, and the private sector.

CIP Cameroon has been an **active member of the GIZ Global Potato Value Chain Working Group**. We attend all quarterly meetings remotely, and our inputs consolidate the country reports.

## **Objective 2: Building capacity of trainers, extension staff, and farmers in good agricultural practices (GAP), innovative and agro-ecological farming methods, and business skills on the farm**

Several training activities on GAP to produce ware potato were carried out in collaboration with project implementing partners. The **most significant training event conducted was that of 14 trainers (six men and eight women) from the North-West region and Lebialem division** through the Regional College of Agriculture (RCA) of Bambili. This three-day theoretical training program took place in June 2021 in the West region due to the current insecurity in the North-West region. It was complemented by another training event for the same trainers using a Farmer Field School (FFS) approach to supply practical techniques, from land preparation to harvesting (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1.** Theoretical training of 14 trainers from the North-West region and Lebialem in Dschang, West region, from June 21–23, 2021, on GAP to produce ware potato (NB: Photos taken using hygiene and safety protocols in accordance with government regulations.)

For the North-West region and Lebialem division training of trainers events, we also invited the ***Chefs de Postes Agricoles (CPA)*** who are extension agents of MINADER from the same areas. These CPA were selected by their respective divisional Delegates and approved by the Regional Delegate. This training program aimed at strengthening their expertise in potato GAP, given their roles in the supervision of agricultural activities in their respective zones. The CPA attended with their Regional Delegate for agriculture and rural development, who officially opened the workshop (Fig. 2, right). His presence was an expression of the importance that the North-West region placed on the training. In total, eleven CPA (seven men and four women) attended this training workshop.



**Figure 2.** Training workshop for extension agents (CPA) from North-West and Lebialem held in Dschang on June 21–23, 2021: opening speech by the DRADER North-West (left), and issuance of certificates (right). (NB: Photos taken using hygiene and safety protocols in accordance with government regulations.)

Farmer-Field Schools (FFS) were optimized for hands-on training and spread over four practical and consecutive training sessions as follows: (i) site preparation and planting; (ii) hilling; (ii) identification and control of pests and diseases; and (iv) harvest, sorting and grading tubers. The third and fourth GAP hands-on training sessions of facilitators for the first cycle were completed in the three regions during the current reporting period (Fig. 3) and they were facilitated by trainers from partner training centers (CPF-Mbouo in the West region, APROSPEN in the Adamawa region and RCA Bambili in the Northwest region and Lebialem division).



**Figure 3.** First round of training series of facilitators by trained trainers in the West (left, April 23, 2021), Adamawa (middle, June 7, 2021), and the North-West (right, July 26, 2021) regions.



To cascade down the training, inputs (seed, fertilizers, insecticides, and fungicides) were provided to the trainers (second level), then to the facilitators (third level) so that they train producers (Fig. 4).



**Figure 4.** Training of producers by facilitators on hilling-up potato plants in the West region (left), harvesting in the Adamawa region (middle) and the identification of pests and diseases in Lebialem (right).

During the reporting period, we attained the following numbers of facilitators who are able to train producers, and producers trained across the three regions: **West region:** 315 facilitators and 7,423 producers; **Adamawa region:** 180 facilitators and 6,675 producers; **North-West region and Lebialem:** 100 facilitators and 1,265 producers. This gives a total of 595 facilitators trained who subsequently trained over 15,363 producers in the three project regions.

A final activity carried out during this period was the establishment of 35 innovation sites in the West and Adamawa regions by trainers. In the Adamawa region, 15 sites for the assessment of three systemic and contact fungicides against potato late blight were installed from September 4–7, 2021. Those fungicides are as follows: Orvego (systemic and contact, Ametoctradin 300 g/l + Dimethomorph 225 g/l), Bonsoin (systemic and contact, Chlorothalonil 30% + Cymoxanil 6%), and Penncozeb (contact, Mancozeb 800 g/kg). In the Western region, trials were set up at 20 sites: 15 sites assessing chemical fertilizers on potato cultivation and 5 sites evaluating the effectiveness of the three fungicides. These trials were installed from September 9–21, 2021. It is important to note that these different trials, still in progress, were set up by trainers. At the end of these trials, data will be analyzed, and recommendations will be made to potato producers.

**Objective 3: Establish a sustainable national seed system for improved access of farmers and cooperatives to quality seed of disease-resistant and market-demanded varieties for increased productivity and resilience**

**3.1 Increasing access to quality seed and capacity to produce high-quality seed**

Several activities were carried out during this reporting period to attain the project objectives.

The first activity was to **identify registered and potential seed multipliers** in the Adamawa and North-West regions, as well as the Lebialem division in partnership with MINADER. We found that sixteen existing seed growers were officially registered in the two regions and twenty-six potential seed growers were identified.

The second activity was the organization of **two training workshops** with the seed growers from the Adamawa and North-West regions as well as the Lebialem division. The main objective of the workshops was to increase the awareness of the seed growers regarding the importance of quality seed and to strengthen good agricultural practices for seed potato production and storage. In the Adamawa region, the training took place in Ngaoundéré on

May 5–7, 2021 (Fig. 5, left) and 18 participants attended, including six women and 12 men. The seed growers from the North-West region and Lebialem division were trained in Dschang on August 9–11, 2021 (Fig. 5, right) where 24 participants were in attendance, including six women and 18 men attended. Most seed growers identified above were invited to take part in the two training workshops.



**Figure 5.** Participants at the training workshops for seed growers held in Ngaoundéré on May 5, 2021 (left), and in Dschang on August 9, 2021 (right). (NB: Photos taken using health and safety protocols in accordance with government regulations).

As a third activity, we conducted a **post training evaluation** with seed growers, on the production and yield data from their seed plots. Ten seed growers in the West region and eight in the North-West region and Lebialem were evaluated. This information is being analyzed and will be included in the next report.

The fourth activity was to import in vitro plantlets of ‘Chulu’, ‘Unica’ and ‘Cipira’ from Nairobi for multiplication in the IRAD Bambui Lab. They were received in the lab on June 2, 2021. The plantlets are being multiplied in the lab and we have a first set of **600 plantlets of Cipira ready for transplanting to the screenhouse**, while multiplication continues in the lab.

The fifth activity was **to establish a screenhouse** for the Government of Cameroon through IRAD in Bayangam to produce rooted apical cuttings and mini-tubers and to train partners on the same. CIP and IRAD jointly selected a contractor through a call for tender on June 9, 2021. The construction of the screenhouse began in August 2021 and was already about 90% complete as of October 31, 2021 (Fig. 6).



**Figure 6.** The inside view (left) and outside view (right) of the potato screenhouse built for IRAD in Bayangam, West region.



The sixth activity was to strengthen the capacity of the Structure Towa and IRAD Bambui labs by providing them with lab equipment. The labs were supported with a double-bench laminar flow cabinet each to boost the production of early generation seed.

The seventh and last activity is hiring an international consultant to **train the DRCQ seed inspectors and lab technicians** in quality control and modern pest and disease detection techniques. The consultant produced his first report, which includes the DRCQ needs and a list of equipment required to set up four DAS-ELISA laboratories in Yaoundé, Bafoussam, Bamenda and Ngaoundéré.

### **3.2 Evaluation and dissemination of new varieties for improved agronomic performance and marketability in Cameroon**

The **observation trials for local varieties** (Banso, Dosa and Manate) installed in the Adamawa and West regions during the previous reporting period were harvested in May 2021. Given the poor performance of the varieties deriving from the unhealthy seed sourced from farmers who have been growing them other years, only tubers obtained from the positive selection were stored and consequently used to establish the second observation trials in August 2021 in the same regions. Data on plant emergence, ground cover, and diseases were collected in October 2021. The data will be analyzed and included in the next report once the trials are harvested.

The **Distinctness, Uniformity, Stability (DUS) trials and the Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) tests** installed in the three regions (West, North-West and Adamawa) during the previous reporting period were harvested in June 2021 (Fig. 7). These trials were carried out by applying the official DUS/VCU protocol developed in 2020 by the DRCQ with support from the project. However, the results are still confidential as IRAD, the responsible implementing institution must complete the second cycle before drafting a report that can be made public.



**Figure 7.** Harvesting of the DUS and VCU trials for 'Unica' and 'Chulu' varieties in Bangangté.

To improve the coordination of the DUS and VCU trials for the second cycle, a workshop was organized on September 22, 2021, in Nkometou (in the outskirts of Yaoundé) to review the first cycle and plan for the second cycle. According to IRAD and DRCQ officers in charge of these tests, the preliminary results look promising, and the two CIP varieties ('Chulu' and 'Unica') would pass the tests for registration in the national catalogue.

The second cycles of the trials were installed in three sites (Bangangté, Bansoa and Rep Yanga) in October 2021. Bambui site was excluded because the first cycle was disrupted by the on-going socio-politic crisis. The DUS trial was set up in Bangangté (West region) on October 11, 2021. The VCU trials were established in three sites: Rep-Yanga (Adamawa

region) on October 8, 2021; Bangangté on October 11, 2021; and Bansoa on October 12, 2021 (Fig. 9).



**Figure 9.** Setting up the VCU trial in Bansoa by IRAD researchers on 12 October 2021.

**Objective 4: Evaluating and implementing innovative technologies for cooperatives and other farmers using services based on agronomy, storage, mechanization, cooperative management, and marketing methods**

As part of this objective, the project team developed **research protocols to determine the effects of GAPs on potato yield** in the Adamawa (chemical control of late blight) and West (different chemical fertilization options) regions. The trials comprised three systemic and contact fungicides (Orvego, Bonsoin, and Ridomil Gold Plus= (Mefenoxam 6% + copper oxide 60%) and one contact fungicide, Penncozeb 800 WP (Mancozeb 800 g/kg). The specific objectives of these trials were to assess the effects of innovations on yield and to raise awareness and strengthen the technical abilities of national researchers. These trials were set up in September 2021 and they are currently ongoing. The first trial was set up in Rep-Yanga on September 8, 2021 and repeated at IRAD Wakwa the following day.

The second experiment which was established in the West region focuses on the effects of combinations of chemical fertilizer formulations, namely YaraMila (13-13-21), YaraLiva (15-0-0), calcium nitrate, NPK 11-11-22, NPK 12-14-19, and urea (46-0-0), on the development and yield of potato tubers. The first trial was set up on September 22, 2021, at IRAD Bangangté and repeated in Djuttitsa one day after. It should be noted that all these trials were set under strict conditions and are controlled by IRAD researchers recently appointed by their Director-General. They work under the supervision and guidance of CIP.

Another major activity carried out is the **construction of two models of Diffused Light Stores (DLS) in the Adamawa region** where the lack of seed potato storage significantly affects the availability and accessibility of clean seed. CIP built one DLS model for cooperatives at IRAD Wakwa with a capacity of 10 t of seed potato (Fig. 10, right) and one individual model for smallholder seed producers in Rep-Yanga capable of storing 2 t of seed (Fig. 10, left). Seed from the large DLS can be planted on 4–5 ha while the seed from the small model can cover 1 ha. Construction work for the two DLS facilities has been completed and their inauguration is in preparation.





**Figure 10.** Construction of two seed storage facilities in Ngaoundéré: small-sized (left) and medium-sized (right) DLS.

The final and major activity carried out under this objective pertains to cooperatives. At ProCISA's request, CIP participated in the development of terms of reference for the recruitment of consultants for the **year-long coaching of cooperatives in the Adamawa and West regions**. We also contributed to defining criteria that were used to select those cooperatives. In the end, 24 cooperatives (12 per region) were selected from all the 13 divisions of the two regions. It is worth mentioning that this activity is led by ProCISA, and CIP will contribute to GAP and quality assurance efforts to ensure consistent supply of quality seed that meets the buyers' preferences.

#### **Objective 5: Baseline data and documentation of progress and performance indicators by analyzing and monitoring the results are provided on all levels**

A **baseline survey** was conducted from November 16–28, 2020, in 133 villages (98 villages in the West region and 35 villages in the Adamawa region) to appraise the potato agricultural practices in the Adamawa and West regions. Some of the major findings include that, in the Adamawa region, the total cultivated area of most of the farmers does not exceed 1 ha, which is similar to that of the West region. In contrast to the Adamawa region, where the majority (70%) of farmers carry out only one potato cycle during the rainy season, farmers in the West region carry out two cycles in the same rainy season, which starts in March and ends in October. We also found that inadequate access to quality seed, poor management practices, and limited access to recommended fertilizers and pesticides and credit are the major challenges that potato producers encounter in the two regions. In the Adamawa region, 51% of interviewed farmers had never received training in GAP compared to 43% in the West region. Therefore, all respondents, including those who have been trained in the past, confirmed their willingness to attend any training that would allow them to boost their production and productivity for better livelihoods, income, and well-being. This report was made public in September 2021 through CGSpace (Fig. 11, left).

Also, an **internal midterm project review** was conducted in June 2021. The objective was to evaluate the level of implementation of project activities and achievement of results at the first level (output) as well as preparing an action plan for the next semester. It became apparent from the evaluation report that the project achievement was about 60%. A report was produced to this effect, and published on CGSpace in July 2021 (Fig. 11, right).



**Figure 11.** Cover pages of the midterm review and baseline reports as published on CGSpace in July and September 2021, respectively.

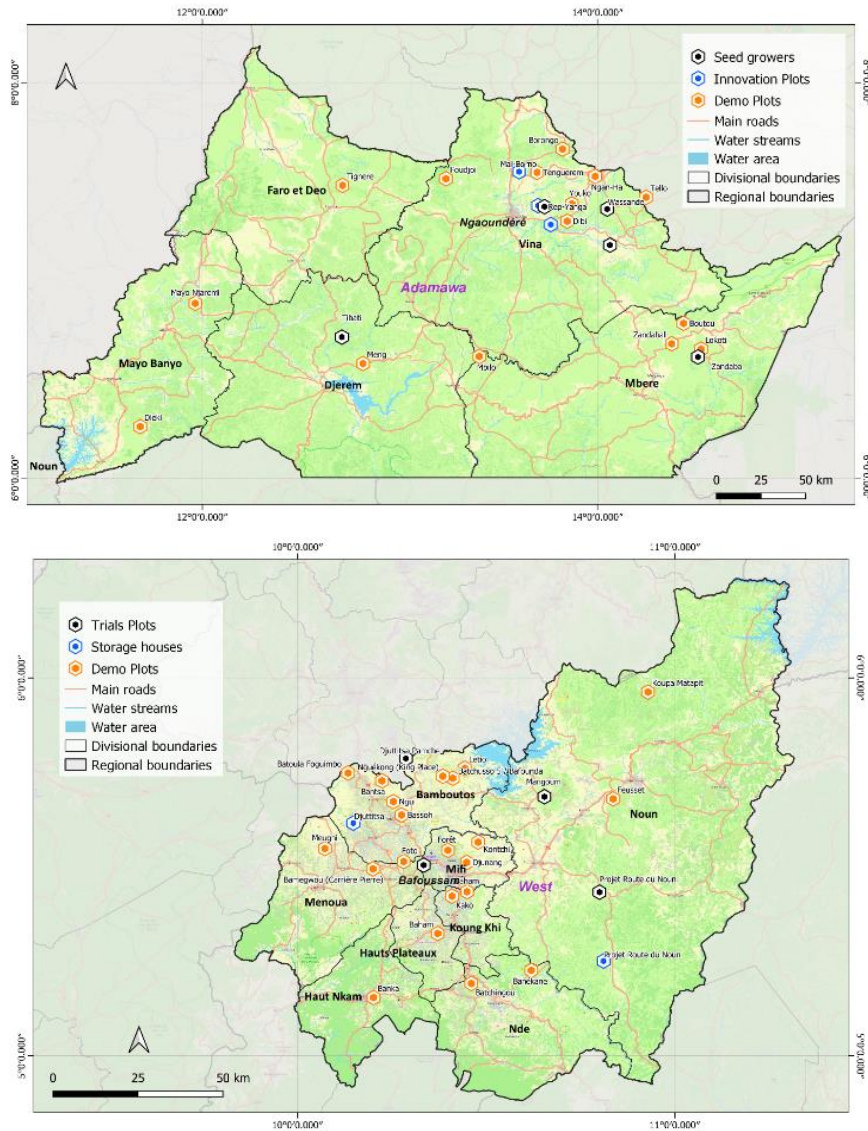
Continuing with publications, the **English versions of the PowerPoint presentations on GAP for ware potato production** were also completed and published as open source through CGSpace in September 2021.

The other activity was to **monitor and evaluate the field-based training sessions of facilitators on GAP for ware potato production**. We have summarized the current reach in the two regions where the training at scale started:

**West Region:** Under the supervision of the training center, CPF Mbouo, 315 facilitators have been trained and selected (29% women and 17% youths) through their participation in four training sessions on GAP from the 20 FFS spread across the eight divisions of the region.

**Adamawa Region:** Under the supervision of the training center, APROSPEN, 180 facilitators have been trained (29% women and 47% youths) through their participation in four training sessions in the 15 FFS installed in the five divisions.

Concerning the **project mapping**, Figure 12 presents maps of the Adamawa and West regions showing the various implementation sites and activities. These activities include demonstration plots for FFS, seed multiplier sites, trial plots, storage houses and innovation plots.



**Figure 12.** Geospatial representation of project activities in the Adamawa (top) and West (bottom) regions.

As part of the **project outreach and knowledge sharing**, 245 manuals (64 in the North-West, 86 in the West and 95 in the Adamawa regions) on GAP for seed potato production have been distributed to interested stakeholders.

#### General Achievements and Problems Encountered

During this period, significant achievements included: (i) strengthening the partnership with the MINADER; (ii) launching training activities in the North-West region and Lebialem division; (iii) testing, under DRCQ supervision, CIP's newly introduced varieties ('Unica' and 'Chulu') for the official release; (iv) re-establishing a formal seed system in the country; and (v) publishing a baseline report.



This trust between the MINADER and CIP was expressed in the minister's letter allowing CIP to formally build the capacity of the DCRQ in terms of equipment and training for diagnosing potato pests and diseases. It is also during this same period that the Extended Task Force in charge of updating the national potato strategy could meet for the first time. This partnership was also reinforced by the minister's invitation to attend the celebration for the 2021 World Food Day held in Yaoundé on October 16, 2021.

Launching training activities in the North-West region and Lebialem division was also a breakthrough. Since the project started in 2018, it was the first time we were able to work in all three project regions. This move was a direct result of the signing of an agreement between ProCISA and RCA Bambili for the better coordination of activities on the ground. Due to the enthusiasm of beneficiaries, the process was smoother and faster than predicted. It was astonishing to see that all the three levels of cascaded training, i.e., Training of Trainers (ToT) by CIP researchers, Training of Facilitators by trainers, and Training of Producers by facilitators, could simultaneously take place ahead of the project planning and without awaiting project inputs such as seed potato and fertilizers.

Concerning CIP's newly introduced varieties ('Unica' and 'Chulu'), IRAD researchers are using two new protocols developed by the DRCQ with technical support from CIP. The first protocol is Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability (DUS) for the characterization of new materials. The second protocol determines the real Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) of the same materials. The first cycle of these trials ended in June 2021, and the second and last cycle began in October 2021. It is worth mentioning that preliminary results are promising.

With the construction of a screenhouse in Bayangam for the government, the country regained its autonomy in seed potato production. Also, the construction of two DLS models in Ngaoundéré will boost the seed sector in the Adamawa region and beyond.

Last but not least, the baseline report outlines the agricultural practices before the project implementation. This document is a valuable tool to gauge the project impact.

Despite the above achievements, the project implementation met several challenges. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not possible for Andreas Hermes Akademie to launch the national potato platform much earlier than expected. The second obstacle was the trainers' and facilitators' lack of trust in participating partners. Given that their facilitation fee took a long time to be paid by their respective training centers, and due to the lack of cooperation from some of the trainers and facilitators, it was not possible to collect timely data on the training events that they facilitated. We also received feedback from the regions that trainers and facilitators are not finding it easy to access inputs and training materials. Regarding administrative aspects, it has been exceedingly difficult to replace or fill new positions due to the fact we still recruit through the hosting institution, i.e., International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). For example, the position of regional coordinator for the Adamawa region has been vacant since June 2021. The former coordinator did not renew his contract for personal convenience.

### IDO Contribution

For the first time, it was possible to operate in all three regions, and the following stakeholders were reached:

- Fourteen trainers from the North-West region and Lebialem division and hired by APROSPEN were trained in GAP to produce ware potato;
- A total of eleven extension agents (CPA) from the North-West region and Lebialem division were trained in GAP for ware potato production;
- A total of 286 potential facilitators (or lead farmers) from the North-West region and Lebialem division were trained in GAP for ware potato production;
- Forty-two seed growers of the North-West region and Lebialem division were trained in GAP for seed production and storage; and
- A total of 15,363 producers were trained on GAP for ware potato production in the three regions.

### Conclusions for the Following Reporting Period

Based on the results presented above, the project implementation seems to now be on the right track. However, since the initiation phase was difficult, given the challenges outlined above, we strongly believe that a no-cost extension of five months (until March 2023) would enable us to fully catch up on delays to meet all the project objectives.

For the next reporting period, the top priorities will be: (i) updating the national potato strategy and strengthening the national potato platform; (ii) strengthening the capacity of the DRCQ for seed quality assurance; (iii) the release of the new varieties; (iv) launching the production and bulking of early generation seed using rooted apical cuttings through IRAD and the private sector; (v) backstopping trainers and facilitators; and (iv) conducting socio-economic studies.

### Publications, Papers, and Reports

- Adamu I., Harahagazwe D., Fornkwa V., Apan A., Tiozang E., Parker M. 2021. Appraisal of Potato Production Practices in the Adamawa and West regions of Cameroon. Baseline Survey Report, Peru: International Potato Center. Baseline report. URL: <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/115435>
- International Potato Center. 2021. MODULE 1: Introduction to the potato crop. 11 p. URL: <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/115180>
- International Potato Center. 2021. MODULE 2: Soil, crop and water management in potato. 21 p. URL: <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/115181>
- International Potato Center. 2021. MODULE 3: Potato pest and disease management. 30 p. URL: <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/115182>
- International Potato Center. 2021. MODULE 4: Post-maturity practices in potato. 12 p. URL: <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/115183>
- Training workshop report on good agricultural practices for the production and conservation of seed potato in the West, Adamawa, and North-West regions. 37pp. (**Annex 1**)
- Rapport de la formation théorique des formateurs et chefs de Postes Agricoles du Nord-Ouest et du Lebialem sur les bonnes pratiques agricoles pour la production de la pomme de terre de consommation. Dschang, 21–23 juin 2021. 24pp. (**Annex 2**).
- Adamu I., Fornkwa V., Harahagazwe D., Parker M., Tiozang E. 2021. Potato value chain development project in Cameroon. Internal midterm review report. International Potato Center: Lima, Peru. URL : <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/114871>
- Tiozang E., Harahagazwe D., Fornkwa V., Adamu I. 2021. La pomme de terre, une culture importante. International Potato Center: Lima, Peru. (**Annex 3**)

## Summary

From May to October 2021, the project reached its peak of implementation regarding the number and nature of activities conducted.

It is during this period that significant strides in establishing a national potato platform and a national potato strategy were achieved. Extending activities to the North-West and Lebialem regions was a breakthrough as the project had previously been implemented in two out of the three target regions, i.e., Adamawa and West region.

In terms of capacity building, in one cycle we managed to train over 15,000 producers in GAP for ware potato production in the three regions and we trained over 40 seed growers on seed potato production in the field. We also built a screenhouse at IRAD Bayangam. This was the missing piece for the country to regain its autonomy in the potato seed system. Two Diffused Light Store models were built in Ngaoundéré to boost the seed storage in the region.

Within the reporting period, IRAD harvested the first cycle of DUS and VCU trials aiming at releasing 'Unica' and 'Chulu', two CIP varieties introduced from Kenya. This activity is being supervised by the DRCQ. The preliminary results are reported to be promising.

Finally, the report of the baseline study carried out last year was compiled and published. It will serve to gauge the project impact, especially on the agricultural practices of the potato value chain.