

GOLDEN MAIZE VARIETIES (VITAMIN A BIOFORTIFIED)

Biofortified maize with vitamin A

TECHNOLOGY / SOLUTION



Golden maize is a pro-vitamin A-enriched variety.

Central and South America lines that are naturally provitamin A enriched are crossed with elite natural land varieties and hybrid lines of local maize. The local varieties have high yield potentials and are disease resistant and drought tolerant.

PROBLEM / ISSUE SOLVED

- Vitamin A deficiency is a prevalent identified deficient among children and pregnant women in low-income SSA countries
- Vitamin A deficiency is the also the leading cause of blindness and reduced immune system in children
- 50% of children between the ages of 6 months to 5 years in SSA suffer from vitamin A deficiency
- Most staple foods, including maize, contain low levels of vitamins and minerals

GOOD FOR
Small-scale farmers,
Commercial farmers, Private and
community-based Seed suppliers



BENEFITS

- ✓ Contains 2 to 3 times more provitamin A than traditional maize varieties
- ✓ Provide half of the daily vitamin A requirement for adults
- ✓ The beta-carotene in golden maize is preserved during storage and processing, unlike common varieties of maize
- ✓ Resistance also to drought, pests and diseases
- ✓ Suitable varieties of golden maize are available for all major growing areas in SSA
- ✓ Golden Maize significantly reduces the risk of crop failure thus leading to more stable domestic food security and economies



Quality characteristic
Speciality

Maize
Commodity

\$US0.8 - 1.2 per Kg of seed
Purchase price

10 - 20% increase
in yield per Ha
Added value

ALREADY IN USE IN



Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the
Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana,
Cameroon, Mali, Malawi, Zambia,
Zimbabwe, Rwanda

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Golden maize varieties are cultivated following best planting methods, and soil and fertilizer management prescribed for particular growing areas and conditions. On farmlands with low soil fertility status, like there are many in Africa, it is recommended the combination with legume intercropping or rotation, manure application and mulching in order to improve availability of nutrients and water for the golden maize crop.

