

ENHANCING ROOT, TUBER AND BANANA CROPS' CONTRIBUTION TO FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

CHAT TRANSCRIPT

MAY 27, 2021

PRESENTERS

Graham Thiele, CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers, and Bananas

James Legg, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

Margaret McEwan, International Potato Center's Regional Office for Africa

Frederick Grant, International Potato Center

MODERATOR

Zachary Baquet, USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security

[Dick Tinsley] sound check please

[Adam Ahmed] Hi Dick, we'll be starting in just a minute

[Murat SARTAS] Hi All

[Kim Chinda] hi

[] hi

[Frew Beriso] Hi

[Essegbemon Akpo] Hello

[Erna Abidin] Hi

[] Hi

[Erna Abidin] Good afternoon from The Netherlands/Ghana

[Adam Ahmed] Hi everyone, glad to have you with us today!

[Dr. Anjana kholia] Hello everyone

[Adam Ahmed] As a reminder, you can access the slides on the Agrilinks Event Page here <https://www.agrilinks.org/events/enhancing-root-tuber-and-banana-crops-contribution-food-and-nutrition-security>

[Dr. Anjana kholia] Good evening

[l.mwaura@cgiar.org] Hello greetings from Nairobi Kenya, Lucy CIP

[Graham Thiele] Hullo and welcome everyone!

[Diana McLean] Greetings All. Diana her from the Cornucopia Group in Canada

[Guest] Good morning the Virgin Islands

[prerna garg] Hello Everyone, Trust all of you are doing well. Prerna, A Dialogue <https://www.instagram.com/adialogue/>

[Jorge Andrade-Piedra] Good morning and greetings from Lima, Peru!

[Karen Garrett] Hi Everyone, greetings from University of Florida in the US

[Dan Norell] Hello, I am Dan Norell, Principal Consultant, Economic Development, EconDev International LLC, based in metro Washington, D.C.

[Elon Gilbert] greetings from the Jocko Valley

[Claude Nankam] Morning. Claude Nankam from Food For the Hungry

[Dr. Anjana kholia] Good evening

[Maria Christy Tacugue] Hi! Christy here from IIRR in the Philippines..

[] hi there! greetings from Wageningen!!!

[Murat SARTAS] Greetings, Murat SARTAS, Wageningen University and CGIAR

[Tom Van Mourik] Hi everyone, Tom van Mourik from KIT Royal Tropical Institute here. Happy to attend the webinar and curious to learn more about the findings of colleagues at CIP, IITA and elsewhere

[Erik Delaquis] Good evening from Vientiane, Lao PDR / CGIAR

[Nelsa English-Johnson] Good Morning I am Nelsa English-Johnson from WUSC Caribbean Jamaica

[Dr. Anjana kholia] Greeting from India, Dr. Anjana Kholia

[] Gd evening

[Louise Sperling] Louise Sperling SeedSystem, USA. Good morning

[Michael Friedmann] Hello, Michael Friedmann, Science Officer RTB, greetings from the CGIAR RTB program

[Guest] hi everyone ! Aarti from MEDA Uganda

[Guest] working on Banana seed system in East Africa

[Pauline Kariuki] Hello everyone Pauline-Rural Women Network (kenya) A platform for rural grassroot women agricultural producers focusing on food ,nutrition and economic security while championing climate smart and conservation agriculture
pauline@ruralwomenkenya.org

[kien nguyen van] hi everyone, greeting from prc, hanoi, Vietnam

[] Good evening. Jayaprakas from ICAR CTCRI, Trivandum, India

[Sina Yun] Hello everyone. Good Evening from Cambodia

[zaidi tajuddin] greeting, i'm zaidi from Malaysia

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Welcome Everyone! Thank you for joining us today!

[Ramatu Mahama] Hello everyone. Ramatu Mahama Al-Hassan, a freelance consultant. Researched on cassava in Ghana over 30 years ago

[] Gd evening everyone. Dr. Neeraj Singh from India

[Ly Ky] Hi everyone, Good evening and greeting from Ly Ky Cambodia

[Uldean Trim] Good morning all. I am tuning in from Anguilla

[Reginald Toussaint] Good morning, Reginald Toussaint from Haiti

[Robsone Benedicto] Hello, im Robsone from Tanzania looking forward to learn much in this seminar

[Nadira Saleh] Hello everyone! Nadira here from MEDA Canada, working on cassava seed systems in Tanzania

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Greetings Ramatu, Ly, and Uidean!

[] Hello Everyone, I'm Dotun from Nigeria NG

[Kizito Kiiza] Hello everyone! Kiiza here from Uganda

[Erna Abidin] Yes, please

[Erik Delaquis] No we can't see it

[Joyce Maru] Hello Everyone. Joyce Maru from CIP Nairobi working on scaling Orange-fleshed sweetpotato to contribute food and nutrition security. looking forward to the interactions around RTB crops

[] Hello ! I am Abdulmujeeb from Nigeria

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Hello Reginald, Robsone, and Nadira! Glad you could join us!

[] Hello everyone, Greetings from Kampala, Uganda

[Uldean Trim] yes

[Kizito Kiiza] Yes we can see

[John Scicchitano] I'm representing Pangea Ventures, a small company supporting investment in African agribusiness. One of our clients is a sweet potato producer and exporter in Ghana, Maphlix Trust. I'm eager to hear more about the efforts to promote commercial investment, including Farmer Allied Intermediaries.

[zaidi tajuddin] I'm an agriculture officer (industry relation & extension), Centre for Relation and Network (CiRNeT), Universiti Putra Malaysia

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Check out the posts on RTB on Agrilinks:
<https://www.agrilinks.org/post/importance-roots-tubers-and-bananas-more-sustainable-food-future>

[Jan Low] Jan Low-- an orange-fleshed sweetpotato believer and let's not ignore the unexploited potential of ahipa-- a nutrition-fixing root crop

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Welcome John and Zaidi!

[Aneela zameer durrani] Prof Dr Aneela UVAS

[prerna garg] Glad to e-meet you all! We are research group focusing on Roots ,Tubers research. We work in different part of India. Looking forward to the interaction. Best, Prerna, A Dialogue, prerna@adialogue.in

[Deirdre Holcroft] Hi.I am representing the Postharvest Education Foundation.

[] Good evening. Jayaprakas, Entomologist, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, India.
prakashcaj@gmail.com

[] Hello all. Serah Hinga from Kenya. I am an entrepreneur with an agro processing enterprise doing value addition to tubers like Sweett potato, Arrowroot, Yam and we make nutritious flour that we sell to the community.
Honored to be here.

[Elohor Mercy Diebiru-Ojo] Greetings from IITA Ibadan Nigeria, I am Mercy Diebiru-Ojo, Cassava and yam seed systems specialist!

[2021-05-27 09:44:10] [abdul razak alimon] Hello, I am Alimon , Greetings from Malaysia

[May-Guri Saethre] Hello looking forward to an interesting seminar, (Norad Norway)

[Frew Beriso] Hello everyone, I am Frew. I work for Food for the Hungry – Africa region as Food & Livelihoods Security Advisor

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Thank you for joining us Dr. Aneela, Prema, and Deirdre!

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Welcome Alimon, May-Guri, and Frew!

[Stephen] Welcome Frew!

[Mark Tokula] Good afternoon from NRCRI Umudike Nigeria .I am Mark Tokula working on cassava and yam seed systems

[Stephen] Hi Mercy and Mark, nice to see familiar names from Nigeria.

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Whenever you have questions, please click on the Q&A button to your right. Let us know who your question is for.

[Stephen] Great to see you here Erik and Jan!

[Elohor Mercy Diebiru-Ojo] Thank you Stephen! good to see you again too

[Mark Tokula] Thank you Stephen. so nice to see you

[] Thank you Zachary Baquet, looking forward to Q&A

[Stephen] Thankful for presence of Norad, welcome May-Guri!

[Shamim Ara Begum] Why it is women crops???

[Dan Norell] How can development organizations facilitate more informal and formal sector investment in RTBs?

[Erna Abidin] Hello everybody, I am representing our NGO, Reputed Agric 4 Dev Stichting and Foundation. Currently, our NGO has focussed on sweetpotato crop (seed system and value chains partnering with private sectors and relevant government agencies) in Ghana, under the management of Ted Carey and Erna Abidin. You are welcome to visit our activities at our webpage/blog: (<https://reputeda4d.nl/portfolio/>). 🙋.

[Setegn Gebeyehu] Hi everyone. Greetings from CIP Ethiopia. Setegn

[Stephen] Great question Dan Norell!

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Whenever you have questions, please click on the Q&A button to your right and enter it there. Let us know who your question is for. We will pose questions to speakers after all presentations.

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Thanks for sharing Erna!

[Stephen Kwame Torkpo] Hi everyone. Stephen from FOHCREC, University of Ghana

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Welcome Setegn and Stephen! Thanks for joining us!

[] Hello everyone. Happy to meet you. Adams Nkwatsibwe (Food Scientist). Representing Nkwatsi Post-harvest Consult Ltd in Uganda. We've been in Banana value-chain for over 6 years empowering banana value-chain actor's and processing bananas to ready to drink banana juice

[Stephen] Love the slide on seed source - thanks for this Margaret!

[] Hi, I'm Mary Okpala from Federal Polytechnic Oko, Nigeria. Interested in value addition of cassava as an ingredient in Insect snack food.

[Marilyn B. Balderas] Greetings everyone! Marilyn Balderas from CBSUA, Philippines

[Aarti Mahajan] @ Adam would like to connect to learn more on banana processing and banana value chains

[] That's true the seed need to be developed from the Farmer/user varieties. in Uganda, we've some banana varieties that have been rejected by farmers even when NARO has tried to talk good of them

[John Scicchitano] For seed source: is the market for particular varieties also a consideration? We found that the EU market for sweetpotato was different from varieties being planted in Ghana.

[] @Mahajan, sure

[Karen Garrett] This link for tools4seedsystems.org has lots of information about each of the tools, and examples of each being applied and their combinations

[Helen Hambly] Tools4SeedSystems online training looks like a great option - how many can you accommodate in the training event? How can we get info out to intermediaries in extension services and NGOs?

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Whenever you have questions, please click on the Q&A button to your right and enter it there. Let us know who your question is for. We will pose questions to speakers after all presentations.

[Tom Van Mourik] Cassava is a wet product (~60%?) and maize nearly dry though (5%)

[Tom Van Mourik] So in terms of dry matter, I guess maize is more important in SSA

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Thanks for everyone who has posted a question. Remember you can upvote questions posted by others

[] Nice presentation James, I like the idea that the eye is the best diagnostic tool for cassava viruses in 2021 👍😊

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] This webinar is being recorded. We will send out the recording, transcripts, and other resources in about a week.

[Uldean Trim] Thank you.

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] You can also visit the Agrilinks Events page where we will post these materials. <https://www.agrilinks.org/events/enhancing-root-tuber-and-banana-crops-contribution-food-and-nutrition-security>

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Slide deck is currently available for download on the Agrilinks Events page

[Willy Mulimbi] Glad to hear AI is now taken to the cassava field. Thanks for sharing, James.

[] James, if the plant is infected by cassava mosaic virus at later stage, will it affect its yield.

[zaidi tajuddin] Thanks, Zachary for the info

[Tanya Stathers] Great to see increasing use of the cassava disease identification aspects of the Nuru app. What about sweetpotato viruses – any action on an equivalent app yet? Anything on banana or plantain crops?

[Tanya Stathers] Also, beyond disease symptoms in the leaves, are there visual symptoms in the planting sticks or vines or suckers of the RTB crops which a similar app could help in removing the contaminated seed and spreading risks?

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] @Tanya please whenever you have questions, please click on the Q&A button to your right and enter it there. Let us know who your question is for. Thanks!

[Jonathan Schofield] Nice talk Dr. James Legg, great to learn about these digital tools!

[Uldean Trim] ???

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Thanks @Tanya! You were ahead of me!

[Tanya Stathers] ;-)

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] Please note that you can explore more on RTB and access more resources through the posts on Agrilinks: <https://www.agrilinks.org/post/importance-roots-tubers-and-bananas-more-sustainable-food-future>

[] Nice presentation Fred 👍 It's amazing how OFSP is contributing to household food security and reducing malnutrition in refugee areas

[Erik Delaquis] Tanya - symptoms on planting stems of cassava are very difficult to identify - even for experts! That's the reason it's so important to work on the seed system - once infected stems are circulating it's very hard to separate them out

[] The collaboration with relief organizations including WFP, LWF, Mercy Corps and DLGs is a game changer for both agri- and food- systems

[] I am learning so much of the technologies developed. They can be very applicable to the Jamaican food system

[] exploring ofsp puree in transit centers will require some significant work to ensure shelf stability but possible

[] I am in SEMI-ARID Northern Kenya. What are the best practices for extending sweet-potato production into dryland areas?

[Pamela K. Anderson] Congratulations and thank you to the entire RTB program and partners for the work that you have advanced over the past decade - and to the donors for your support! I am so impressed with the progress that you all have made.

[John Scicchitano] While the potential of RTB esp OFSP is exciting, the lack private sector engagement is disappointing, especially when market systems and trade are so valued. Meanwhile there is booming interest in investment in agribusiness SMEs. How can CIP - and private partners - bring these together?

[prerna garg] Hello Zachary: This question we posted in Q&A is for Graham- Hello: What is your viewpoint for conservation of traditional ecological knowledge of wild seasonal tubers which is known to tribal population and smallholder farmers and provide sustenance? It can

have a great value for biodiversity and gene bank. We come across this unexplored TEK in our research.

[] Here in Buhweju in Uganda OFSP is not less liked compared to other varieties of sweet potatoes. It's only children who eat it due to it's attracting orange color. How can we match with other varieties in terms of taste and texture?

[Konanani Liphadzi] For some reason i can not hear or see the presentations. I can only see the chats and Q&A

[] I would not say they are really neglected but there is always balance between food security crops and commercialization of the crop. food security can rapidly become extremely commercial and display their role. maize is a good example in the US for biofuel although production is significant to balance the negative impacts of the shift. this might be slightly different for biofortified crops

[] long term shelf storage and stability will make rtb crops more valuable when they can be used during lean season response for example

[Dr L.N Horn] Greetings from Namibia, Magraret Anne how do we contact you?

[Helen Hambly] This has been a great session - thank you for your important work. Looking forward to seeing the presentations shared widely as well as the important Q&A content. It's been very useful.

[Jan Low] We have introduced OFSP in Orissa state India for several years.

[Kazal Kumar Basak] Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute and INGOs are working with BARI SP 4, 7,8,9 with it's expansion.

[Jan Low] Also Game-changing--widespread incorporation of biofortified sweetpotato & in the pipeline the iron enhanced potato

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] What do you see as game changers for RTB?

[John Scicchitano] for consideration: more private sector engagement, more investment promotion, more pilots on processing, more market research on ag products including puree, more blended finance and support to farmer allied intermediaries and SMEs.

[Dick Tinsley] Thank you for a very interesting webinar on this important but overlooked crops

[Zachary Baquet (USAID)] @Konanani The recording will be posted to the Agrilinks events page and emailed to registered participants

[Jan Low] Processing opportunities will certainly be a driver, and should emphasis retaining nutrient quality in the final product

[Stephen] Great point James, ICT will be a game changer on so many fronts -- this webinar just one example - as low cost means to raise knowledge, introduce innovation, build feedback loops with stakeholders and farmers.

[Stephen] The yield gap - opportunity for raising yield across the RTB's - is the unifying principle for all of the innovations.

[Adam Ahmed] <https://www.agrilinks.org/events/enhancing-root-tuber-and-banana-crops-contribution-food-and-nutrition-security>

[Daniel van Gilst] Thanks for a good seminar.

[Adam Ahmed] Thanks for joining everyone!!

[Diego Naziri] Thank you Zachary and all speakers. Great talk!

[] Great webinar

[zaidi tajuddin] Thanks for a good seminar

[prerna garg] Thank you Everyone & Zachary for the wonderful moderation! Prerna

[Kazal Kumar Basak] Thanks for good presentation.

[Erna Abidin] Thank you for a great event!!

[Murat SARTAS] Thanks everyone for the interesting session

[Raul Itong] Thank you all for the webinar...kudos!

[] thanks

[Setegn Gebeyehu] Thank you

[zaidi tajuddin] stay safe everyone n take care

[Ly Ky] Thank you

[] thank you so much

[Mark Tokula] Great ! Stay safe