

Cluster annual report - 2017

## SW4.4 – Nutritious sweetpotato for expanding markets and improving diets



Robert Samuel Ackatia-Armah



#### **RTB Cluster Report – SW4.4**

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The CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB) is an alliance led by the International Potato Center implemented jointly with Bioversity International, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), that includes a growing number of research and development partners. RTB brings together research on its mandate crops: bananas and plantains, cassava, potato, sweetpotato, yams, and minor roots and tubers, to improve nutrition and food security and foster greater gender equity especially among some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations.

[www.rtb.cgiar.org](http://www.rtb.cgiar.org)

#### **Contact:**

RTB Program Management Unit  
International Potato Center (CIP)  
Apartado 1558, Lima 12, Peru  
[rtb@cgiar.org](mailto:rtb@cgiar.org) • [www.rtb.cgiar.org](http://www.rtb.cgiar.org)

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## 1. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

For the different output reports (SW4.4.1-Tools and models for nutrition education and behavior change to improve diets; SW4.4.2-Technologies, tools, and models for upgrading sweetpotato value chains and diversifying markets and SW4.4.3-Evidence base, policy options, and investment guides for sustained investments in nutritious sweetpotato), scientist in the cluster made important contributions to the RTB literature. Models for nutrition counselling at scale were tested in Tanzania in addition to the expansion of technical material used for social and behaviour change and communication programming in Malawi. In Malawi, new food products made from OFSP were launched and farmers groups were educated on business techniques needed for managing these newly set up small-scale production facilities.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS WITH GENDER AND YOUTH RELEVANCE

Work on the ENDURE project in Uganda and SUSTAIN support to USAID FTF/VISTA project in Tanzania were able to document the contribution of women as entrepreneurs in the silage business. The general perception was that sweetpotato silage was a viable business for women and that women entrepreneurs could engage as competitively as men. The mechanism for how best to support women in this area was further explored and recommendations made on how best these women could be supported. In Tanzania, a formative evaluation of gender roles was conducted and highlighted various aspects related to gender and OFSP value chain and as well as the gender roles related to food security and nutrition (Mudege, N.N; Grant, F.K. 2017. Formative gender evaluation: Technical report on the viable sweetpotato technologies in Africa “Tanzania project. Lima (Peru). International Potato Center).

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS WITH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT RELEVANCE

In countries where activities occurred, continued training on agronomy and nutrition of OFSP was provided to national and NGO partners in Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi, Kenya, Mozambique and Bangladesh. This continued training and capacity building is critical for the adoption of behaviour change related knowledge and practices that improve OFSP adoption, dietary diversification and improve consumption of vitamin A rich foods. Support was also provided for the completion of 1 PhD student (research conducted in Malawi) and 1 MSc student (research conducted in Kenya) around OFSP and child nutrition and feeding practices.

## 2. MAIN GAPS AND CHALLENGES

While there was much interest from scientists in the cluster to conduct independent research to answer questions that currently funded (W3 and Bilateral) do not address, lack of earmarked funds to this cluster prevented this from happening. Our collaborative work with CIRAD was cancelled due to funds resulting in the non-execution of at least three variable and causing delays in others.

### MEASURES TAKEN AND ADJUSTMENTS PROPOSED

For all delayed deliverables, explanations or progress reports were uploaded, and delivery dates postponed to 2018. Also, some funding was requested to provide some support to scientists with interns to complete pending reports. This will be budgeted for in 2018.

## 3. PARTNESHIPS: ACHIEVEMENT AND CHALLENGES

### List of Key External Partnerships



No much was done in this area. Existing partnerships for OFSP puree technology adoption and utilization as well as partners implementing across the different country programs was healthy. A few challenges were related to delays in reporting times and accounting of financials. This required additional training to partners, and this was provided by CIP country finance teams.

FP	Stage of research*	Name of partner	Topic of partnership
			Please provide a short description of main activities and results obtained

\* Please mark: 1 – for Discovery/Proof of concept; 2 – for Piloting; 3 – for Scaling up and scaling out.

#### Status of Internal (CGIAR) Collaborations among Programs and between the Program and Platforms

Name of CRP or Platform	Brief description of collaboration (give and take among CRPs) and value added*	Relevant for RTB FPs
	Please provide a short description of main activities and results obtained	

\*e.g. scientific or efficiency benefits

## 4. FUND RAISING

Proposals from team members were submitted for RTB funding to scale up OFSP puree technologies, but the bid was not successful. However, team members contributed to successful grants to (CIP (SUSTAIN extension) and RTB (RTB Foods). Additional efforts will be made in 2018 to secure funding.

## 5. INNOVATIONS<sup>1</sup>

List the innovations that: 1) have been made available for use to next-users in 2017; 2) have demonstrated uptake by next users in 2017.

Title of innovation (minimum required for clarity)	Corresponding output in MEL	Phase of research *	Partners involved	Geographic scope: for innovations in phases AV* or USE* only (one country, region, multi-country, global)

\* Phases: AV - available/ready for uptake, USE - uptake by next users.

<sup>1</sup> Research and development innovations are new or significantly improved (adaptive) outputs - including management practices, knowledge or technologies.