

24 Sweetpotato utilization

Background

Sweetpotato roots and vines can be utilized in many ways. Whether or not farm families utilize the produce on-farm depends a lot on the farming enterprise system, local marketing opportunities of both raw material and processed products, and farmers' familiarity with adapted technologies. Farm-level utilization could add considerable value to the produce, but mostly implies capital and human resource investment. Therefore, opportunities for utilization have to be analyzed on a case by case basis.

Objective

After completing this activity the participants:

- Have analyzed the opportunities of sweetpotato utilization under local conditions.
- Gained knowledge and skills related to simple sweetpotato processing techniques.

Materials

- Newsprint paper.
- Felt-tip markers.

Activity steps

A *Adding value to the sweetpotato crop*

- A.1 The facilitator explains the purpose of this activity, i.e. to inventory participants' experience with and analyze opportunities of sweetpotato utilization under the prevailing conditions.
- A.2 The participants are divided into small groups and asked to discuss their experiences with utilization of sweetpotato roots and vines. Each group should list the various types of utilization its members

have practiced. The groups should give a multiplication rate representing the additional value of (or increased income from) the sweetpotato crop as a result of utilization, as compared to direct selling of the produce. This should be done for each type of utilization. The result of the discussion is written on a sheet of newsprint paper.

- A.3 Each small group presents the results to the other groups. The facilitator draws some overall conclusions.
- A.4 After the discussion, the group could decide whether or not they have an interest in learning more about one or more (improved) utilization techniques, e.g. preparation of flour from sweetpotato storage roots, preparation of animal feed from sweetpotato vines, or a cross-visit to a processing enterprise or industry. The activities should be scheduled for other FFS sessions, since they require prior arrangements and preparation of materials. The date of holding the session(s) and responsibilities for preparing the materials should be agreed upon by the group. The facilitator should prepare the session(s) based on information given in section 6.8 (Part III), or involve someone experienced in the technique to be practiced.

For more information see:

- Sweetpotato utilization (Part III, Section 6.8)

Notes
