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

- 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
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

- Training of trainers (ADP/NGO staff)-
  - NASC/Input agencies

- Training of VSEs
  - NASC/Input agencies

- Certification of VSE fields
  - NASC
• 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