Scaling Up Biofortification: Iron Beans in Rwanda

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Supplementation

Fortification

Agricultural Approaches

Dietary Diversity
Biofortification - the Evidence

- Breeding increases nutrient levels without reducing yield
- Extra nutrients in crops improve micronutrient status
- Farmers are growing biofortified crops, and consumers are eating them
- Biofortification is cost-effective: central, one-time investment
More than 2 million farming households reached by 2014. Crops released are high-yielding with climate smart traits.
Scaling Biofortified Crops Globally

NUTRITIOUS STAPLE FOOD CROPS: WHO IS GROWING WHAT?

These crops have been conventionally bred to be rich in essential vitamins and minerals that are needed for good health.
Which nutrients, crops, countries?

• First varieties officially released in 2010
• Intensive dissemination began in March 2012
• Delivery Channels:
  – Agro-dealers
  – Farmer cooperatives
  – Churches & church Leaders
  – Direct marketing
  – Payback system
  – Seed swap
Sharing seed – farmer to farmer
Engaging Markets for Long-term Adoption
Empowering women farmers
Using Mass Media to Create Demand

Dissemination Since March 2012

**Seasons 2012B_2013A_2013B_2014A_2014B**

**Legend**

- ▲ Agrodealers_2013B
- ▲ Agrodealers_2013A
- ⬤ Seed_multipliers_2014B
- ○ Markets_2014B
- ▲ Agrodealers_2014B
- ⬤ Seed_multipliers_2014A
- ○ Markets_2014A
- ▲ Agrodealers_2014A
- ⬤ Seed_multipliers_2013B
- ○ Markets_2013B
- ⬤ Seed_multipliers_2013A
- ○ Markets_2013A
- ⬤ Seed_multipliers_2012B
- ○ Markets_2012B
- ▲ Agrodealers_2012B
- ○ District boundary

Kilometers
Some Key Partners

- Ministry of Agriculture/RAB
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- IMBARAGA Rwanda Farmer Federation
- Pan Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA/CIAT)
- Win-Win Agritech
- World Food Programme/P4P
Toward a sustainable market-based solution

Next Steps:

• Scaling up through even more partners in the bean value chain -- private sector, NGOs, and multilaterals
• Strengthening seed systems and market linkages
• Reaching a critical, sustainable market share for iron beans
• Introducing more biofortified crops/micronutrients, e.g., vitamin A maize
• Generating/sharing evidence and lessons learned in scaling up, in Rwanda and with other countries
Thank You!

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