



FLASH NEWS ISSUE N.2 AFRICAN ROOTS AND TUBERS

This newsletter provides information on the FAO project “Strengthening Linkages between Buyers and Small Actors in the Roots and Tubers Sector in Africa” (ART) project which may be of interest to you. The newsletter is a core tool for knowledge sharing among members of the project.

Welcome

Welcome to the second issue of ART Flash News, a monthly newsletter to keep you updated on the ART project.

The ART project aims to improve the livelihoods of small producers engaged in the roots and tubers value chains in seven African countries, by increasing their access to domestic and regional markets.

The previous issue (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7069e.pdf>) provided an introduction to the project and the project coordinator, updates on activities and related key findings, an article on a workshop on potato seeds, and a first overview of events planned for the year.

In this issue you will find:

- A diagram of the structure of the project coordination team HQ and Accra
- An article on the policy brief *Improving access to quality seed potato in East Africa*
- An article on a workshop on sustainable value chains
- An article on a study on waste recycling for sustainable energy production
- An announcement about our refreshed website
- A case study from the roots and tubers industry on the *Papa Andina Partnership Programme*

- Upcoming events
- Introduction to the regional project’s coordinator.

Enjoy your reading!

ART Team

The project team

FAO Headquarters
Massimo Pera,
Project Coordinator

FAO Regional Office for Africa
Moussa Djagoudi,
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Project publications

Policy brief: *Improving access to quality seed potato in East Africa*



On 25 November 2015, the ART project organized a two-day sub-regional workshop on *Improving farmers' access to quality seed potato* in Kigali, Rwanda (read more: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bo106e.pdf>).

The workshop results have been used to develop a policy brief, contributing to component 1.2 of the project: *Improved capacity to formulate agrifood sector strategies*.

According to the document, options for policy actions include: stimulating local commercial production of quality-controlled seed potatoes; improving quality in the informal system through gradual alignment with the formal system; and strengthening value chain coordination.

The document is available in: [English](#) | [Français](#)

News

National workshop on “Supporting the greening of small food enterprising in Rwanda”

On 21 February 2017, as part of the ART project, a three-day sub-regional workshop on *Supporting the greening of small food enterprising* was held in Kigali, Rwanda.

The workshop brought together stakeholders involved in the potato value chain from the public and private sectors. The objective was to sensitize players in the chain about the opportunity cost and innovation benefits from adopting firm-level sustainability plans by sharing study findings on waste recycling in the potato chain and cases of agro-enterprises that have managed to become more competitive as a result of embracing sustainability.

Presentations and discussions centred on four themes: the policy environment and challenges for a sustainable agrifood sector; concepts of sustainability and sustainable business practices; recycling waste for renewable energy in the potato supply chain; and the role of value addition.



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Workshop participants, including (front row, left to right) the FAO Representative for Rwanda, Mr. Attaher Maiga, the Second secretary to the head of section rural development, Mr. Arnaud de Vanssay, and the Representative from the Minister of Agriculture of Rwanda, Mr. Jean Claude Kyisinga.

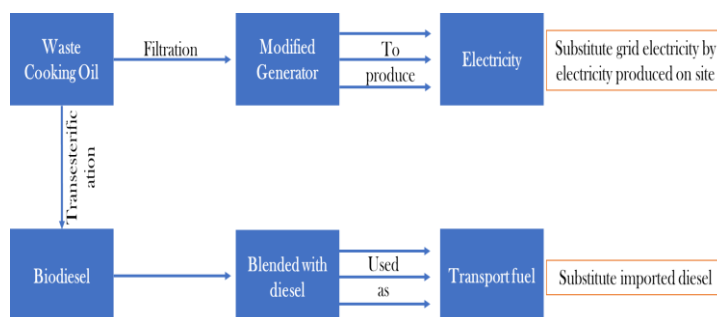
More information can be found at:

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/african-roots-and-tubers/news/african-roots-and-tubers-news-workshop/en/>

Sustainable energy production from the residues of potato chip manufacturing in Rwanda

FAO's Climate and Environment Division has contributed to the project by presenting the results of a preliminary study on waste disposal for sustainable energy production in the food value chain. The presentation was given during the workshop *Supporting the greening of small food enterprising in Rwanda*.

Findings of the study provided options and opportunities for potato manufacturers. For example, potato crisp producers have the potential to produce electricity/biodiesel from their waste residues, such as cooking oil. Potato crisp producers have the potential to produce electricity/Biodiesel from their waste cooking oil.



The environmentally sustainable production of biodiesel and electricity may provide an additional revenue source to the small and medium



enterprises if sold in the external market, and reduce operating expenses in the long run.

A complete analysis is currently underway and the findings will be presented in the coming issues.

Discover our new website

We are pleased to announce that our digital presence has been renewed with an updated [website](#) on *Strengthening linkages between small actors and buyers in the Roots and Tubers sector in Africa*. On the website, you will find more details about our news and resource products related to the ART project.

Enjoy your navigation!

From the roots and tubers industry

Case Study: The Papa Andina Partnership Programme

With a view to learning lessons from similar projects supporting the roots and tubers sector, the



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case study describes a programme that has been implemented by the International Potato Center in Bolivia, Ecuador

and Peru since 1998.

The *Papa Andina Partnership Programme* is a joint regional initiative of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and International Potato Center.

The Programme brought together researchers, small farmers, diverse market actors, and dozens of organizations in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru to spur innovation in public policies, potato products, and value market chains. The goal of the programme was to help small-scale farmers in the Andes bring thousands of little-known roots and tubers to market. A strong asset inherent in the programme is the centuries of traditional knowledge about how best to cultivate the potato crop, in particular native potatoes or landraces.

The challenge of the programme was to find ways to transform these assets into a business opportunity and bring them to market as an attractive option for consumers.

The programme identified members of the “value chain” – from farmers who grew more than 3,000 varieties of native potato, to processors who would convert them into ready-to-eat snacks, to the consumers who would buy the snacks. It then explored various innovative potato-cooking recipes with a number of chefs and cooking schools.

The programme also linked research and development organizations, the business sector, the national public authorities and local farmers to generate collective action to respond to the needs of smallholders.

Results have included new products and market niches as well as technological innovations in potato production. They have improved public perceptions of potato as a healthy food, resource for development, and source of cultural pride. Smallholder farmers – including women – and many others who have a stake in potato production, processing, marketing, and consumption have directly benefited from these activities and approaches (Devaux, A. 2011).

The Papa Andina’s participatory market chain approach - which describes a three-phase structure aiming to (1) define, (2) analyze and (3) put in place innovations in partnership with market chain actors - developed for use with potatoes in the Andes, has now been applied in different market chains, such as yams and sweet potatoes, and in other countries such as Uganda. The experience in Uganda indicates that the approach can, in fact, stimulate technological and institutional innovation in locally relevant agricultural commodity chains in Africa.

Results from the field

Interview with Mr. John Awutey Agbenorxevi, owner of AGRI-CO company, a cassava processing center from Ghana



Mr. John Awutey is one of the recipient of the Inclusive Business Model training, provided under the Roots and Tubers Project. His business, based in Central Region (Ghana), is specialized in processing Cassava into Gari and flour making including enriched flour. Mr. Awutey is also engaged in soya and palm oil processing business.

According to his experience, the training on IBM added enormous value to his business skills, as well as to the success of his commercial activity: "By attending the training on IBM I had the chance to learn ways for improving our business, marketing products and inputs' sourcing".

Tangible results include the actual implementation of what has been delivered during the training. Specifically:

- Shifting the supply model from internal production to purchasing cassava from small farmers in the neighboring area;
- Improving transport modalities at farm gate;
- Doubling the production from 5 to 10 tons per week;
- Planning and adopting innovative strategies to reach new markets for the additional production;
- Helping farmers to sell a higher amount of products;
- Organizing meeting and discussions with farmers to design marketing programmes, improve market linkages and deliver capacity building to improve farmers' production skills.
- Ensuring the sustainability of the enterprise by establishing an internal farm which secure the availability of cassava when out sourcing is not possible.

Given the successful experience reported, the main recommendation made is to continue providing these trainings that respond to their specific needs

in order to build the capacity of a growing numbers of managers of small and medium enterprises in inclusive business making.

Events in the coming semester

- Validation Workshop – Analyses of Trade Policies and organizational dynamics of the Cassava Value Chain, Ivory Coast, July 2017
- Regional Workshop on Climate Risk Management, Uganda, September 2017
- Agricultural Value Chain Financing Training, Benin, July 2017 2017
- Regional Workshop on Sustainable Market-Led production Intensification, Ghana, December 2017

The Regional Project Coordinator



Moussa Djagoudi, is an Agribusiness Officer at FAO's Regional Office for Africa in Accra.

An Agricultural Engineer, he also holds a post-graduate degree in environmental protection.

Moussa is specialized in agribusiness and value chain development in the agriculture sector.

He counts over 12 years of experience in designing and implementing projects and programmes on food security, agribusiness and youth employment, value chain development, food security and nutrition, small-scale irrigation and agricultural productivity in more than 20 countries in Africa.

In addition, Mr. Djagoudi is a trainer in agribusiness, value chains and inclusive business models; food security and nutrition; and geographical indications and origin products.

CONTACT

For more information visit:
www.fao.org/in-action/african-roots-and-tubers

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This newsletter has been produced with the assistance of the European Union under the project "Strengthening linkages between small-scale actors and buyers in the roots and tubers sector in Africa". The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of FAO and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

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17139EN/1/07.17