

Innovating for Health in Uganda

Since 2006, HarvestPlus and multiple partners have developed and promoted micronutrient-rich staple crops to improve the nutrition, health, and livelihoods of vulnerable people across Uganda.

Success in scaling up reach and impact of these biofortified crops has hinged on continuous innovations, many of which have been duplicated in other countries.

Under the current USAID-funded Meals for Nutrition Biofortified Solutions in Uganda (MENU) project*, by the end of 2020:

1.1 million

smallholder farming households (nearly 5.5 million people, or 12% of the population) were growing six varieties of vitamin A orange sweet potato (OSP).

810,000

smallholder farming households (over 4 million people) were growing five varieties of iron beans.

Using Media to Engage Farmers

Produced with Farm Radio International, the popular 55-episode *My Children* radio drama reached far more than the 350,000 households targeted. It interspersed typical dramatic content with messages about the health benefits of OSP.

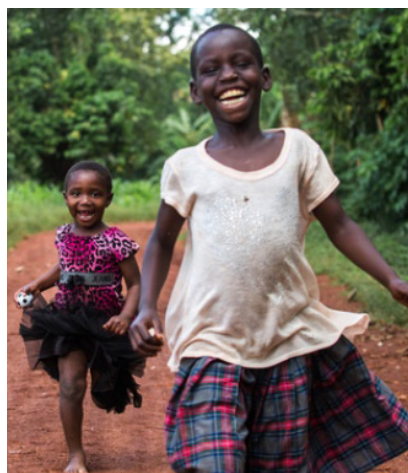


Virus-free OSP Vines

This responded to widespread virus issues that reduced yields, adoption, and farmer purchases. Capacity of vine multipliers was strengthened to produce virus-free (clean), certified vines at scale; HarvestPlus helped develop inspection protocols and create vine entrepreneur associations.

Women Nutrition Champions

Through the Lead Mother initiative, women are trained and supported as champions for nutrition and health. Lead mothers support other mothers in their communities through training and counseling, and help boost consumption of biofortified crops.



Advancing Women and Youth Groups

In partnership with World Vision and other NGOs, HarvestPlus has helped form and empower associations of youth and women with tools and knowledge on farming techniques and the nutritious benefits of biofortified crops. The initiative has empowered over 100 youth groups in northern Uganda and is adding more in 2020.



Crop Payback/Pay Forward Systems

To reach more cash-poor farmers, they can obtain seeds up front and repay an agreed amount of seed in kind after harvest, or “pay forward” seed post-harvest to neighboring farmers.



Targeting Marginalized Communities

Working with Send a Cow, we reached 1,000 disabled women and girls with OSP vines; with Self Help Africa, nutrition and income of refugees was improved through production, consumption and marketing of vitamin A OSP and iron beans.

Mobile Tech

With a mobile app, vine multipliers will link with government inspectors to get vines certified, and farmers find sources of certified OSP vines. OSP buyers can locate OSP producers that use certified vines. Through MENU, HarvestPlus supported the app project led by Makerere University-Bioinnovative Africa Project and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries.



Food Product Development

We support food processors to develop consumer products made with biofortified ingredients. Example: Technical support on recipe development for Maama Care Foundation, which processes ready-to-eat snacks from OSP and iron beans.