CIP in Ethiopia

Priorities
In collaboration with agricultural research institutes, cooperatives, individual farmers, national and international NGOs, private sector groups, regional bureaus of agriculture and universities, CIP Ethiopia works to increase the productivity and production of potato and sweetpotato systems in a sustainable manner so as to strengthen food and nutrition security and improve livelihoods. Both crops have been shown to deliver nutrition and food security benefits in sub-Saharan Africa in cost-effective and often complementary ways. The use of biofortified orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP), when introduced along with community-level nutrition education, is a proven cost-effective strategy of providing vitamin A, at high levels of bioavailability, to vulnerable populations. Potato, on the other hand, is an effective crop to help diversify farming systems and increase rural incomes, and stabilize agricultural livelihoods and food security. Although the CIP Ethiopia country office was established in 2009, CIP began collaborating with Ethiopian institutions more than 30 years ago.

Projects

Research and development
• Africa Rising, (USAID funded, USD 0.61 million, 2014–2016): Research on sustainable intensification for the next generation, with the support of ILRI.
• Sweetpotato action for security and health in Africa (SASHA), Ethiopia component, funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USD 0.24 million, 2014–2016).

Research for Development
• Soil fertility and health, Improved Soil Fertility Management for Sustainable Intensification in Potato-Based Systems in Ethiopia and Kenya (funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), EUR 0.6 million, 2014–2017).
• Potato breeding for Africa, CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (USD 0.23 million; 2015).
• Biofortification (Fe, Zn) of potato, biofortified potato varieties to help overcome micronutrient malnutrition, HarvestPlus Challenge program, (USD 82,321; 2015).
• Trait observation and discovery network (€65,270; 2015–2017) with the support of the German aid organization, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).
• Humid Tropics, CGIAR Research Program on Integrated Systems for the (USD 18,190; 2013–2016), Ethiopia component

Progress
• About 1.51 million people targeted through nutrition promotion activities in SNNP, Tigray, Oromia and Amhara regions.
• Over 26,930 households with children under five years of age increase their regular intake of OFSP and other vitamin A rich foods as part of a diversified diet.
• Two new products containing OFSP as a main ingredient available in urban and rural markets.
• Since 1985, 30 CIP potato varieties released by the national system, grown on 26% of the total potato-cultivated area (160,000ha).
• Since 2005, two CIP OFSP varieties were released.
• Infrastructure for decentralized production of disease-free in-vitro plantlets of potato established at Holetta, Mekelle, and Adet agricultural research centres and of sweetpotato at Areka, Mekelle and Adet centres.
• Two aeroponics units and screenhouses at agricultural research centres annually produce around 260,000 disease-free, generation 1 potato minitubers.
• More than 120 farmer cooperatives in SNNP, Oromia, Tigray and Amhara regions produce quality planting material.
• Nearly 180,000 households reached with quality potato seed tubers and 377,000 households with quality sweetpotato planting material.
• Quality-declared-seed inspection system for potato and sweetpotato successfully piloted and approved by the Ethiopian Standard Authority; currently being rolled out in SNNP, Tigray, Amhara and Oromia regions.

Partners
The Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) is CIP’s key partner in Ethiopia. Furthermore, CIP Ethiopia partners with four regional government bureaus of agriculture (BoAs): BoA-SNNPR, BoARD-Tigray, BoA-Amhara and BoA-Oromia; one bureau of education (BoE-Tigray); four regional agricultural research centres: the Amhara Regional Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI), the SNNP Regional Agricultural Research Institute (SARI), the Tigray Regional Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), and the Oromia Agricultural Research Centre (OARI); four international NGOs: Farm Radio International, GOAL, VITA and CARE; three local NGOs: Mums for Mums, Egna Leega and the Women’s Association of Tigray; four universities: Mekelle University (Ethiopia), Hawassa University (Ethiopia), Wageningen University (The Netherlands), and University of Wisconsin (USA); and CGIAR and associated partners: CIMMYT and ICARDA.