Breeding Pipeline: OFSP WAf 2005-2010

**Characterizing agrobiodiversity**
(2008) 308 local accessions of sweet potato were collected and 15 OFSP varieties were identified.

**Improved varietal utilization rates:** (2014)
- 99% of direct participants using OFSP varieties. 250% increase in OFSP production.
- Moderate increase in yield per area.
- 96% consumed OFSP products; majority of women were aware of the benefit of consuming OFSP during pregnancy.
- Availability of OFSP planting materials had considerably improved, 83% had a site for conserving cuttings for the next season. However, the area planted with OFSP per producer was still small compared to white sweetpotato.

**The need**
Burkina Faso is classified as one of the countries most severely affected by Vitamin A deficiencies, the sweet potato varieties that are popular have much less vitamin A than the orange flesh varieties (OFSP).

**Stakeholder involvement in priority setting:**
A farmer in Boura village, reported, “Future projects should be implemented and managed in a more participatory manner in order to avoid confidence crises... For example, it should be avoided to talk to one farmer alone... others will believe that he was paid, or that he is anticipating to be paid for the successful implementation of certain activities, for which others contribute the without any compensation.”

**Contextualized scaling:**
Some OFSP varieties that were evaluated and produced in BF have been officially released in Senegal, Mali and Ivory Coast.

**Connect to other development institutions & initiatives**
Project partners stated that a new ‘identity’, beyond institutional boundaries was created and continues their cooperation in other projects, for example one that covers 60 villages and 10 schools.

**Farmer managed seed production and dissemination:**
The number of OFSP vine producers has increased from 30 to 100. The customers come from neighboring villages, other provinces, and neighboring countries.

**Seed production capacity building:**
6 seed producers’ groups in 5 target villages established. The groups received equipment and coaching for OFSP nurseries.

**Invest in capacity building for farmers**
Project intervention 2006-2010:
Increased cuttings available of OFSP varieties introduced in 2001 to schools and producer groups as well as training on benefits of OFSP.

**Test varieties under targeted conditions:**
(2005) Tested 20 OFSP varieties from Uganda in multiple environments, results show that national annual climatic events (e.g. drought) account for variation in yield more than location differences.

**Availability of high quality seed**
Project intervention 2006-2010:
Increased cuttings available of OFSP varieties introduced in 2001 to schools and producer groups as well as training on benefits of OFSP.

**More appropriate variety testing and release system** (2010) 5 high yielding and adapted OFSP were selected after they were tested in research station and on farm trials.

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