

Progress Report

BMZ Project Funding

General Information

Implementing Organisation and Contracting Partner	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 40 53113 Bonn Tel. +49-(0) 228-44600 Internet: www.giz.de
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Closing date	
Reporting period	May-October, 2019
Submit by e-mail to	andrea.bahm@giz.de

Notes on completing the entry form:

When completing the template, please follow the guide questions in italics, which can be overwritten.

Characters should be font size 11 in Arial. Please do not change the format nor submit a pdf.

Progress reports should not exceed 6 pages. Detailed research reports should be added in the form of annexes.

General direction:

If the period between the last progress report and the final report would be less than 3 months, the last progress report can be omitted.

1. Basic data

The IARC applicant	International Potato Center (CIP)
Project title	Potato value chain development in Cameroon
Funding type, GIZ Project Number and Contract Number	Project Funding, 14.0967.1-110.00 81232175
Reporting Period	May-October 2019
Project Coordinator and Project Scientists	Dr. Peter Kromann, IITA-Cameroon Station, 1st, Main Road IRAD, Nkolbisson, PO Box 2008 (Messa), Yaoundé, Cameroon Tel: (+237) 222 23 74 34 Ext. 5107; Mobile: (+237) 673 72 02 36 Email: p.kromann@cgiar.org Dr. Thomas van Mourik, Dr. Carlo Carli, Dr. Monica Parker.
Project Partners	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Marthe Epassy, Arnaud Breitenstein, Laetitia Sossou. International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Komi Fiaboe, Giovanni Forgione, Cargele Masso.

2. Progress Report

State of Project Implementation

Briefly describe, with reference to the Logical Framework Matrix, the state of activities (indicating “completed”, “ongoing” or “suspended”) as well as the achievement of the indicators for the outputs and purpose (if already possible).

Briefly describe major deviations from the work-plan and provide justifications.

In this reporting period, the project continued startup activities to facilitate operations. Under the hosting agreement with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), CIP continued operating from IITA–Cameroon in Yaoundé. Recruitment of project staff and plans to establish an office and place a potato specialist in Bafoussam, West region, continued. During this reporting period, the project implementation was somewhat restricted as an extensive technical revision of the proposed interventions was required to adjust to the new ProCISA 2.0 approach, in coordination with the ProCISA team.

To adjust the project to the new approach for ProCISA 2.0 approved by GIZ this year, the project team made technical changes to the CIP-GIZ project agreement. Major adjustments include changes to the farmer training strategy, to reach a greater number of farmers over an extended project period using a Cluster Based-Farmer Field School (CBFFS) approach to expand the project outreach. To adjust to the ProCISA 2.0 approach, CIP proposed the following changes to component 1: New project activities were proposed to align with the updated needs. CIP proposes to organize workshops with MINADER and other stakeholders to review project plans, outputs and achievements. These workshops will update recommendations for the National Potato Strategy, based on results of the project. Studies based on cutting-edge advances in potato seed systems are planned to strengthen the knowledge base about the potato sector with the aim of producing an agro-ecological and socio-economic (gender-sensitive) seed potato delivery profile to strengthen policy recommendations. The deployment of key tools to optimize the use of seed potato and productivity in the value chain will take place through capacity building of local project partners on potato seed system issues. CIP/ProCISA will support MINADER with the development of the document “Plan National Semencier,” as requested by MINADER. These studies will be used to provide recommendations on the policy framework and National Potato Strategy, and future donor interventions in the potato sector.

Below is a brief description of the state of implementation of the project activities by project component and indicator, as per the Logical Framework Matrix.

Component 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”:

1 a) “One assessment report on the policy and legal framework conditions in the potato sector”: Following meetings with the ProCISA team, it was decided that CIP can support MINADER in assessing the policy and legal framework for the potato sector as requested, but it is not advisable that CIP develop an independent report. To support the ProCISA team, CIP contributed to a report on potato sector development in Cameroon elaborated by KIT Royal Tropical Institute, Netherlands, for ProCISA.

1 b) “One value chain analysis focused on the identified bottlenecks”: Together with the ProCISA team, two potential international consultants for the implementation of the value chain analysis were identified.

1 c) “Inputs to a white paper for a National Seed Potato Sector Development Strategy elaborated”: Together with the ProCISA team, it was decided that CIP will provide inputs for the development of a strategy undertaken by MINADER (with support from WorldBank and EU) as requested. An exploratory meeting was held with the EU representative.

1 d) “Inputs to a potato value chain promotion strategy (seed development, production, mechanization, storage, marketing, PGS, etc.) developed”: the project will develop inputs to the promotion strategy following, and based upon, the 1 b) value chain analysis.

1 e) “Road map for implementation of potato promotion strategy developed” and

1 f) “Workshop with key stakeholders conducted”: A workshop was held on 11-12 July, 2019, to present the project and the 2019 project activities to MINADER and other stakeholders, with an aim of identifying potential synergies with two MINADER projects – Projet d’Appui au Développement des Racines et Tubercules (PADRT), and Projet d’Appui à la production du Matériel Végétal de Qualité (PAPMAV-Q) – and the MINADER directorates: Direction du Développement de l’Agriculture (DDA); Direction

des Etudes, de la Planification et de la Coopération (DEPC); and Directorate for Seed Certification (DRCQ); and Regional Delegations (DRADER Adamawa region, DRADER North West region and DRADER West region), as well as projects of other institutions (IRAD, University of Dschang, IITA, among others).

The main areas for synergies identified were:

1) CIP and ProCISA support for MINADER's Potato Development Strategy; 2) Support for existing in-vitro labs to provide tissue culture plants (IITA, TOWA); Development of a business model for pre-basic seeds with IRAD and the private sector; 3) Business model development (GIZ Profina); 4) Seed multiplication with MINADER multipliers and first generation seed with the private sector; 5) DRADER can provide collaboration with "Chefs de poste Agricole" of MINADER as agricultural extension agents (AEA) for the training approach, followed by candidate evaluation and selection by CIP and ProCISA; 6) Retired DRADER staff can become facilitators; 7) Field and lab research coordination with the University of Dschang's Department of Rural Socio-Economy and Agricultural Extension (FASA) can produce synergies related to teaching, potato research-projects, study and community support service, and co-development of training and extension material; 8) Coordination with PAPMAV-Q and DRCQ on potato variety import and registration (coordinated analysis of which varieties to develop and promote, and establishment of prices).

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

To adjust to the ProCISA 2.0 approach, CIP proposed the following changes to component 2: An adapted version of the Farmer Field School (FFS) called Cluster-Based FFS (CBFFS) – an approach to multiply farmer-to-farmer knowledge transfer based on engaging lead farmers, step-down trainings, and facilitated peer-to-peer learning and dissemination – was developed and expanded to include marketing activities, via the Farmer Business School (FBS) approach. A complete implementation strategy for this training approach was developed including the costing and monitoring tools for trainings and step-down trainings with lead farmers.

The aim is to train 78 trainers and 156 agriculture extension agents (AEA). CIP will be responsible for training the trainers and AEAs, and monitoring and reporting of the trainings. The development of training videos on Good Agricultural Practices for potato production, seed multiplication and post-harvest management practices was proposed.

ProCISA will contract training centers to implement the CBFFS – including the trainers at the central site and the step-down training with lead farmers at secondary CBFFS sites – and ensure monitoring of FFS step-down trainings by compiling monitoring data with the training centers. CIP will be responsible for a second level of monitoring independent of the one done in collaboration with the training centers (spot checks at the central sites and secondary FFS sites).

CIP is awaiting permission from the ProCISA team to start the training of trainers from the selected and contracted training centers, following the signing of new contracts between the 6 selected training centers and ProCISA. The ProCISA team and its contracted illustrator have been working on the illustrations for the training materials, "Ware potato manual", "Demo guide" and accompanying documents, in coordination with CIP.

Component 3 “Improved access to quality seed of high yielding, disease resistant, and market demanded varieties for increased productivity and resilience”:

Status:

On a June 17 -25 mission to the West Region, with visits to seed multipliers and the University of Dschang, terms of agreement for seed multiplication were explored with potential partners in the West and North West regions.

In-vitro plantlets of the variety Cipira are being multiplied by the TOWA company in Douala, for subsequent minituber production in their screenhouses in Wasande, Adamawa.

Planning meetings were held with IITA, which has received tissue culture potato plantlets of 4 Kenyan varieties for tissue culture multiplication. IITA is working on a proposal for a service agreement for in vitro, minituber and/or cutting production to support the project.

To backstop the official release of new varieties, CIP has assisted the Directorate for Seed Certification (DRCQ) in the development of a protocol for doing VAT/ VCU (Value for Cultivation and Use) tests of potato through participation in planning meetings and technical recommendations regarding DRCQ’s proposed protocol documents.

The planning and coordination of **Component 4 “Evaluating and implementing innovative services for farmer cooperatives and model farmers using services based on storage, mechanization, cooperative management, and marketing methods”**, **Component 5 “Validation of organic production systems for potato”** and **Component 6 “Baseline data and documentation of progress and performance indicators by analyzing and monitoring the results is provided on all levels”** are ongoing.

Component 5 on organic farming has been discussed with Dr. Elmar Schulte-Geldermann of the University of Applied Science Bingen (TH Bingen), Germany. The project is planning to collaborate with TH Bingen on Component 5 and 4.1: “Smallholder-adapted agronomic packages developed for sustainable intensification of potato-based cropping systems and integrated in training curriculum and program.”

- The CIP team participated to field demonstrations and evaluation of walking tractors at the farmer cooperative in Djuttitsa.
- Discussions were held with potential partners (University of Dschang and IRAD) and with the ProCISA team on the issue of organic potato production in Cameroon with the aim of suggesting appropriate changes to the proposed project activities, responding to the needs and actual potential for organic potato production in Cameroon.

To adjust Component 5 to the ProCISA 2.0 approach, CIP proposed the following changes: Focus will be on validating organic production systems for potato to assess the feasibility of producing organic potato in Cameroon and market demand. The aim is to document the evaluation of the feasibility of organic potato farming in Cameroon and subsequently publish recommendations on a certification scheme and Good Agricultural Practices for Organic Potato Farming in Cameroon.

Under the ProCISA 2.0 approach, the number of target beneficiaries in the potato value chain for the regions of West, North-West and Adamawa has increased from 40,000 to more than 100,000. To adjust to this, CIP has proposed expanding the intervention in the Adamawa region with additional staff and extensive monitoring of the training approach in Component 6. In the proposed training approach and farm trial knowledge exchange system between clusters of farmers, CIP will be responsible for training the trainers and AEAs, reporting on the monitoring done through the trainers/training centers, and for a second level of monitoring done as spot checks at the central sites and secondary FFS

sites. CIP proposes a quantitative but small survey of about 300 farmers before and during the intervention period to obtain data on productivity, gross margin, and employment on the service provider level.

General Achievements and Problems encountered

Highlight important achievements, methodological breakthroughs, experiences and major limitations of project implementation, unexpected side-effects of project activities (refer to assumptions); report on the use of results by other scientists and/or projects and report on feedback from users regarding interim results and implications for NARS.

It is acknowledged that CIP is behind on implementing the work plan and has instituted a plan to accelerate activity implementation. A potato-expert has been recruited to support accelerating the work plan while recruiting a permanent project leader. However, the potato specialist recruited to be based in Bafoussam could not fulfill the job requirements and the contract was discontinued after the unsuccessful trial period.

The November—January work plan to accelerate implementation includes the following activities:

1. Train seed growers: We are waiting for the potato expert consultant to confirm that the growers and site selections on the final list of seed growers from MINADER/GIZ are suitable. We are also waiting for final illustrations to finish the seed grower training module (GIZ Procisa is responsible for the illustrations).
Presentation of seed plan to MINADER
2. Begin training master trainers/training centers and MINADER for Training of Trainers as per the identified training centers for GAP++ FFS. (GIZ Procisa is still finalizing agreements with training centers, which need to be in place before training starts. Once the agreements are done, training will begin based on the completed training modules).
3. Plant 20,000 minitubers in January for seed production (seed growers for this have been identified).
4. Identify greenhouse provider and host for greenhouse.
5. Finalize list of seed growers for each region – each seed grower and site is visited to confirm suitability.
6. Review VAT process with DRCQ: IITA developed a release protocol that is not suitable for potato, and the cost is much greater than what is needed for the release process. It needs to be adjusted to reflect what is actually required to release a potato variety and to bring it down to a reasonable cost
7. Recruit consultant for value chain analysis and conduct a value chain analysis in January-February
8. Training/study tour for the apical cutting technology in Kenya, targeting Jan. 20-24, 2020

IDO Contribution

Report on number of beneficiaries already reached (by training, exercises, field work etc.)

In this reporting period the project has reached a limited number of farmers through the exploration and evaluation visits to farmer cooperatives in the West and Adamawa regions.

Conclusions for the following Reporting Period

State if the project plan is still relevant and if goal, purpose and outputs are still achievable. Point out issues which require adjustment of the work-plan, including comments from in-house peer reviews and/or validation of progress by peers. Draw conclusions for the further implementation of the project.

Since approval of the project in 2018, GIZ and CIP agreed that an amendment would be made later to formalize adjustments to the project agreement related to specifying the scope of CIP's responsibilities and to adjust specific project activities. Following the approval to extend ProCISA 2.0 until March 2023 and considering the increased beneficiary target numbers, CIP and the ProCISA team are planning to extend the CIP intervention until Dec 2022, with several additions to the project approach. This will make the project more focused and relevant for the current needs in Cameroon and clarify the scope of CIP's activities. The goals, target numbers and issues that require adjustment for future project implementation are briefly mentioned above in section "State of Project Implementation". Related to the project implementation by regions, CIP continues to be concerned with the insecurity that affects the North West region. CIP is therefore proposing to strengthen the project intervention in the region of Adamawa.

Publications, Papers and Reports

List all relevant documents, which constitute new products of the present project (or since the last progress report). Please forward copies of the publications, papers and reports to the GIZ.

Good Agricultural Practices for Ware Potato Production in Cameroon - Trainer Guide 2019; 32pp. Green Innovation Centres for the agricultural and food sector (ProCISA) Cameroon. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Germany.

Summary

Summarize the main results of the project (at a max. of 40 lines).

In this reporting period, the project startup phase has continued. Under a hosting agreement with IITA, CIP is operating from an office at IITA–Cameroon in Yaoundé. The project team consists of Dr. Peter Kromann, principal investigator/project manager, and Ms Dorine Motchum Wabo administrative/finance project officer. To assist implementation and planning, Dr. Thomas van Mourik, an internal expert at CIP, and Dr. Carlo Carli, a potato expert/consultant, are supporting CIP's work in Cameroon. A planning workshop with MINADER and other key stakeholders was held in July to present CIP and the project activities to MINADER. Potential synergies were identified in collaboration with MINADER programs and other stakeholders. Important synergies and adaptations to the planned project activities across the project components were subsequently analyzed and included in the planning for the project's upcoming implementation. A new farmer training approach was presented and discussed with MINADER to identify mechanisms of collaboration to best reach out to farmers. Potential seed multipliers were mapped, following exploration missions and planning meetings for the North West, West and Adamawa regions. It was

decided to organize regular coordination meetings with MINADER to strengthen project implementation and ensure proper synergies with ongoing MINADER projects and links to previous achievements. To partly compensate for the reduced project intervention in the North West region, CIP/ProCISA plan to expand project implementation in the Adamawa region, which has great potential for potato production.