



**Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT)**  
**Compact: OFSP Project**  
**Quarter 4 Project Performance Report (October–December 2019)**  
**Project Code: 2100155036067**

**January 2020**

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### ANNEXES

Annex 1: Photos of field activities

Annex 2: OFSP Compact results chain (outputs) for Q4 of 2019 (Excel file)

Annex 3: Letter sent to the TAAT PMU on 3 December 2019 to resolve multiple outstanding requests and approvals

Annex 4: Success story from Rwanda entitled "Rwandan Farmers Excited for New OFSP Varieties with High Yield through TAAT Support"

## ACRONYMS

CIP	International Potato Center
DDBIO	Development and Delivery of Biofortified Crops at Scale programme
DFID	Department for International Development
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DVM	Decentralized vine multiplier
FAO	UN's Food and Agriculture Organization
GAP	Good agronomic practices
ICT	Information communication technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INERA	Institut National Pour L'etude Et La Recherche Agronomique
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
FANEL	Food and Nutritional Evaluation Laboratory
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NARS	National agricultural research system
OFSP	Orange-fleshed sweetpotato
PMU	Project management unit
PSC	Project steering committee
RAB	Rwanda Agricultural Board
RTB	Roots, Tubers and Bananas (a CGIAR research program)
SIP	Sweetpotato innovation platform
TAAT	Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation
Triple S	Storage in sand and sprouting



## A. REPORT SUMMARY AND PROPOSED ACTIONS

### A.1 PROJECT DATA

<b>Compact/Unit</b>	Orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP)	
<b>Reporting Period</b>	October–December 2019	
<b>Countries Covered</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda	
<b>Responsible Project Staff</b>	Paul Demo, Tom van Mourik, Daniel Mbogo	
<b>Commodities and Enablers</b>	Water Management Compact Capacity Development Compact	
<b>Project Development Objective</b>	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.	
<b>Project Components</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of an enabling environment for technology adoption</li> <li>• Regional technology delivery infrastructure</li> <li>• Deployment of appropriate technology</li> <li>• Program management</li> </ul>	
<b>Expected Date for Progress Report Submission</b>	<b>Actual Date for Progress Report Submission</b>	
8 January 2020	9 January 2020	
<b>Current Closing Date</b>	<b>Current Disbursement Deadline</b>	
31 January 2021	N/A	
<b>Cumulative Funds Received to Date (\$)</b>	<b>Cumulative Funds Utilized as per the Latest Financial Report (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Date of Next Replenishment Request and Amount (\$)</b>
775,000	182,347	

### A.2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

#### ***TAAT OFSP compact, executive summary***

Quarter 4 (Q4) of the TAAT Orange-Fleshed Sweetpotato compact made progress toward implementation of compact activities. Q4 coincided with harvest periods and postharvest activities in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Togo), whereas in Eastern and Central Africa—Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, and eastern part of Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)—the quarter was the rainy season. Finally, Southern Africa (Malawi and Madagascar) were at the start of the rainy season.

The TAAT project is advancing, and considerable scale is being achieved (see section C1 for details on highlights and achievements). Some major events in Q4 included the following: (1) the organization of a farmer field day in Malawi in collaboration with the water management enabler; (2) the preharvest agricultural fair and high-level advocacy with the Kofi Annan Foundation and the minister of Food and Agriculture in Ghana; and (3) participation in a TAAT

agricultural fair in Bukavu on 8 October and an investment workshop, "TAAT in the DRC: Scaling up technologies for agricultural transformation," in Kinshasa on 4–6 November.

Considering regional technology delivery platforms, TAAT OFSP worked with 82 partners and supported seven active multistakeholders and/or innovation platforms linking up actors and markets. About 13,575 persons were trained with improved skills in agriculture enterprises development using good agriculture practices (GAP), postharvest management practices, and vine (planting material) multiplication and processing skills to engage with the OFSP value chain.

In terms of deployment of appropriate technologies, the seed system was strengthened through support to six national agricultural research systems, four private sector seed companies, and 123 decentralized vine multipliers (DVMs). This resulted in the distribution and sales of at least 14,622,400 **vine cuttings** to at least 127,300 **farmers**. Currently, 154,009 **final beneficiaries** are accessing and effectively using technology products and services, and 423,922 **beneficiaries** have been reached through 55 promotional activities, training sessions, and dissemination of 20 information and visibility materials and multimedia communication through the contribution of the OFSP compact and partners.

The project coordination has been asked to resolve a number of pending approvals with the project management unit (PMU) of the contracting organization (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture) and has sent an official letter to the TAAT PMU, copying the clearing house.

Several important outcomes were noted during the period:

- There has been a very positive evolution of OFSP products (buns, pastries, yogurt, and granola) being produced by an increased number of small and medium enterprises in Ghana and (sandwich bread) in Burkina Faso, and puree and bread in Kenya.
- There are indications of large-scale use of the storage in sand and sprouting innovation in Ghana and Togo, as observed during monitoring and field visits
- Very large numbers of vines have been sold by DVMs and distributed by NGOs and government programs, particularly in Malawi, Kenya, and Rwanda

## B. PERFORMANCE REPORTING

### B.1 PROGRESS TOWARD PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

#### **Component 1: Creation of an enabling environment**

##### **Activity 1.1.1: Establish and facilitate multistakeholder innovation platforms**

- **Ghana:** One multistakeholder platform (central region sweetpotato innovation platform [SIP]), supported by the OFSP compact, has been able to mobilize funds with the TAAT capacity development enabler. Another active SIP in Ghana was the Upper East region innovation platform, where eight links were created between farmers and processors and a new processor started producing OFSP yogurt (see Annex 1, photo 8). We also met with partners of the sweetpotato Triple S PLUS scaling project to plan for sustainability models to continue scaling OFSP and Triple S<sup>1</sup> after project end in March 2020.
- **Togo:** The GIZ-funded ProSecAI project in Togo is continuing a multistakeholder platform with implementation partners.
- **Kenya:** The compact, in collaboration with the CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB) scaling fund project, organized a stakeholders workshop for partners involved in the implementation of OFSP puree for fried and baked products in Kenya and to review work plans. Eight private enterprise partners, nine NGO partners, the ministries of health and agriculture, and the University of Nairobi were represented. Twenty-nine (16 males, 13 females) people participated.

#### **Deploy information communication technology (ICT)-based tools to register and network OFSP value chain stakeholders**

- **Ghana:** Each SIP also has an active WhatsApp group in which information is shared regularly and buyers and sellers of OFSP vines and roots inform each other.

#### **Hold regular platform meetings and disseminate information to stakeholders**

- **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC):** TAAT OFSP delegations participated in an agricultural exposition in Bukavu on 8 October and a workshop in Kinshasa (4–6 November) entitled, “TAAT in the DRC: Scaling up Technologies for Agricultural Transformation.”
- **Ghana:** In addition to the above activities with multistakeholder platforms, the OFSP TAAT compact participated in the preharvest agricultural fair in Tamale, northern Ghana, on 3–5 October and a partner review meeting of the Triple S scaling initiative, with a field visit documented by regional radio and television (Annex 1, photos 19 and 20).
- **Malawi:** OFSP technologies, such as improved varieties, good agriculture practices (GAP), rapid vine multiplication, and processing with OFSP puree, were presented to stakeholders (Annex 1, photos 23–26) in Chibibi village, Zomba, Malawi, on 19 November 2019.

#### **Country inter-compact coordination**

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1. A climate-smart innovation to maintain and quickly produce planting material of sweetpotato from roots stored over the dry season.

- **Malawi, Ghana:** Coordination took place with the water enabler, with whom we collaborated in Malawi to install three demo sites for rain-tube irrigation. A field day was organized in Chibibi village, Zomba, Malawi on 19 November 2019. Discussions and plans for collaboration in Ghana have advanced.
- **Ghana and regional:** Contact has been made with the capacity-building enabler coordinator, Krishan Bheenick, to collaborate on capacity building of innovation platforms and their support. The OFSP compact participated in the workshop organized by the capacity-building enabler in Abidjan, on 23–24 November 2019 to develop quality and standardized training and extension materials for this compact.
- **Kenya and regional:** Collaboration with the Youth ENABLE TAAT compact has been ongoing and is being strengthened through interaction and support to the youth groups in Kibwezi and Western Kenya on vine multiplication, root production, processing, and marketing. The TAAT OFSP compact and Youth ENABLE also established a number of areas of collaboration through several discussions focusing on Kenya, DRC, and Uganda, and decided to organize a joint field visit in Kenya at the beginning of 2020.
- **Rwanda and DRC:** Contact and collaboration with the Institut National Pour L'etude Et La Recherche Agronomique (INERA)–DRC, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) youth compact was initiated; discussion continues.

#### **Policy dialogue with policymakers**

- **DRC:** CIP interacted with government officials at both events in Bukavu (6–8 October) and Kinshasa (4–6 November), particularly with the secretary general of the ministry of rural development) on current and future projects and programs in DRC and the role of nutrition and the OFSP value chain.
- **Ghana:** The TAAT OFSP and CIP met with Madame Nan Annan of the Kofi Annan Foundation and the minister of agriculture, Dr. Akoto, on 11 November 2019 (Annex 1, photos 6 and 9).
- **Kenya:** The compact participated in the national food security policy dialogue that was held in Makueni, as part of the World Food Day celebrations. The theme of the discussions was around food security, land fragmentation, and utilization. The meeting was organized by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and was attended by representatives from national governments (ministries of agriculture, health, land resources, and treasury), county governments, civil societies (NGOs), and private sector. Our compact highlighted OFSP, a climate-smart crop, that is important for food and nutrition security, to this national audience.
- **Malawi:** The farmer field day organized with the water management enabler allowed for policy dialogue with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, development partners, and private sector (mainly traders of irrigation equipment and vine multipliers).

#### **Component 2: Strengthening the regional technology delivery infrastructure**

##### **Activity 2.1.1 Facilitate and strengthen regional exchange of information and technologies**

##### **In-country planning and review meetings with TAAT partners on OFSP value chain development**



- **DRC:** CIP participated in regional exhibition at IITA–Karambo during inauguration of regional laboratory by His Honorable, President of DRC. Additionally, CIP staff participated in a TAAT-convened workshop in Kinshasa to further promote OFSP and potato technologies with a view to explore collaborative work with DRC country programs, on 4–6 November. CIP also received from INERA a request for new genetic material to be introduced into DRC.
- **Ghana:** A partners review meeting for the Triple S scaling initiative in Wa was held on 21 November 2019. A breeding and research meeting with the Crops Research Institute and the Southern Agricultural Research Institute in Kumasi was held on 27–29 November 2019; planning continued on the impact and release of varieties and a sustainable seed system.

### **Participation in annual technology fairs and OFSP days at country level**

- **DRC:** CIP staff participated in a DRC exhibition during the inauguration of an IITA laboratory in Bukavu on 8 October 2019. Technologies exhibited were improved OFSP varieties, vine production and maintenance, roots storage, and processing into various processed products from roots and puree, particularly bread.
- **Ghana:** TAAT OFSP compact participated in the preharvest agricultural technology fair, organized in Tamale, on 3–5 October 2019.
- **Kenya:** Three events were organized: (1) Kiambu county farmers’ field day, which mobilized and reached out to 4,019 individuals (2,400 males, 1,619 females) and more than 100 agro-dealers (Annex 1, photo 28); (2) Machakos county farmers’ field day on 15 October, which allowed 10 farmers to be linked with DVMs and establish root production contracts with B&B Co. Ltd; and (3) the World Food Day (16 October) celebrations in Makueni county, with an exhibition booth, where OFSP technologies were showcased. Technical information on OFSP varieties, puree processing, and bakery products was provided with 1,500 pieces of information, education, and communication materials distributed to 90 participants.
- **Malawi:** A farmer field day was organized on 19 November in which OFSP and improved technologies for irrigation and vine multiplication were demonstrated (Annex 1, photos 23–26).

### **Develop and disseminate communications material on OFSP, processing, and animal feed**

- **Ghana:** In synergy with the sweetpotato Triple S scaling project, a survey was held in 12 communities in northern Ghana. The survey aimed to evaluate gender differences in the effectiveness of different channels of communication (radio, video, and direct training) in raising awareness and training farmers in OFSP, GAP, vine multiplication, and the Triple S innovations.
- **Rwanda:** A radio talk show at Flash radio was organized and held. The tuk-tuk motorcycles that were OFSP branded in Q3 continue to create interest and demand for OFSP roots and products.
- **Togo:** The four farmer-to-farmer training videos (i.e., delicious OFSP dishes; producing quality sweetpotato vines; harvesting, selecting, and storing OFSP roots; and storage in sand and sprouting) have been translated into French and are now ready for use in Togo by the ProSecAI project.

- **Kenya:** Some 1,500 copies of information materials were distributed to farmers during the exhibitions.

### **Activity 2.1.2: Enhance the use of ICT for monitoring and value chain investment planning**

#### **Design and implement ICT platform and monitoring and evaluation process, utilizing available modules from ongoing projects**

- **Ghana:** Existing household-level surveys were adapted and loaded onto an online survey tool (Open Data Kit) to assess knowledge, attitudes, and practices of households exposed to direct training, training videos, and radio programs. The survey will be finalized and analyzed in January 2020.

### **Activity 2.1.3: Strengthen and network hubs for OFSP innovation**

#### **Facility access to food technology services and training in existing regional hubs**

- **Ghana:** One processor has sent a sample of OFSP puree-enriched granola to the Food and Nutritional Evaluation Laboratory (FANEL) in Nairobi for nutrient analysis. We are awaiting results.

### **Component 3. Deployment of appropriate technology**

#### **Activity 3.1.1: Strengthen the OFSP seed system and technology uptake**

#### **Technical support to national agricultural research system (NARS) to produce and maintain breeder seed of preferred varieties**

- **DRC:** We continue to support INERA in the maintenance and production of planting materials of newly introduced varieties of OFSP. However, the multiplication is too slow to respond to the demand by stakeholders. This will require additional effort and investment in infrastructure.
- **Ghana:** The TAAT focal point made a presentation in Ghana to a panel of breeders and scientists on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the country's sweetpotato seed system. Several measures were suggested to improve the seed system, which also requires raising awareness among stakeholders about what type of seed (pre-basic seed, basic seed, and quality declared planting material) is appropriate for seed multiplication and root production.
- **Kenya:** The OFSP compact has, in collaboration with the Development and Delivery of Biofortified Crops at Scale programme (DDBIO), funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), engaged Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization and the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate. The objective was to register and release new OFSP varieties ('Naspot 13' and 'Sumaia') in Kenya that are processing friendly and consumer preferred. The collaboration between CIP and Mimiea International continues to support lead farmers in the counties of Machakos, Meru, and Kirinyaga through the support of BIOINNOVATE.
- **Rwanda:** CIP-Rwanda has continued to support the activities of the Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB), from *in vitro* multiplication to the multiplication of basic planting materials.

#### **Establish/strengthen local OFSP multipliers to produce and market planting material for farmers**

- **DRC:** Ten tons of quality OFSP vines were distributed to farmers in collaboration with INERA and Action pour le Développement des Enfants en Détresse.
- **Ghana:** Thirty DVMs were supported in maintaining quality planting material through the Triple S technology.
- **Madagascar:** Ten DVMs (6 women) are receiving continued support for vine multiplication.
- **Malawi:** Three DVMs were supported in producing quality OFSP vines directly by TAAT. Another 67 previously trained and supported DVMs were monitored and have sold more than 118,224 vine bundles (i.e., ~11.8m vine cuttings) to government, NGOs, and individual farmers, reaching at least 118,000 farmers in Q4.
- **Rwanda:** During Q4 eight field visits were organized to support 10 DVMs for technical support related to the production of clean planting materials. Forty DVMs and two private sector seed companies have been linked to the market, and more than 48 t of vines (about 1,200,000 vine cuttings) have been sold and/or distributed to at least 6,000 farmers.
- **Kenya:** Sixteen DVMs have been supported to produce and sell 1,300,000 vine cuttings to at least 800 farmers (480 women, 320 men).

#### **Establish demo sites for improved varieties, GAP, and postharvest management**

- **DRC:** Two demo sites have continued to be established in Q4.
- **Ghana:** All demo plots that were installed in Q2 and Q3 were harvested, and 17 demo sites for storage in sand have been established.
- **Kenya:** Sixteen DVMs have been supported to produce quality planting materials.
- **Malawi:** Three demo sites for rapid vine production with improved irrigation have continued, and the harvesting of vines for sales has started.
- **Rwanda:** The compact established 13 on-farm demo plots in Q2 and Q3, in collaboration with RAB and other OFSP value chain actors, which have all been harvested now. Another 30 demo plots were established together with RAB.
- **Togo:** Demo plots have been harvested and 192 demo trials for storage in sand have been established.

#### **Capacity training by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) capacity enabler**

- **Ghana and regional:** The OFSP technology dissemination expert, Daniel Mbogo, attended the workshop organized by the FARA capacity development enabler, in Abidjan on 23–24 November 2019.

#### **Water and irrigation enabler support**

- **Malawi:** The Water and irrigation enabler team from Ghana traveled to Malawi to collaborate with the OFSP compact and establish three demo sites for improved irrigation technologies for vine and root production in the dry season in August. This will encourage and enable more farmers who are close to water sources to produce OFSP roots during winter and vines during the dry seasons using improved irrigation technologies. The TAAT project has contributed funds to enable land preparation, fencing, and supervision of the works at the Bvumbwe demo site.

### Activity 3.2.1: Technical support to scale out OFSP puree value chains

#### Expand OFSP root supply chains to puree manufacturers

- **Burkina Faso:** At least four farmers have been linked to provide OFSP roots to the Wend Konta bakery in Ouagadougou.
- **Ghana:** At least eight farmers have been linked to provide OFSP roots to five processors of OFSP puree.
- **Kenya:** At least 10 farmers were linked up with a puree manufacturer.
- **Malawi:** Three commercial processors have been linked to farmers for the supply of OFSP roots.

### Activity 3.2.2: Technical support to scale out OFSP-based product development and marketing

#### Establish/strengthen supply chains from puree production to final food processors

- **Burkina Faso:** The bakery chain has procured a professional, quality puree machine for their OFSP bread production and is currently producing 1,500 OFSP loaves of bread per week (Annex 1, Photos 1–5).
- **Ghana:** Two new food processors have started processing OFSP and have received support from the TAAT OFSP compact. They are KelMax foods in Kumasi (Mr. Davidson is a recent graduate from KNUST) and Zepheph Kan in Navrongo (Mrs. Mama Grace).

#### Support product development using OFSP puree as a main ingredient

- **Ghana:** Technical support on products was provided to Uncle Tico's sweetpotato bread processor in Accra and KelMax foods in Kumasi.

#### Support consumer awareness and marketing of OFSP-based products for mass markets

- **Ghana:** The preharvest agricultural fair was a great opportunity to display and raise awareness of the benefits of OFSP and processed products. In addition, collaborating private sector processors provided more than 700 OFSP-based snack packs (buns and yogurt) during the event. These were much appreciated by visitors.
- **Kenya:** The compact partnered with DDBIO, the RTB scaling fund, and FANEL to organize a 5-day training workshop on the food safety needs for supply chain management (global gap), food processing, and household consumption and food preparation (hygiene). The workshop took place on 9–13 December 2019 at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi (Annex 1, photo 28). Forty-two participants (22 males, 20 females) from private sector (processors), NGOs, public health, and Ministry of Agriculture (national and county government) took part.

### Activity 3.3.1: Technical support to scale out production and marketing of improved sweetpotato-based silage

#### Provide access to improved silage manufacturing technologies, equipment, and information

No activities reported in Q4.

### **Activity 3.3.2: Scale out the utilization of improved sweetpotato-based silage for pork and milk production**

#### **Train pig and dairy farmers in use of silage and improved feeding regimes**

No activities reported in Q4.

#### **Hold joint producer-buyer forums to promote silage use for improved quality and value of livestock products**

No activities reported in Q4.

### **Component 4: Program management**

#### **Activity 4.1.1: Efficient and effective coordination of activities and partners**

##### **Program coordination, partner support, and quality control**

During Q4 CIP worked on the comments that were received from the TAAT program advisory committee to improve the compact's work plan. CIP also received a lot of support from the TAAT PMU and TAAT clearing house regarding the revision of the work plan. CIP has communicated to the PMU some areas that need clarification in the contractual arrangement.

Co-ordinations with project partners including national partners is ongoing while formalization of partnerships is still in process. We look forward to IITA's approval to the subgrant agreement template we submitted on July 2019.

## **B.2 LEVERAGING TAAT PROGRAM INVESTMENTS (CASH AND/OR IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION)**

The project is leveraging resources provided for by other CIP initiatives, which include:

- The Sweetpotato Action for Security and Health in Africa Phase 2 project, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Ghana, Mozambique, Uganda, and Kenya)
- RTB scaling fund projects funded by RTB (Ghana, Kenya)
- BIOINNOVATE (Kenya)
- DDBIO, funded by DFID
- An OFSP project in Ghana, funded by FAO and implemented by our partners from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) with a budget of \$200,000 (Ghana)
- A loan to a large farm partners (Maphlix farms), with a budget of \$1,000,000 (Ghana)
- Collaboration with a BMZ/GIZ-funded Projet Securite Alimentaire et Renforcement de la Resilience, executed by GFA Consulting Group. Although OFSP is only one of many interventions of this project, the total budget is €1,745,020.
- Collaborated with the MERIEM project (Burkina Faso), implemented by ONG GRET. The project has supported the development of protocols for baking OFSP bread for a large baker in Ouagadougou.
- TAAT OFSP benefits from strong synergy with the Developing Integrated Value Chains to Enhance Rural Smallholders' Incomes and Food project and support activities (Malawi)
- TAAT OFSP has synergies with the FOODSTART project, funded by IFAD, which supports OFSP activities in Southern Africa, including Madagascar.

### B.3 OUTCOME REPORTING: OUTCOME CASE STUDY REPORTS USING THE STANDARD TEMPLATE

Outcome Indicators (as specified in the RLF add/delete rows as needed)	Baseline Values	End Target (expected value at project completion)	Annual Target	Actual		Progress Assessment toward End Target (% realized)	Status assessment (to reach annual and end targets) 1=Completed 2= On track 3= Outstanding 4=Suspended	Comments (if any)
				Attribution	Contribution			
% increase household income								
% increase crop productivity								
% increase livestock productivity								
% increase fish productivity								
No. of jobs created (of which women & youth)								
Tons of food (additional)								
Household dietary diversity								
Value of additional production								

Outcome reporting – general comments

No outcomes will be reported during the Q4 report because the data have not been collected yet.

### B.4 OUTPUT REPORTING: ATTRIBUTION TO TAAT VERSUS CONTRIBUTION

Output Indicators (by components add/delete rows as needed)	Baseline Values	End Target (expected value at project completion)	Annual Target	Actual		Progress Assessment toward End Target (% realized)	Status Assessment (to reach annual and end targets) 1=Completed 2= On track 3= Outstanding 4=Suspended	Comments (if any)
				Attribution	Contribution			

See Excel sheet (Annex 3).

#### Output reporting – general comments

The OFSP TAAT compact has seen good performance in components 1–3, sometimes reaching the annual targets set within Q4. The reason for this level of performance is that there was a freeze on expenses on the TAAT charge code because of unresolved issues around allowable expenses, pending requests for approval, and contractual issues that remain to be clarified by the TAAT PMU. Most of the results have been achieved as a result of contributions from other projects and partners with whom TAAT has synergies. Harvest time for sweetpotato in west Africa occurred in Q4, with high availability of OFSP roots. This enabled field visits and

promotion of the OFSP compact technologies and advocacy with prominent persons, decisionmakers, and politicians in Ghana.

## B.5 UNANTICIPATED (UNEXPECTED) OR ADDITIONAL RESULTS

Type	Assessment
Private sector engagement	We have seen a strong engagement from the private sector to process OFSP roots into a range of products in Burkina Faso and Ghana. It is also noted that new processors are entering the market and that we see more and more OFSP-based products in larger supermarkets.
Gender	We have finalized a study on gender responsiveness of communication tools for scaling in Ghana, in synergy with the Triple S scaling project. The data are currently being analyzed, and we expect to have results and conclusions from this study by the end of Q1 of 2020, to inform scaling strategies and efforts in Ghana and beyond.
Climate change	The Triple S innovation is a climate-smart technology for households to maintain and produce quality planting material at the right time at the start of the season. We are seeing considerable adoption of this technology by households in Ghana and Togo, not only by DVMs and lead farmers. In Q1 of 2020 we will make an effort to quantify adoption rates of this innovation.
Private sector and value chain integration	The WhatsApp groups established for the regional SIPs are proving an appropriate platform for linking up vine and root producers and processors. We expect continued benefits for integration of the OFSP value chain. A major challenge is still to convince farmers to grow OFSP as an irrigated crop, to respond to the demand for OFSP by processors and retailers during the dry season.

## C. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS NARRATIVE REPORTING

### C.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Some major highlights of the TAAT OFSP compact in Q4 are presented below.

#### 1. Creation of an enabling environment for technology adoption

- The Innovation and multistakeholder platforms continue to be active and created linkages between vine and root producers, consumers, farmers and processors.
- The integration of OFSP and the Triple S innovation into the national curriculum is becoming reality through the training of resource persons of 4 agricultural colleges in Ghana.

#### 2. Regional technology delivery infrastructure

- In total, 64 partners such as governmental organizations, private sector processors and seed companies and NGO's and projects were involved in implementation of TAAT activities.
- About 13,336 persons were trained with improved skills in agriculture enterprises development using GAP, postharvest management practices (Storage in sand and Triple S), vine multiplication and processing skills to engage with the OFSP value chain.

#### 3. Deployment of appropriate technologies

- The main technologies promoted and disseminated were (1) improved varieties of OFSP; (2) GAP; (3) rapid vine multiplication; (4) Triple S; (5) processing of OFSP into diverse products; (6) OFSP puree technology; and (7) use of insect net tunnels for the maintenance of clean vines.

- Seed systems were strengthened through support to six national partners and support to five private sector companies for vine multiplication and 136 DVMs in Rwanda, Kenya, Malawi, and Madagascar in Q4.
- A total of 299 demo sites have been installed, managed, or harvested in Q4, showcasing storage in sand (Ghana and Togo); improved OFSP varieties and GAP (Ghana, Togo, DRC, Rwanda, Malawi, and Madagascar); insect net tunnels for maintenance of planting materials (DRC and Rwanda); and multiplication of planting materials (Malawi, Madagascar, Rwanda, and DRC).
- Currently, 154,009 final beneficiaries are accessing and effectively using technology products and services and 423,922 beneficiaries have been reached through 55 promotional activities, training sessions and events, and dissemination of 20 information and visibility materials and multimedia communication through the contribution of the OFSP compact and partners.

#### **4. Program management**

The project management component faces some major challenges, for which action has been taken:

- CIP management submitted a letter to the TAAT PMU on 3 December 2019, to address a number of unresolved issues and requests pending approval.
- Coordination and management of the project have changed. Dr. Paul Demo (CIP's Africa director), supported by Tom van Mourik (CIP–Ghana), has taken over coordination responsibilities on an interim basis from Dr. Kirimi Sindi until a new compact coordinator is hired. CIP's headquarters communicated the interim measure to the TAAT PMU and is still awaiting an official response. The process of hiring a new compact coordinator is ongoing.
- We are awaiting approval of a revised work plan and budget by the new coordinator, taking into account the comments and concerns from the project steering committee (PSC) and clearinghouse related to the rejected proposal in July 2019. The work plan reflects these comments through a simplified set of activities and focused on fewer countries and an adjusted budget. The documents are currently awaiting approval by the TAAT PSC.
- Changes to the TAAT countries and stakeholders in CIP and partner organizations have been communicated.

#### **C.2 PERFORMANCE OF STAKEHOLDERS**

None

#### **C.3 COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS**

None



#### C.4 CHALLENGES (DIFFICULTIES) ENCOUNTERED AND ACTIONS TAKEN

Challenges (difficulties)	Actions Taken	Comment (if any)
A large number of households to receive planting materials in a short period	Organize a mass vine distribution together with local administration and partners in different districts	A mass vine distribution requires a considerable logistics including transport of vines and field facilitation
It is challenging to convince farmers to produce roots with irrigation for the fresh root and processing markets	We have engaged with some farmer groups and DVMs to plan for off-season root production of OFSP	Document and quantify farmers' and partners' efforts to produce roots with irrigation during the dry season

#### C.5 RISKS (BEYOND CONTROL) AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Risks	Mitigation Measures	Comment (if any)
If the contractual and funding situation is not dealt with soon, the project will come to a full stop in Q1 of 2020.	Frequently communicate to remind the TAAT PMU and clearinghouse of the letter sent asking for clarifications. It is essential that the issues are resolved to implement the TAAT OFSP compact accordingly and (continue to) achieve impact at scale.	

#### C.6 ASSUMPTIONS AND ACTION TAKEN

None.

### D. SUCCESS STORY AND LESSONS LEARNED

Three stories have been published: (1) ["From Knowledge to Income – Martha Lawrance is recognised as a leading sweetpotato vine multiplier"](#); (2) "Rwandan Farmers Excited for New Orange-fleshed Sweetpotato Varieties with High Yield through TAAT Support" (Annex 4); and (3) the success story from the farmer field day in Malawi on 19 November, which was developed by the water management enabler, with input from the OFSP compact. Q1 of 2020 will allow us to finalize at least two more success stories concerning: (1) the video-based extension activity and the positive spin-off effects from it, and (2) lessons learned about large-scale vine multiplication, distribution, and sales with many partners.

### E. NEXT STEPS (PLAN OF WORK FOR NEXT QUARTER)

#### Program of Work

In Q1 of 2020 (January–March), the project has planned different activities for each component:

#### Regional and coordination

- Follow up on unresolved issues with the TAAT PMU.
- In coordination with the country focal points, identify success stories and finalize at least two of them related to the OFSP compact project by the end of Q1 2020.

- Participate in regional platforms and workshops related to TAAT and investment initiatives in OFSP.

### **Burkina Faso**

- Organize further support to large-scale OFSP production and processing into bread, in collaboration with the MERIEM project.
- Organize a cross-country visit to identify vine and root producers in Ghana who can supply roots in the dry season, as this will be a major constraint in January–July in Burkina Faso.
- Organize SIP meetings and develop a work plan for Burkina Faso focusing on continued OFSP root supply to processors.
- Support further seed production with the NARS, private sector seed companies, and DVMs.

### **Ghana**

- Follow up with the Minister of Food and Agriculture on identified areas for collaboration between MoFA, TAAT OFSP compact activities, and developing the OFSP value chain.
- Continue to support the agricultural colleges to run a course on OFSP processing and the Triple S innovation.
- Organize SIP meetings in four regions, in combination with a field visit and/or market awareness-raising event on OFSP and improved technologies.
- Engage with processors, aggregators, Integrated Water and Agricultural Development, DVMs, and farmers who have access to irrigation. The aim is to coordinate and agree on contracts quantities of roots produced in the dry season (December–June) and monitor production and sales of OFSP and processing activities during the dry season.
- Organize an evaluation of the use of OFSP and the Triple S innovation package in areas where video-based extension has been scaled.
- Support the implementation of sister projects that promote OFSP, funded by FAO and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, implemented by the MoFA–Women in Agriculture Development.

### **Kenya**

- Provide linkage between DVMs and commercial root producers.
- Expand multiplication of vines with the established DVMs.
- Mobilize stakeholders and organize an innovation platform.
- Organize a joint field visit with the OFSP compact and the Youth Enabler compact.

### **Malawi**

- Take lead farmers for a learning visit to two OFSP processors and an OFSP variety development research station in Blantyre.

### **Madagascar**

- Further support the multiplication of vines by DVMs to have at least 5,000 kg of OFSP vine cuttings for distribution during the awareness campaign in October.

- Support the 10 private sector processors to produce biofortified products (bun, biscuit, cake, bread) for evaluation and for sale during the awareness campaign.
- Produce two TAAT-branded banners with promotional messages on OFSP and technologies.
- Produce orange-painted and TAAT-branded tent with message to host the present authorities.
- Produce OFSP pamphlets for distribution during the event.
- Invite the minister of agriculture and the director of FIFAMANOR to honor this awareness event.

### **Uganda**

- Plan for an awareness-raising event close to the main harvest period that will allow for processors and off-takers.
- Organize a training on postharvest management and Triple S innovation around the harvest period.
- Organize an SIP and/or multistakeholder platform meetings to plan for marketing and processing. Organize agreements and/or contracts between off-takers, processors, and root producers.
- Expose more farmers to the sweetpotato silage technology and facilitate access to mechanized silage production at scale.

### **Rwanda and DRC**

- Maintain the RAB screenhouse and production of *in vitro* and foundation seed.
- Conduct field visits and follow up on multiplication of vines through DVMs.
- Introduce OFSP varieties and plant multilocation trials and on-farm demo plots in DRC.
- Conduct market awareness creation activities.
- Promote radio and TV talk shows.
- Organize and call for SIP meetings.
- Organize a seasonal activities plan.
- Provide active financial management to ensure best practices and efficient spending.

### **Togo**

- Follow up on the training of trainers and support the ProSecAI project to disseminate the Triple S innovation to 15,000 women farmers and their households.
- Organize a training of trainers for utilization (local recipes and frying techniques) and processing of OFSP into puree for incorporation into bread, buns, cakes, and cookies.
- Support the monitoring of the step-down trainings with monitoring and evaluation tools.
- Engage with the Ministry of Agriculture and NARS and build their capacity to maintain and multiply pre-basic seeds of improved varieties of OFSP and to evaluate and register new varieties.

**List of annexes**

- Annex 1: Photos of field activities
- Annex 2: OFSP Compact results chain (outputs) for Q4 of 2019 (Excel file)
- Annex 3: Letter sent to the TAAT PMU on 3 December 2019 to resolve multiple outstanding requests and approvals
- Annex 4: Success story from Rwanda entitled “Rwandan Farmers Excited for New OFSP Varieties with High Yield through TAAT Support”

Note that Annexes 1, 3, and 4 are submitted as a single consolidated pdf file.



The International Potato Center (known by its Spanish acronym CIP) is a research-for-development organization with a focus on potato, sweetpotato, and Andean roots and tubers. CIP is dedicated to delivering sustainable science-based solutions to the pressing world issues of hunger, poverty, gender equity, climate change, and the preservation of our Earth's fragile biodiversity and natural resources.

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