

Disease-free Orange and Purple Sweetpotato Vine Multiplication Improves Production and Processing Capacity

Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) scientists finished a demonstration plot at their experiment station, as part of an effort to improve production of disease-free planting materials for high-value orange and purple sweetpotato crops and enhance the capacity of local farmers in Tamale and Bawku.



To meet this objective, the Sustainable Technology for Orange and Purple Sweetpotatoes (STOPS) project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the UC Davis Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research in Horticulture Program, provided clean orange and purple sweetpotato planting materials and helped plant the plot for multiplication of the clean vines at SARI. These clean vines will be distributed to selected farmers who will multiply and produce large numbers of disease-free sweetpotato plants. These plants will then be made available to approximately 100 farmers in the Northern and Upper East regions on a large scale at low cost.





The Sustainable Technology for Orange and Purple Sweetpotatoes (STOPS) project trains farmers, processors, women organizations and school children in sweetpotato farming and gardening,



harvesting, storage and consumption.

Several products such as flour, puree, bread and



complementary foods have been developed from the orange and purple sweetpotatoes for nutritional benefits. This increases the collaboration between public and private sectors for employment



and reduces vitamin A and iron deficiencies in women and children. STOPS's support increases SARI's capacity to disseminate sweetpotato production techniques and consumption through promotion and marketing of programs to students, farmers and small businesses interested in establishing enterprises through the utilization of orange and purple sweetpotato crops.

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