



BASICS PROGRAM:
Village Seed Entrepreneurs
*(Catholic Relief Services and National
Root Crops Research Institute)*



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Program on
Roots, Tubers
and Bananas

Ibadan
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Component Overview: Vision

VSEs are commercially supplying farmers with high quality planting materials of new, improved and/or existing varieties produced from certified basic seeds.

Overview: Theory of change/Key Drivers



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- Promotion of farmer-preferred varieties for different agro-ecologies and end uses
- Identify, engage, train and mentor VSEs
- Brand and promote VSEs as high quality seed source network.
- Link VSEs with BSPs, input suppliers and market.

Unique skills of Component Lead(s) .

NRCRI and CRS have:

- Experience in cassava seed systems
- Experienced staff
- Good working relationship with IITA, ADP, FMARD and NASC.
- Good understanding of project's location/environment
- Grassroots reach

Key Results

1. ≥ 130 VSEs consistently produce high-quality stems commercially on ≥ 950 ha in 4 years.
2. VSEs consistently procure certified Basic Seed (BS)
3. VSEs sell at least 50% of seed produced.
4. VSEs are widely known and recognized as major source of good quality planting materials.
5. VSEs sell stem at premium price compared to other sellers.

Key Results: Lead Indicators

- # of VSEs
- # of ha cultivated
- % of VSEs fields established with Basic Seed
- # of bundles produced and sold
- # of ha certified
- # of stem buyers
- Price per bundle

Key Results

Challenges:

- Weather risks
- Limited knowledge of returns (certified vs recycled seeds)
- Competition with uncertified stem sellers
- Availability of sufficient planting materials for VSEs
- Farmers' willingness to pay more for certified seeds

Opportunities

- Commercialization of cassava stem.
- Upcoming Cargill cassava factory in Kogi state and SMEs in the SE/SS
- High seed price in the SE/SS than other locations.
- High population of cassava farmers in Benue state.

2016 Work Plan: Milestones



- ≥ 50 VSEs identified and trained
- Operations in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Benue and Imo states
- ≥ 50 VSEs linked with agro-input suppliers
- 11 Private and public extension officers trained
- ≥ 10 ha of BSP fields established
- ≥ 40 ha of VSE fields established
- ≥ 35 ha of VSE fields certified
- ≥ 15 demo plots established
- Awareness and sensitization of farmers/out-growers/SMEs undertaken

2016 Milestone- Interdependencies



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- Training of trainers (ADP/NGO staff)-
 - **NASC/Input agencies**
- Training of VSEs
 - **NASC/Input agencies**
- Certification of VSE fields
 - **NASC**

2016 Milestones Challenges

- Communal conflicts
- Continuous patronage of agro-dealers
- Weather risks
- Supply of materials from BSPs to VSEs
- Decimation of fields by cattle

Conclusion



Commitment and synergy will get the cassava seed system right this time!

Q &A – 10 minutes



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