

Report of the inception meeting of the National Sweetpotato Multi-Stakeholder Platform

Held under the auspices of the AGRA Demand Creation and Impact Scaling Project for Orange fleshed Sweetpotato (DCIS) and the Ghana Sweetpotato Value Chain Association
October 20, 2021

Participation: On-line (44); In person (23) at WASCAL Conference Room, CSIR Main Campus, Accra

The Sweetpotato Multi-Stakeholder Platform is intended to serve the interests of the Ghanaian sweetpotato industry as it pursues the goal of strengthening sweetpotato value chains to improve health and to generate wealth. The platform is envisaged to be industry-driven but draw on the support of diverse government and other agencies, including agricultural research and extension, education, health, media and lending institutions. The platform was established under the DCIS project but should outlive the project as a body to facilitate communication, articulate industry needs, and organize fora and initiatives to serve sweetpotato value chains.

This second meeting of the multi-stakeholder platform was held in a hybrid, virtual and in-person, format and included project consortium partners along with additional stakeholders from government, universities, and the private sector. Sixty-seven people participated in the meeting (photo gallery, program and attendance list are appended below). The links to most presentations made at the meeting are embedded in the program. Participants included various new private and public sector entrants who had not participated in the initial multi-stakeholder platform meeting. The meeting also attracted on-line participants from several countries, contributing to raising Ghana's profile as a leader in sweetpotato development.
[Link to zoom recording of the meeting.](#)

The program ran from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and focused on progress and prospects on strengthening sweetpotato value chains in Ghana through private and public sector efforts. The program kicked off with welcoming and introductory remarks by Forster Boateng, AGRA Regional Director and Mrs. Nane Annan, Board Member of the Kofi Annan Foundation. These were followed by presentations on international experiences with sweetpotato value addition using puree by Mukani Moyo of the International Potato Center, and efforts at OFSP dissemination over the years in Uganda by HarvestPlus. Presentations from the Nigerian Sweetpotato Forum and the Economic Development Commission for Southern Africa highlighted additional interest and efforts from those regions.

The program then focused on progress and prospects in Ghana, including presentations by Fabian Lange about progress under the DCIS project; by Kwadwo Adofo of CSIR Crops Research Institute about sweetpotato varieties for diverse uses; by Seth Akoto, Directorate of Crop Services on programs of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture; and by Esi Amoafu on efforts by the Ghana Health Service to promote nutrition awareness and utilization of orange-fleshed sweetpotato. Emmanuel Darkey then presented on the Sweetpotato Value Chain Association, a private sector led organization that is expected to promote and strengthen sweetpotato value chains in Ghana beyond the life of the DCIS project. A panel

discussion which included representatives of the Ghana School Feeding Programme, the Women in Agriculture Development Program of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Outgrower and Value Chain Fund, and the Office of the First Lady of Ghana provided information on the work of these agencies and ways that the DCIS project and sweetpotato producers and processors might interact with them. The formal program rounded off with a discussion of potential areas for future focus, with a consensus to work toward expanding use of sweetpotato in the Ghana school feeding, and to promote efforts to stimulate awareness of the potential for easy use of orange-fleshed sweetpotato in Ghanaian diets, thus enhancing demand and commercial opportunities for the crop.

The plenary program was followed by an awareness creation event consisting of an exposition/trade fair by enterprises engaged in sweetpotato production and processing. As an introduction to the event, which was held on an upstairs terrace in the WASCAL building, exhibitors had the opportunity to explain to the on-line audience what they would see at the fair. The zoom link was then moved to the upstairs terrace and each of the exhibits was interviewed. Exhibitors included

- Dorothy Kanney Company Ltd, a consortium partner on the DCIS project, which operates a newly established bakery at Kyebi. They displayed their bread made from puree.
- Maphlix Trust Ghana Ltd, a sweetpotato producer and processor displayed and sold fresh sweetpotato, gari made with orange-fleshed sweetpotato, and Ghanaian dishes made with sweetpotato, intended to give consumers an idea of what to prepare.
- Emmanuel Darkey & Associates displayed newly introduced orange- and purple-fleshed sweetpotato varieties with export and local processing potential, produced at their farm.
- Ohumpong Ghana Ltd and Ansedu Ltd. displayed numerous baked and other sweetpotato value added products (including noodles), some produced in association with Derbez Ghana, Ltd. They are a producer and processor of sweetpotato.
- KAZ Foods, a new entrant into the food processing space, displayed packaged fresh sweetpotato
- VOF Farms displayed fresh harvested roots and vines for planting material.
- Reputed Agriculture 4 Development Foundation displayed and distributed published materials on sweetpotato production and utilization.
- MoFA-WIAD gave a brief slide presentation during the introductory session, highlighting the multiple products that their agency and staff have developed. Noteworthy was a newly developed intensely orange-colored juice, along with a staggering array of traditional preparations and baked products incorporating OFSP.

Snacks and lunch at the event all featured OFSP and were generously contributed by consortium partners.

National press coverage of the meeting was well-organized by consortium partner, Fresh Logistics. Tv3, UTV and Joynews covered the event along with the Business Finder newspaper. Links to news reports are here: [Media report 1](#), [Media report 2](#), [Media report 3](#)

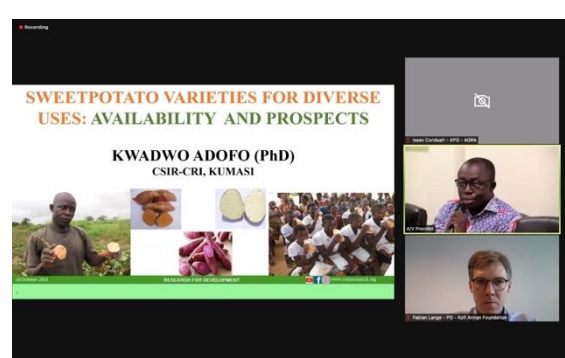
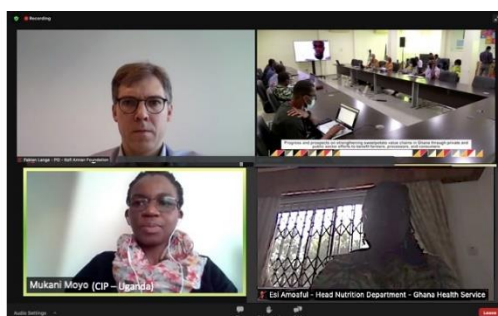
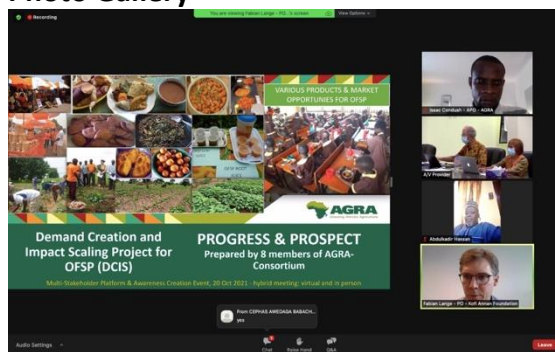
The hybrid meeting was well handled using AGRA-IT support as well as the services of a local videography company that managed the seamless integration of the remote and in-person video feed.

With MOFA-WIAD, the Ghana Health Service and the Ghana School Feeding Programme all engaged in strengthening nutrition education and bringing more healthy food into diets, the

fit with sweetpotato was very evident. However, for sweetpotato become common in school meals there is a need for it to be available at affordable prices. This is a challenge and opportunity for sweetpotato producers and processors. The Sweetpotato Value Chain Association is perceived as a key entity for carrying forward the development of the sweetpotato sector in Ghana. There is a need to strengthen governance and membership to build an effective and viable organization. The presentation by the Outgrower and Value Chain Fund provided information on affordable credit lines available to sweetpotato producers, which will certainly be of interest.

The consensus as the meeting closed was one of excitement at the possibilities and opportunities for pushing forward the development of sweetpotato value chains in Ghana, and determination to press on under the DCIS project to ensure maximum impact from the opportunity that this project affords to consortium partners and others in the sweetpotato sector. Additional multi-stakeholder platform and awareness creation events are planned under the AGRA-DCIS project, and we will do our best to maximize sustainable impact, including strengthening leadership of the Ghana Sweetpotato Value Chain Association.

Photo Gallery





Program for a Sweetpotato Multi-stakeholder Platform and Awareness Creation event

Wednesday 20 October 2021

WASCAL Conference Room, CSIR-Main Campus, Accra, Ghana

Under the auspices of the AGRA Demand Creation and Impact Scaling Project and The Ghana Sweetpotato Value Chain Association

Theme: *Progress and prospects on strengthening sweetpotato value chains in Ghana through private and public sector efforts to benefit farmers, processors, and consumers*

Meeting starts at 9:30 GMT

Time	Topic	Speaker
<i>Call to order – Isaac Conduah, AGRA Associate Programme Officer.</i>		
<i>Time keeper – Ted Carey</i>		
9:30	Welcome and opening remarks	Forster Boateng, AGRA Regional Head
9:40	Introductory Remarks	Mrs. Nane Annan
9:50	Sweetpotato value addition experiences in Sub-Saharan Africa	Mukani Moyo, CIP
10:05	10 years of experience in scaling out OFSP in Uganda	Sylvia Magezi, and Charles Musoke, HarvestPlus
10:20	The Sweetpotato Forum – Catalyzing action in Nigeria and beyond	Abdulkadar Hassan, Sweet Potato Forum, Nigeria
10:30	Sweetpotato industrialization in southern Africa	HE Mpendulo Dlamini, Economic Development Commission for Southern Africa
10:40	Q&A session	Moderator (Isaac Conduah)
10:50	Progress and prospects in Ghana under the AGRA DCIS project	Fabian Lange, Kofi Annan Foundation
11:00	Sweetpotato varieties for diverse uses – Availability and prospects	Kwadwo Adofo, Crops Research Institute
11:10	Sweetpotato in the daily diet of Ghanaians? Progress and prospects	Esi Amoahful, Nutrition Department, Ghana Health Service
11:20	Support for sweetpotato farming under programs of the Ministry and Departments of Agriculture	Seth Akoto, Director of Crop Services, Ministry of Food and Agriculture
11:30	Q&A	Moderator (Isaac Conduah)
11:40	Break	
12:00	The Ghana Sweetpotato Value Chain Association – past, present and future	Emmanuel Darkey

12:10	Access to services and support provided by various agencies (Panel Discussion – Fabian Lange, Kofi Annan Foundation, Moderator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ministry of Trade -Exim Bank -Outgrower and Value Chain Fund -Ghana School Feeding program -Office of the First Lady -MoFA WIAD -MoFA PPRSD
12:40	Discussions of the way forward	Moderator: Ted Carey, Reputed Agriculture 4 Development Foundation
13:00	Introduction to the awareness creation event	<p>Exhibitors to talk briefly (2 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorothy Kanney Company Ltd Ohumpong Ghana Ltd. Casa de Ropa Ltd. Maphlix Trust Ltd. Emmanuel Darkey & Associates KAZ FOODS Veronica Ossei Frimpong Fresh Logistics Reputed A4D Derbez Enterprise Other exhibitors based on interest
13:30	Close of formal event and move to displays	
13:30 – 15:00	Awareness creation event (vendor displays and promotional samples at WASCAL rooftop)	Exhibitors at their displays

Participants in the kick-off meeting of the Sweetpotato Multi-stakeholder Platform

Name	Name of Business or Institution	On-line/Virtual Participation
Forster Boateng	AGRA	In-person
Conduah, Isaac	AGRA	Virtual
Lafourcade, Jessie	AGRA	In person
Genevieve Kakrabah	AGRA	Virtual
Regina Richardson	AGRA	Virtual
Patrick Fitzgerald	Beotronics, Ireland	Virtual
Michael Cullen	Beotronics, Ireland	Virtual
Kwadwo Adobo	CSIR-Crops Research Institute	In person
Nyarkoah Deborah	Derbez Enterprise	In-person
Edwin Zuta	Dorothy Kanney Company Ltd.	In-person
Mpendulo Dlamini	Economic Development Commission for Southern Africa	Virtual
Darkey Emmanuel	E Darkey & Associates	In person
Adontay Cuiden	Fresh Logistics	In-person
Gift Yormekpe	Fresh Logistics	In-person
Prince Kofi Boateng	Fresh Logistics	In person
Esi Foriwaa Amoafu	Nutrition Department, Ghana Health Service	Virtual
Esther Abena Gyinde	Ghana School Feeding Programme	In-person
Sylvia Magezi	HarvestPlus Uganda	Virtual
Charles Musoke	HarvestPlus Uganda	Virtual
Rev. Donald Warren	Hulstein Warren Farms	In-person
Ofosu Stephen Sefah	Hulstein Warren Farms	In-person
Mukani Moyo	International Potato Center	Virtual
Fabian Lange	Kofi Annan Foundation	Virtual
Nane Annan	Kofi Annan Foundation	Virtual
Tesfai Teclé	Kofi Annan Foundation	Virtual
Dr. John-Lewis Zanku	KNUST	In-person
Leonard D.K. De-Souza	KNUST	Virtual
Abdul-Razak A. Banyanil	Maphlix Trust Ghana Ltd	In-person
Benjamin K Agyare	Mampoma Farms Ltd.	In-person
Seth Osei-Akoto	MoFA Directorate of Crop Services	In person
Kwasi Wih	MoFA - PPRSD	Virtual
Paulina Addy	MoFA - Women in Agriculture Development	Virtual
Sheela Sakyi Oppong	Office of the First Lady of Ghana	Virtual
Ernest Amoansah	Ohumpong Investments, Ltd.	In-person
Francis Osei	Outgrower and Value Chain Fund	Virtual
Erna Abidin	Reputed Agriculture 4 Development Foundation	In person

Ted Carey	Reputed Agriculture 4 Development Foundation	In person
Rudy Rabbinge	Reputed Agriculture 4 Development Foundation	Virtual
Kojo Graham	Savannah Yam Exchange/KAZ Foods	In-person
Andrew Kankam	Savannah Yam Exchange/KAZ Foods	In-person
Abdulkadar Hassan	Sweet potato Forum, Nigeria	Virtual
Hussein Muhamed	University of Ghana Dept of Nutrition and Food Science	Virtual
Bennett Dzandu	University of Ghana Dept of Nutrition and Food Science	Virtual
Jerusha Tabiri	University of Ghana	Virtual
Priscilla Barnes	University of Ghana	Virtual
Joyce Ringwald Sakado	Veronica Ossei Frimpong	Virtual
Daniel Dzidzienyo	WACCI	Virtual
Anna Mukiibi-Bunnya	WFP Ghana	In-person
Chris Ibyisintabyo	WFP Ghana	In-person
Patience Asiedu	WFP Ghana	Virtual
Joyce Owigar	WFP Kenya	Virtual
Beverly Kilpin-Peel	UK	Virtual
Jamilatu Alhassan	Ghana	Virtual
Kwasi Ameko	Ghana	Virtual
Cephas Awedaga	Ghana	Virtual
Babachuwe	Ghana	Virtual
Gordon Eredoglo	Ghana	Virtual
Samuel Nyamekye	Ghana	Virtual
Aisha Abdullahi	Nigeria	Virtual
Olaitan Akano	Nigeria	Virtual
Abdullahi Tijjani	Nigeria	Virtual
SULAIMAN	Nigeria	Virtual
Lawal Suraj Gusau	Nigeria	Virtual
Rana Muhammad Azhar Ali	Pakistan	Virtual
Bolton	Ethiopia	Virtual
Albert TIRIVANGANI	South Africa	Virtual
Magnedina Saba	Togo	Virtual
Hansel Nana Kwaw	Ghana	Virtual
Togbi Nyaho Tamakloe VI	Anloga, Ghana	Virtual