Building an Economically Sustainable, Integrated Seed System for Cassava in Nigeria

BASICS

Project Overview

Ibadan
18 April 2016
• Diagnosis: low productivity seed
• What are we going to do?
• Seed value chain & outcomes
• Project components
Diagnosis: Low Productivity of seed

- Limited Technology / Seed Uptake
- Low Multiplication Rates
- Low Storability
- Pest & Disease
Diagnosis: Common Supply Side Issues

Pre-basic seed producers
- Virtual Monopoly
- Variable quality control
- Limited capacity to maintain varieties
- No centralized Information systems

Basic seed producers
- No / low self-selection
- Low use of diagnostics / use of protocols
- Variable quality
- Low varietal access
- Limited information
- Project dependent

Commercial growers
- Limited voice
- Low quality control
- Few varieties on offer
- Low Demos and awareness creation
- Missing business skills
- Women underrepresented or “invisible”
Diagnosis: Demand Side Challenges

Projects
- Allocate subsidies w/ short term mindset
- Limited knowledge on varieties
- Willingness to overpay
- Low / no effort for farmers to pay

Processors / Industry
- Limited knowledge on varieties
- Cost passed on to farmers

Farmers
- Low varietal knowledge and access
- Limited aggregation of demand
- Willingness to pay not well understood
- Seed management practices poor
Diagnosis: Lack of Value Chain Integration

Supply
- Pre-basic seed producers
- Basic seed producers
- Commercial seed growers

Demand
- Farmers
- Processors / Industry
- Projects
What are we going to do?

Develop a sustainable cassava seed value chain, characterized by the commercialization of production and dissemination of cassava planting material.
Seed Value Chain & project components

Seed Quality & Protocols

Pre-basic seed → Basic seed producers → Commercial seed growers → Farmers / Seed Users

Consumer Demand & Money

Seed & Information
Outcomes:

- Improved capacity to avail virus-free pre-basic seed of improved and popular cultivars
- Sufficient quantities, reasonable price for basic seed producers/companies
Outcomes

- 3+ basic seed companies selling high quality basic seed:
  - Processor led multiplication
  - NRCRI
- Quantities adequate for processors and village nurseries
- Application of innovative and profitable rapid propagation technologies (eg SAH)
Outcomes: processor led multiplication

- Innovative and commercially viable commercial stem businesses to serve high quality cassava value chains
- Integrate a system to improve supply assurance and tracking of high starch content roots
- Yield gains to improve return on investment (ROI) for commercial & small-holder farmers
Outcomes: village seed entrepreneurs

- 200+ village level seed out-growers
- Increased income
- Equality opportunity women and men
- Sale of quality seed of new, farmer, and market preferred varieties
- Technically competent stem production
- Adept at marketing and extension
Outcomes

• Improved productivity and food security
• Improved adoption, and ability to pay: high quality planting materials of improved and popular cultivars
Outcomes

Seed Quality & Protocols

- Appropriate regulatory/certification framework steps on seed value chain
- Quality control and assurance, cost-effective disease diagnostics
- Seed purchasers protected
- Enabling environment for commercial cassava stem producers
Outcomes

• Viable interconnected seed businesses along value chain
• Increased coordination among regulators, stem producers, stem buyers and cassava processing businesses
• Improved understanding of market opportunities for stem sales through operational seed research
• Evidence base of what works
## Project components

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<td>Context Network &amp; Sahel</td>
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<td>Seed quality and protocols</td>
<td>NASC, FERA, NRCRI &amp; IITA</td>
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Summary: five unique features!

- Driven by linked businesses along seed value chain
- Novel rapid multiplication technology (SAH) to overcome seed bottlenecks
- Private sector processor led multiplication
- Quality control by NASC in early generations
- Strong emphasis on learning about what works