








PROMISING PRACTICE REPORT

Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato Distribution and Production

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Subject	Key Facts & Figures
 <p>Geographical coverage</p>	<p>Implemented in five districts, namely; Kola Tembien, Laelay Adiabo, Ganta Afeshum, Adwa & Sharti in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia.</p>
 <p>Actors and Stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close collaboration with Regional Bureau of Agriculture, Woreda Office of Agriculture and Kebele Offices of Agriculture • Close collaboration with Tigray Agricultural Research Institute, Biotechnology center & individual vine multipliers • International Potato Center (CIP) was major implementing partner • GIZ community facilitators and Relief Society of Tigray (REST) supported its management together with other homestead gardening practices at household level • The project had been working with the actors and stakeholders for their source of vine, technical capacity, the responsibility they have in agriculture and presence at kebele level
 <p>Target beneficiaries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural households with women in childbearing age, pregnant and lactating and their children under two with access to plot of land at their backyard • Beneficiaries were selected by the kebele WDGA, DAs & HEWs that meet the criteria • 6278 beneficiaries in 20 kebeles of the project woredas have been provided vines, trained and able to practice production & consumption of OFSP
 <p>Context</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malnutrition, stunting was 48.7%, at very high rate in Tigray region. One among the problems is micro nutrient deficiency, vitamin A is one the micro nutrients • OFSP is a biofortified crop rich in vitamin A that helps to address one of the micro nutrient deficiency affecting children in the region • Contributes to the implementation of National Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Strategy and national nutrition program II, Seqota Declaration and SDG 2.
 <p>Objective</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The availability of diversified foods has been increased for rural households in the selected districts of the Tigray through promotion of homestead gardening, crops containing vitamin A, iron, zinc and oilseed varieties.
 <p>Methodological approach</p>	<p>To ensure a high level of ownership and capacity development, following approaches were chosen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligned with annual plan of woreda Office of Agriculture & BoA • Using existing government extension structure • Ensuring the support of the BoA and the WoA through their involvement in planning through implementation including provision of technical support • Tigray Agricultural Research Institution was primary source of different variety, the private sector involved in multiplying certified seed, and CIP, GIZ & BoA organizing multiplication & distribution • Peer to peer sharing of OFSP vines and expand production to non-target beneficiaries (upscaling) • Growing relatively larger area of land 45 m²/beneficiary during rainy season and producing year-round by minimizing to manageable size • Ensure availability of vine for next round from own source
 <p>Results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6278 beneficiaries in 20 kebeles of the project woredas have been provided vines, trained and able to practice production & consumption of OFSP • Beneficiaries were able to produce the vitamin A biofortified crop, OFSP • Mothers and young children were able to consume OFSP product in different forms, boiled, mixed with bread flour to prepare bread, prepared as dish, sandwich & etc

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- Year-round availability and consumption were improving from year to year
 - Hidden hunger, one of the micro nutrient deficiency (vitamin A) was addressed by targeted beneficiaries because of promotion of OFSP
 - Seed/Cutting multiplication by farmer HHs adopted and acceptance of the crop increased



Success factors

- Strong integration among different stakeholders (BoA, TARI & WoA), implementing partners (CIP, REST & WAT) & private sector (Biotechnology & individual vine multiplier)
- Provision of technical training on production of OFSP for both the targeted female beneficiaries & their husbands
- Demonstration of OFSP products to consume in different forms
- Easily to multiply by farmers
- Conducive agro-ecology for production of OFSP
- Strong follow up and technical support



Constraints

- Scarcity of water on the project Kebelles
- Monitoring of the intervention disconnected because of the conflict in Tigray



Sustainability

The potentials for sustainable implementation are:

- integration of stakeholders BoA, TARI & private sector
- integration of extension workers (HEWs, DAs & school teachers) practiced in cooking demonstrations
- knowledge of beneficiaries on the production & importance of OFSP
- knowledge of beneficiaries on how to save vines during dry periods & multiply it
- Organizing beneficiaries under small group with 20-30 members & enable them to have regular discussion sessions to sustainably produce OFSP



Replicability and potential for upscaling

In promoting new technology in an area; it is important to consider acceptability, replicability & potential for upscaling. In this regard OFSP production is:

- Highly acceptable by communities
 - Can be multiplied by farmers & replicated to others
 - Demand of non-targeted beneficiaries within & outside project kebele
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