

POTENTIAL OF ORANGE-FLESHED SWEETPOTATO FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE PASTORAL **COMMUNITIES OF KARAMOJA, UGANDA**



Norman Kwikiriza¹, Fred Grant¹, Joyce Maru². ¹International Potato Centre, Uganda; ²International Potato Centre, Nairobi

Introduction

• Climate change adaptation requires farmers to build resilience through adopting nutritious and adaptable crops

• Orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP) is a rich source of vitamin A and thrives in harsh climatic conditions

• Towards these goals, OFSP was introduced to pastoral communities in Karamoja

OFSP is suitable for fragile environments like Karamoja because;

- It is early maturing (3-4 months)
- High yielding, with high output per unit area.
- Hardy crop-survives during drought/floods than many crops.

Methods

- Mixed methods approach were used
- Baseline of 138 randomly sampled farmers from Moroto and Kotido
- Qualitative data from FGDs, Field monitoring, stakeholder interviews
- producers Seed established ensure to local availability.
- OFSP distributed to schools and households.
- Health baby toolkits (HBTs) given to caregivers for children under 2 years





OFSP vine recipients in Karamoja





A kitchen garden in Karamoja



OFSP garden in Acherer Primary school, Karamoja



Findings

- •90% of farmers were growing sweetpotato for the first time
- enthusiastic • Farmers were about OFSP although most lost vines due to the long dry period
- Vines survive up to one month in soil without rain, sprouting back quickly when it rains
- Consumption of leaves encourages vine conservation

Utilization of OFSP

- Households consume leaves in addition to roots. Leaves are very good source of vitamins and minerals.
- •The Healthy baby tool kits complemented (HBTs) utilization of OFSP in promoting young child and maternal nutrition



Vine multiplication in Karamoja



Training on use of Health baby **Toolkits**

Conclusions

• The results show high adoption of OFSP in fragile environments

- High yields (6 t/ha) above national average (4.8 t/ha) shows high potential despite climatic shocks.
- Various ways of utilization make OFSP an important food security and nutritious crop
- Integrating OFSP in fragile communities is efficient and cost-effective in addressing insecurity food and malnutrition



Good OFSP yield in Karamoja









Farmers learn how to plant OFSP