



# Breeding pipeline: Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato, EAF 1995-2013

## What's not in this case?: From the Breeding Pipeline ToC:

- Farmer managed seed production and dissemination
- Varietal testing and seed production capacity building for farmers
- Promote seed policies that encourage cultivars for specific niches
- Variety testing and release systems that test varieties under targeted conditions

"Many donors have funded sweetpotato breeding but none was as consistent as McKnight. Because the funding was **consistent and for a long time**, it produced impact. This is a lesson for all donors"

Breeder from OFSP case study [http://c-crp.org/sites/default/files/ofsp\\_case\\_study.pdf](http://c-crp.org/sites/default/files/ofsp_case_study.pdf)

## Informing practice and policy with evidence and analysis

**Publications:** Since 1995, **30 journal articles**, 15 book **chapters**, 20 papers in **conference /workshop** proceedings, 50 technical **reports** and posters.

Take an integrated long-term perspective

Participatory research

## More appropriate variety testing and release systems

•**20 SP varieties released** between 1995 and 2013

**True seed** produced for the Ugandan **SP breeding program** and for many African countries (typical year: 1188,300 kilos were sent to Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Malawi to provide base populations.)

## Availability of high quality seed

- **Demand** for planting material of *NASPO11* increasing
- Seed: worked with **vulnerable populations** on planting material mgt. (HIV/AIDS organizations; internally displaced persons in N. Uganda)
- Links with many **NGOs** and projects to deliver vines
- HarvestChoice REU and many others also **disseminated varieties**

Equity; connect to other development institutions & initiatives

## Characterizing agrobiodiversity

Germplasm with **resistance to weevils and viruses**

- 22 lines with moderate resistance to Alternaria blight
- 11 with low & stable reaction to SP Virus Disease (SPVD)
- 9 stable clones had high yields.

Database with **946 accessions** fully described.

## Multi-functional varieties

In collaboration with participatory varietal selection, advanced clones were selected that combined high vitamin A, pest & disease resistance, and high dry matter and yield.

## Modern breeding tools

- Genetic mapping** of populations
- Molecular genetics of resistance** to weevils and viruses
- Mechanisms** of resistance: Hydroxycinnamic acid esters and caffeic acid found to influence insect resistance
- Screening methods** developed and utilized

## The Need:

**START HERE**

In Uganda, **weevils can destroy 60-100%** of sweet potato production, an important staple crop high in vitamin A.



COLLABORATIVE  
CROP RESEARCH  
PROGRAM

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

## East Africa Community of Practice



## Project Partners

National Crop Resources  
Research Institute



Natural Resources  
Institute, University  
of Greenwich

North Carolina  
State University

National Ag Research Institute

University outside of Region