



Quarterly Project Performance Reporting

“Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT)”

Project Name: Technologies for African
Agricultural Transformation (TAAT)

Project Code: 2100155036067

COMPACT: OFSP

LIST OF ACRONYMS

(Please add as many as reflected in your report)

AfDB	African Development Bank
CSIR – CRI	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Crops Research Institute
DVMs	Decentralized Vine Multipliers
AEA	Agricultural Extension Agents
GAP	Good Agronomic Practices
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
OFSP	Orange Fleshed Sweetpotato
PMU	Project Management Unit
RTB	Root Tubers and Bananas
ToT	Training of Trainers
Triple -S	Storage in Sand and Sprouting

A – REPORT SUMMARY AND PROPOSED ACTIONS

A.1 – Project data

Compact/Unit	OFSP Compact		
Reporting Period	1 January-31 March 2019		
Countries Covered	Rwanda, Kenya, Ghana, Burkina Faso Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar		
Responsible Project Staff	<i>Kirimi Sindi, Daniel Mbogo.</i>		
Commodities and Enablers			
Project Development Objective	The project executes a bold plan to achieve rapid agricultural transformation across Africa by raising agricultural productivity to eliminate extreme poverty, end hunger and malnutrition, turn Africa into a net food exporter, and position Africa at the top of agricultural value chains where it has a comparative advantage		
Project Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Creation of an enabling environment for technology adoption B. Regional Technology Delivery Infrastructure C. Deployment of Appropriate Technology D. Program Management 		
Expected date for Progress Report submission	Actual date for Progress Report submission		
Current closing date	Current disbursement deadline		
Cumulative Funds Received to date (USD)	Cumulative Funds Utilized as per the latest financial report (USD)	Estimated date of next replenishment request and amount (USD)	

A.2 – Executive summary on project implementation during the reporting period (half page)

TAAT OFSP compact focused in three main technologies in the 1st quarter 2019, namely (1) improved OFSP varieties, (2) seed systems and (3) puree technology for bakery application.

Seed System

Towards the goal of ensuring we have seed in different countries as per the growing season. Different activities were undertaken. In Ghana efforts we done towards strengthening seed systems through trainings of DVMs. Approximately 30,000 cuttings as pre-basic seeds were provided for multiplication and distribution of vines for root production. There is collaboration with Agricultural College in Ghana to set up a platform for agripreneurs who want to venture in to commercial production of planting materials.

In Rwanda further support was given to DVMs for quality vines multiplication at their irrigated vine multiplication sites. In total 79 DVMs were visited for technical support on vine production. Effort was done to link the vine multiplier the market.

Good Agricultural practices and capacity building

A number of farmer field days and trainings were carried out, mainly focusing on GAP, Nutrition, cooking demos and community level small scale processing and value addition. Demo plots were set up and vines distributed to root producers. Root producers were linked to fresh root markets and processors to supply OFSP that was produced during the 2018 short rain season in East Africa.

OFSP producers have been given starter planting materials and a field trainings were given to them on good agricultural practices. A total of 5.8 ha of roots production has been planted under partners organizations in Rwanda.

A total of 69 agripromotors from OFSP projects' partners have received an agronomic training and 3,965 farmers have been trained through group trainings and home visits.

Scaling up/ vine distribution:

In Rwanda a total of 39,085 households with children under five years got a total of 7,817,000 OFSP cuttings

Nutrition activities

In Rwanda still a total of 142 CHWs received ToT trainings on nutrition. While a total of 39,085 households who received vines also received good agronomic and nutritional trainings.

Processing, value addition and marketing activities

TAAT OFSP compact identified 34 lead bakers in Kenya and took them through a two-day training on product development and utilization of OFSP puree in bakery products. We also partnered with the largest bakery in Malawi in setting up an OFSP puree making line for incorporating it the a new OFSP based product line. In Rwanda 5 OFSP processors are still producing baked products and selling in the Rwanda market.

Demand creating of OFSP technologies and exhibition

As part of a strategy to get more people aware of the OFSP roots and processed products, we have fixed Road side field signposts that communicates about the project. Another major initiative has been the branding of two Tri-cycles in Rwanda that communicates the OFSP messages as they deliver goods all over Kigali city.

Collaborations with enablers

We have started collaborations with the water enabler in Malawi and identified sites that will get enhanced water technologies that can be scaled up to other sites and countries.

B – PERFORMANCE REPORTING

B.1 – Progress toward Project Development Objective

State project development objective and assess progress. Comprehensive summary on sector development, policy reforms, commitment of stakeholders that can affect the project development objective

Component 1: Creation of an Enabling Environment

Institutionalizing training on Seed systems

The collaboration with Damongo Agricultural College in Ghana to become a platform and an agribusiness incubator. This platform will ensure that DVMS will produce good quality vines. It will also train roots producers how to ensure that they have high quality roots and produce most of the year for the market. The college will also be part of the trainers for processors and post-harvest handling. In this ongoing collaboration, we are training about 224 students mostly youth and women, many of whom will become agricultural extension agents, agricultural technicians, and agri-entrepreneurs.

In 9 other countries we have engaged our national partners to train DVMS, farmers and extension workers on production of quality planting materials and training of roots producers to increase their productivity. In Rwanda we are still working with the OFSP network that consists of DVMS, Roots producers, processors and market actors.

In Malawi we have engaged the Roots and Tubers network that is working for the welfare of the OFSP and other roots and tubers actors. We will have more engaged trainings in the areas TAAT will have big impact as technologies are rolled out.

Advocacy on policy change

In Ghana, the government has now decided to include OFSP as a priority crop in the “Planting for Food and Jobs” presidential initiative for Agricultural development.

In Rwanda the government has decided to include OFSP as climate mitigation crop as well as to enhance food security. Farmers have started receiving seed through a government funded program.

We have engaged the government of Kenya and there is a proposal to include OFSP as one of the crops that will be used to blend the maize and wheat flours being utilized in the country.

Component 2: Strengthening the Regional Technology Delivery Infrastructure

We are building partnerships with public and private sector partners to enable dissemination and adoption at scale seed system, post-harvest handling and processing in to value added OFSP products. In total we engaged with over 25 partners in Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi and Mozambique. We have developed terms of references (ToR) that defines activities and deliverables for the partners, and this is being put together for submission to PMU and AfDB.

We focused on ensuring the national agricultural research systems (NARS) are able to provide quality basic planting materials to vine multipliers at scale.

With leveraged funding from the RTB Scaling sweetpotato project, a regional annual meeting with CIP staff and scaling partners from Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda took place. This meeting was to re-strategize our scaling efforts for the Sweetpotato Triple-S innovation for seed system. There were two learning journeys, one focusing on integration of the Triple-S innovation package. We are also utilizing training videos in courses at Agricultural College. The other video focuses on and the use of different communication tools and

approaches (direct training, farmer-to-farmer training videos and radio programming for large scale training) and how these relate to gender.

Component 3: Strengthening Technology Delivery

Seed system

We conducted training to DVMs on vine multiplication to produce quality planting materials for farmers. The DVMs were supplied with clean cuttings from the NARES partners. In Ghana, about 8500 pre-basic vine cuttings were produced by Crops Research Institute (CSRI) (Ghana) and about 20,000 cuttings by FIFAMANOR (Madagascar) and distributed to DVMs for multiplication, to produce planting material for the coming planting season. In Rwanda 79 DVMs produced 7,817,000 cutting that were supplied to 39,085 farmers. This was done through partnership with a DFID funded project called SUSTAIN.

We supported root producers to access vines from DVMs and conducted trainings on GAP, Nutrition and cooking methods. During this reporting period, about 4 hectares were established in Mozambique. From this, about 7,000 beneficiaries reached with 2,800,000 OFSP cutting. The area covered by this material is about 100 hectares, enough to generate about 1,200 tons of OFSP storage roots. We are identifying large scale commercial vine multipliers in Ghana and Malawi to partner with in order to bring vine multiplication to scale.

Demonstrations of improved varieties and good agricultural practices:

Four (4) demo plots in Mozambique, and one hundred (100) in three districts in Malawi were set up in the period Jan -March 2019. We are preparing demo plots especially, targeting the coming rainy seasons in East and west Africa countries. The next quarter will report on these demo plots. Together with the water enabler, we will set up demo plots on rapid vines multiplication through irrigation in Malawi.

Trainings, Promotion and awareness creation

We trained 24 DVMs on harvesting and vine conservation in south Mozambique and 79 in Rwanda. In Ghana 7900 end users (3874 men and 4026 women) effectively accessed trainings on Triple-S technology to produce quality planting material, good agronomic practices (GAP) and cooking and utilization methods. We are monitoring to determine the percentage that adopted particularly Triple-S technology to produce quality planting material for the July-August planting season.

All the 39,085 farmers who received vines in Rwanda received good agronomic practices and nutrition trainings.

A total of 67 (58 in Kenya and 9 in Malawi) farmer field days were carried out each with at least 100 people in attendance.

76 ToT under CRS- MWENDO project in Western Kenya were trained on sweetpotato good Agronomic practices, OFSP health benefits and practical session on diversified utilization of OFSP. MWENDO is a Catholic relief service project funded by USAID. This was followed by a cascading training to project care givers (for those infected or affected by HIV) within their project sites. A total of 132 cascade training events were held reaching 3,212 care givers (529 male 2,682 female care givers).

Processing

On processing, 34 lead bakers in 4 supermarkets in Kenya (Quick matt 12, Tumaini 8, Mass matt 7, Nandi hills) were trained on how to incorporate OFSP Puree in their bakery products. We are working with the supermarket to link them with Organi limited for supply of OFSP puree for their bakeries.

In Malawi, 110 people (66M, 44F) received trainings in nutrition and community level small scale processing of bans, scones and mandazis using OFSP and sell at the local markets and community centers.

In Mozambique, 5 training sessions on nutritional education and food processing demonstrations were conducted in five districts to cover 283 beneficiaries.

In Rwanda a potato processor WINNAZ has started trials on processing sweetpotato crisps through the TAAT effort.

Marketing of Fresh Roots

In Kenya 192 commercial farmers with crop cultivated during 2018 short rains were linked to markets others were linked to RTI international who were in need of OFSP roots for processing trials

Branding

In Rwanda areas where DVMs are multiplying OFSP were branded with signposts. This will increase their visibility and buyers can know where to buy the OFSP vines. On each signpost there are cell phone numbers of the multiplier and this increases their access to the market.

Component 4: Program Management

We had a 2-day monitoring and implantation support engagement with AfDB representatives that was held in Nairobi.

During the Mid-term review in Abuja it was agreed that the procurement plan be revised, and this is almost complete now. There were also a Fiduciary and Procurement trainings that took place in Abuja and 5 individuals from the TAAT project management unit in Nairobi attended

B.2 – Leveraging TAAT program investments (cash and/or in-kind contribution) (max half-page)

State details of specific country investment programs, projects or initiatives to leverage on the TAAT AfDB funding source or other funding sources such as WB, IFAD, BMGF, etc. in the RMCs that your compact has embarked upon.

- 1. Report any progress towards AfDB country loan.*
- 2. Report any other financial support leverage and/or in-kind contribution received to implement TAAT activities.*
- 3. Report on country, regional and thematic levels*

Most of the TAAT leverage financing for this reporting period came from DFID funded project called SUSTAIN project in Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and Rwanda. This project focused on scaling up OFSP among households with children under 5 year. This project has phased out in March 2019. The project was a great fit for TAAT leveraging because it was a scaling out project that had very similar goals to those of TAAT. TAAT will continue working with the DVMs and processors in technologies transfer. The other project we have also leveraged on is the RTB scaling up project in Ghana and Malawi.

In Ghana, TAAT has also leveraged on a private sector project funded by AGRA to promote the utilization of OFSP. This is in line with AGRA objectives that are in line with the TAAT project as espoused in TAAT and AGRA discussions.

B.3 – Outcome reporting: Outcome case study reports using the standard template should be attached

Outcome Indicators (as specified in the RLF add/delete rows as needed)	Baseline	End Target	Annual	Actual	Progress Assessment	Status assessment (to)	Comments (if
Outcome reporting – general comments							
During the reporting period the TAAT project is mainly reporting seed multiplication and vines given to farmers. Hence it is not possible to measure some of the indicators above. Also, some of the indicators above will require more resources than TAAT currently have. These are increased incomes, increased in crop productivity, tons on food produced. Also, the household diversity will be very difficult to measure without a comprehensive survey.							
% increase household income							measured at the end of the season
% increase crop productivity							
% increase livestock productivity						N/A	
% increase fish productivity						N/A	
No. of jobs created (of which women & youth)						Outstanding	
Tons of food (additional)						On track	Will be measured by end of the season
Household dietary diversity						N/A	
Value of additional production						On tract	Will be measured by end of the project

B.4 – Output reporting: Attribution to TAAT versus Contribution should be provided

Output Indicators (by components add/delete rows as needed)	Baseline	End Target (expected)	Annual Target	Actual	Progress Assessment	Status assessment (to reach annual)	Comments (if any)
Output reporting – general comments							
No. of improved crop varieties widely applied in agro-ecological zones							
No. of promotional activities with a focus on technologies for safe and nutritious foods							
No. of promotional activities		40		2		On track	
No of best-bet technologies scaled out.		3		1		On track	
No. of delivery platforms convened		16	16	3		On track	
No. of Agripreneurs supported		555		160	169	On track	
No. of technologies identified and deployed		2		4		On track	
No. of fiduciary activities handled effectively and efficiently under the TAAT program		3		2		On track	

B.5 – Unanticipated (unexpected) or additional results

Type (As applicable: gender, climate change, civil society engagement, private sector, HIV/AIDS other) (add/delete rows as needed)	Assessment (Summarize key activities, progress, including budget execution, institutional strengthening etc.)

C – PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS NARRATIVE REPORTING

C.1 – Highlights of achievement (what, where, how and with who): Enabler role per component should be highlighted (if any)

C.1.1. Component 1: Enabling Environment

The government of Ghana has decided to include OFSP as a priority crop in the “Planting for Food and Jobs” presidential initiative for Agricultural development.

Rwanda government is distributing OFSP vines to farmers for food security and nutrition intervention.

C.1.2. Component 2: Regional Technology Delivery Infrastructure (RTDI)

Development of Terms of Reference with the NARS for the delivery of TAAT OFSP compact project in their respective countries.

Development of terms of service for the EURO-ingredient. This will be the main partner supporting processing and product development technologies.

C.1.3. Component 3: Deployment of Appropriate Technologies (DAT)

Promotion and trainings on Triple S- plus technology for production of quality planting material in Ghana, reaching about 7900 beneficiaries

Transfer of recommended OFSP varieties to Benin for seed multiplication in readiness for the next season.

In Malawi the largest bread producer and seller in the country (Bread Talk) received technical support in machine installations and product development training.

C.1.4. Component 4: Program Management

After the meeting in Abuja it was agreed that we can prepare performance contracts for Non-Project CIP staff in different countries. When this is approved it will be possible then to move faster in all countries.

C.2– Performance of Stakeholders– (performance and challenges if any) (max half page)

None

C3– Compliance with environmental and social safeguards (max 1 paragraph)

None at the moment at this stage of project implementation.

C.4– Challenges (difficulties) encountered and actions taken

Challenges (difficulties)	Actions taken	Comment (if any)
Inability to do procurements, because the training on Financial and procurement plan had not been done	Procurement plan revised after Training on Fiduciary and procurement by AfDB. Submitted to TAAT PMU for forwarding to the bank for No objection	In progress
Droughts in some countries like Kenya and others in East Africa	Training DVMs on vine multiplication through Triple-S technology	In progress
Floods in Southern Africa region	This is a difficult situation because in some cases seeds have been slept. However, strategies are in place to find how to assist the affected DVMs.	In progress
Inability to procure goods	After the Mid-Term review there is hope that this can be sorted out	In progress
Inability to get the performance contracts approved	After the Abuja meeting, we are working on the paperwork for the performance contracts	In progress

C.5– Risks (beyond control) and mitigation measures

Risks	Mitigation measures	Comment (if any)
TAAT has relied to some extent on leveraging of some of the projects ongoing. With the phaseout of some projects it might be difficult for TAAT to actually deliver some of the future targets.	Working to ensure that all the procurement, agreements and performance contracts are finalized and approved as soon as possible.	

C.6– Assumptions and action taken

Assumptions	Actions taken	Comment (if any)
We assume that the vines given to farmers will be planted	Follow-up with farmers to ensure that they plant	
We assume that when farmers get the new technologies, they will multiply the vines and produce sufficient quantities of roots for the market	Continue training of farmers and commercial roots producers who will produce the roots for the market	
We assume that when we train the processors and link them to roots producers a real supply chain will develop	Keep on working with all the actors to mid-wife the market linkages and the development of the supply chain.	

D- SUCCESS STORY AND LESSONS LEARNT (max 1 page)

Please provide the narrative on any outstanding development or success story (evidence based) with quantity and quality data and information required. Visibility materials such as pictures, short video, news clippings etc. and/or links to access them are required

- Photograph:** Photographs bring a story to life. The photo should be colorful, depict action, capture people's attention, and feature a main character prominently. Please attach only a .jpg, .bmp, or .gif file with at least 300 dpi (dots per inch) or 3MB resolution. Please include the photographer's name, organization, and caption for the photo
- Outline** of the success story should be as below:
 - ✓ **Maximum character limit:** 1,200 characters, including spaces
 - ✓ **Headline:** A good headline or title is simple, jargon-free, and has impact. It summarizes the story concisely and includes action verbs that bring the story to life. For example: **"Cocoa Brings Cash, Creates Better Conditions for Farmer Families in Borno State, Nigeria"**
 - ✓ **Body:** The first paragraphs should showcase the challenge encountered, how it was addressed, what interesting things did you find out, what opportunities did you use., how it has transformed the life of farmers and/ or their communities, and the context of the program intervention.
 - ✓ **Photograph:** As per the details in (1)
 - ✓ **Authors and contact details**
- Key lessons learnt** on how the program is being implemented, what does work and what does not work; and what needs to be done, valuable information to improve performance and inform management decision making.

Scaling out OFSP Triple S Technology in Partnership with Damongo Agricultural College, Ghana

In July 2018 Issahaq Suleman, CIP's Triple S scaling champion in Ghana, paid a visit to Damongo Agricultural College in the West Gonja district of Northern Ghana, with the goal of advocating for practical training on farming improved varieties of orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP). He also wanted to introduce the college to the use of Triple S technology, to conserve roots and generate quality planting material after a long dry season such as that experienced in Northern Ghana. Damongo Agricultural College is one of the five colleges in the country that train agricultural extension agents. It offers both certificate and diploma courses and currently has 224 students who undergo training over a period of two years. TAAT project funded by the AfDB is partnering with the Triple S scaling project in Ghana, funded by the RTB Scaling Fund. One of the goals of these projects are to transfer post-harvest management of OFSP and innovative technologies to increase the availability of seeds in all areas including the dry areas that have a prolonged dry season. This can be achieved if the technologies are taught as a curriculum to the extension agents. The agricultural extension agents (AEA) are government agents who work with farmers to continuously train farmers on good agricultural practice and new technologies.

During Suleman's visit, he met with the acting principal of the college at the time, Mohamed Adam, and explained the advantages of OFSP for food and nutrition security, the availability of improved varieties recently released by the national research institution, CSIR – CRI (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Crops Research Institute) with the support of TAAT. These improved varieties increase yields when coupled with better agronomic technologies. One of the biggest hurdle in sweetpotato production is

getting planting material at the onset of rainfall in sufficient quantities. The Triple S is one of the technologies that is being rolled out by TAAT. It allows farmers to have quality planting material in sufficient quantities, in time for the planting season. Traditionally, roots are conserved by burying them in the field which exposes them to weevils, which in turn affects the quality of the planting material generated.

Damongo Agricultural College was receptive to the technology and with a go-ahead from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), underwent an initial training. There were 126 students and eight tutors involved in the trainings that were delivered through printed material, instructional videos and hands-on demonstration of the innovation. After the training, the students cultivated an acre of OFSP on the College premises in August 2018.

In November, the roots were ready for harvesting and sorting for storage. CIP then organized training on how to harvest, select and store OFSP in the sand (in a pit or a basin).



Storage pit with a capacity to hold 500 kilos, Damongo Agricultural College

Photo

Credit: I. Suleman

Recently, participants at the annual Triple S review and planning meeting, held in Tamale from the 22nd – 24th of January, visited the institution as part of a learning journey[1] to engage with the students and tutors on their experience with the Triple S technology.

“The course was very interesting and will have a good impact, because we watched videos, clearly describing the technologies, followed by practical training. This was the first time we were shown a video, which helped us to quickly understand the innovation and apply it practically. We learned a lot about the nutritional benefits of OFSP and how one can store roots up to 4 months by sorting out the damaged roots, arranging the good roots in a sandpit or basin and monitoring them on a monthly basis” said Yakubu Muzanin, a second-year student at the College.



Learning journey participants, students and tutors meet at the Damongo Agricultural College

Photo Credit: Asfaw F

Richard Dantey, a tutor at the College, told the visiting group that they have developed courses which address OFSP and the Triple-S innovation namely: roots and tubers crops, post-harvest and storage technology, farm-led nutrition, and practical cookery.

The students now have a full understanding of the technology and have identified income generating opportunities they can engage in such as producing vines for sale to farmers and roots for sale to processing plants. Interestingly, the male students are more inclined to the production of vines while the female students favor roots production.

Richard Annobil, Director of Human Resources and Capacity Building at MoFA, who was also one of the participants in the learning journey; has become an advocate for OFSP and Triple-S at the national level. He proposes adaptation and dissemination of course materials to the three other agricultural colleges, as well as five farming training institutes in Ghana. This will help in the sustainable integration of OFSP and Triple-S into the national education system. He promised to support the International Potato Center (CIP) led TAAT OFSP project and Damongo Agricultural College participate in the national revision of curricula for agricultural training, an exercise scheduled for July 2019, so that they would make the case for incorporation of the Triple S technology to other stakeholders.



Issahaq Suleman from CIP and Richard Dantey, a tutor from Damongo Agricultural College, inspect seed beds planted using material germinated using the Triple S technology. Photo: T Van Mourik/CIP

Getting OFSP and Triple-S into the national agricultural training curricula is key to encouraging self-scaling of this technology without additional financial support from projects. Another key factor for success

is getting these innovations into the annual workplans of the regional and district levels development plans, so that budget is available for dissemination in the future.

“With such a strong partnership and clear benefits of OFSP and the Triple S innovation for food and nutrition security, as well as business opportunities in Ghana, the sky is the limit!” concluded Richard Annobil (MoFA).

E– NEXT STEPS (plan of work for next quarter)

As per the approved workplan for 2019 with target, milestones and timelines