Background and Objectives

Background
As part of efforts by CIP Ghana to promote the production, marketing and utilization of sweet potato in general and more specifically the orange flesh sweet potato in Ghana, a sweet potato community need assessment was carried out to generate relevant information to describe the prevailing sweet potato production, marketing and utilization in the selected communities.

Rationale of the study

- To generate relevant information to describe the prevailing sweet potato production, marketing and utilization in the selected communities.
- To guide CIP Ghana to identify entry points and to help in the design of interventions for implementation in the selected districts in the three regions of the North.
- To provide preliminary data which will complement the comprehensive household baseline study to be conducted.

Sampling strategy

- Tolon Kumbungu
  - Dimbi
  - Cheyoshi
- Lawra
  - Touri
  - Eshape
- Barika Central
  - Ninkongo
  - Kpaliga

Survey tools

- Focus group discussions (FGDs)
- Key informant interviews
- Seasonal calendar
- Problem solving tree
- Decision making matrix
- Problem census and prioritization matrix

Results

Problem Solving Tree

PROBLEM
- Lack of planting materials
- Lack of improved varieties
- Poor soils

CAUSES
- Lack of water sources for dry season gardening and animal destruction
- Lack of knowledge on varietal options available
- Intensive continuous cropping

SOLUTION/COPING STRATEGY
- Use of fenced gardens in the off season to maintain planting material
- Sensitization on available varietal options/
demonstrations
- Application of organic and inorganic fertilizers

Varietal Preference Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Skin colour</th>
<th>Flesh colour</th>
<th>NR</th>
<th>UER</th>
<th>UWR</th>
<th>Sum of ranks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V1</td>
<td>Orang e</td>
<td>Dimbi</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V2</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Cheyoshi</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V3</td>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>Kpaliga</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were three major varieties that were found across all three regions. These were ranked from the most important to the least important (1, 2, and 3) with respect to the following attributes: Taste/consumption, Sweetness, Yield potential, Resistance to Pest/diseases attack, Fibrous, Market demand, Market value, and Ease of processing. The variety with the least sum of score is the most preferred and the one with the highest sum of scores is the least preferred.

Results Summary, Conclusions and Suggested Areas of Interventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Northern</th>
<th>Upper West</th>
<th>Upper East</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parameter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Av. Farm size in acres</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yield in jute sack/acre</td>
<td>2.5-10</td>
<td>2.5-15</td>
<td>25-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price per jute sack GHC</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Av. Revenue/acre GHC</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Av. Cost of production/acre GHC</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross margin GHC</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit cost ratio (B/C)</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.025</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Varieties identified</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suggested interventions

- Northern
  - Provision of planting material (seed)
  - Provision of credit facility
  - Identify good market sources

- Upper West
  - Provision of planting material (Seed)
  - Provision of credit facility
  - Identifying good market sources

- Upper East
  - Provision of planting material (Seed)
  - Provision of credit facility
  - Identifying good market sources
  - Provision of tools for land preparation

Acknowledgments

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Literature cited


John K. Bidzakin1, Kwabena Acheremu1, Edward Carey2

1 Savanna Agricultural Research Institute
P. O. Box 52 Tamale, Ghana
2 International Potato Center
P. O. Box 3785 Kumasi, Ghana

E-mail address of corresponding author: bidzakin2@gmail.com

Problem Solving Tree

- Use of fenced gardens in the off season to maintain planting material
- Sensitization on available varietal options/
demonstrations
- Application of organic and inorganic fertilizers

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