Sweetpotato for Human Food and Nutrition

Vital Hagenimana
### Profit margins (‘000 Ushs) for producing major crops in Soroti, Uganda.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Category</th>
<th>Cassava Profit</th>
<th>Cassava Hirecost</th>
<th>Sweetpotato Profit</th>
<th>Sweetpotato Hirecost</th>
<th>Groundnuts Profit</th>
<th>Groundnuts Hirecost</th>
<th>Millet Profit</th>
<th>Millet Hirecost</th>
<th>Sorghum Profit</th>
<th>Sorghum Hirecost</th>
<th>Rice Profit</th>
<th>Rice Hirecost</th>
<th>Other crops (Vegetables) Profit</th>
<th>Other crops (Vegetables) Hirecost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wealthy</td>
<td>2,887</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>3,082</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>1,474</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>3,415</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium wealthy</td>
<td>2,724</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>3,668</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>2,621</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>3,363</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>1,577</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8,222</td>
<td>1,308</td>
<td>10,114</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>3,705</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>1,784</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>3,927</td>
<td>487</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wealthy category**
- Oxen for cultivation with some cows and goats for cash;
- Enough food throughout the year;
- Utilities such as a bicycles, an ox-plough and a radio;
- May be employed or having educated children;
- Hire labour regularly.

**Medium wealthy category**
- Hire oxen or shares with a neighbour;
- Have food throughout the year;
- Have a few goats;
- Have shared utilities like a plough;
- May be employed and have children going to school.

**Poor category**
- Normally widower orphans or widowed;
- Do not have food throughout the year;
- Are casual labourers in neighbours’ fields for food or money;
- Do not have cattle but may have a few goats or pigs;
- Use mainly hand hoes for their own field operations.
β-Carotene equiv. (μg/100g fresh root)

- β-carotene
- Total Carotenoids

Orange — White
HPLC profile showing main sweetpotato carotenoids from cultivar Kakamega 4 at $\lambda = 450\text{nm}$.
Countries Categorized by Degree of Public Health Importance of Vitamin A Deficiency: April 1995

Beyond Home Gardens.....

Role of Sweet Potato as Basic Food Staple

- None Grown
- Primary Staple: >75 kgs per capita annually
- Secondary Food Staple
Introduction of New Cultivars:
Marginal Change in Diet
it’s the texture, not the color

Improved Utilization

- Higher yielding
- Rich in Beta-Carotene
- Earlier maturing
Introduction of Processed Products

- Bakery products
  - ⇒ lower costs...
  - ⇒ higher profits

Improve the product color
Strong influence on the micro-enterprise sale

- Competition: 50%
- Local taxes: 40%
- Consumer needs: 40%
- Marketing: 70%
- Lack of standard process & equipment: 75%
- Product quality: 92%
- Lack of support for risk taking: 94%
- BULKINESS
- PERISHABILITY
Very clean Roots
Ready to be Sliced