

OFSP Village: A Community Transformed in Shashamane Woreda, Ethiopia

In a step towards enhancing food security and economic resilience, the International Potato Center (CIP) under the TAAT II OFSP Compact Project signed a Sub-Grant Agreement (SGA) with the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) in 2023. Through this partnership, CIP and EIAR have focused on producing Early Generation Seed (EGS) of orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP) varieties and providing high-quality planting materials to Decentralized Vine Multipliers (DVMs), while creating awareness and demand among farmers. Central to this project is the Wondo Genet Agricultural Research Centre (WGRC), one of EIAR's research centers. WGRC has been instrumental in multiplying clean planting materials and sharing knowledge with surrounding communities.



Just 15 kilometers from WGRC, a village in Shashamane Woreda is being transformed, earning the nickname “OFSP Village.” Here, OFSP has become highly valued, selling for ETB 60 per kilogram—higher than the price of maize. Mr. Tashome, a farmer and recent beneficiary of WGRC’s interventions, harvested a successful first OFSP crop and has since expanded cultivation in a larger field.

The impact of OFSP is particularly visible among women. Local women leader, Ramate Desta, witnessed the rapid growth in community interest after just one season. Initially, she struggled to recruit members for her women’s group, but after a successful harvest, her group expanded from 10 to 30 members, all eager to plant. “Once they saw the harvest, everyone wanted vines! I told them about Wondo Genet, which we affectionately call ‘Shito,’” says Ramate.



Nearby, a woman farmer named Shahitu has positioned herself as a local vine multiplier and supplier. Her farm, located along the main road, attracts buyers seeking high-quality OFSP planting materials, known locally as Sukar Dinich.

The success of WGRC in supporting farmers and communities in Shashamane Woreda highlights the power of partnerships, quality seed systems, and farmer training. The story of the “OFSP Village” is a powerful reminder of how collaboration and innovation can transform livelihoods and nourish communities.

Compact contact:

Norman Kwikiriza, Ph.D., *OFSP Compact Coordinator*, International Potato Center (CIP)

Cell: +256 782 308031 | E.mail:n.kwikiriza@cgiar.org | CIP website: www.cipotato.org



For more information, please contact:

TAAT Programme Management Unit, IITA HQ, Ibadan – Nigeria | TAAT Clearinghouse, IITA Benin, Cotonou – Benin



TAAT-Africa@cgiar.org



+229 60855188