



SIDE EVENT #2: Biofortification in Africa: Evidence of Success and Vision for Scaling Up

Venue: **ODEHE**

Organizer: HarvestPlus, IFPRI

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Chairperson: Ruth Oniang'o, Editor-in-Chief, African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND) and Founder, Rural Outreach Program (ROP) Africa

Presenters:

Dorene Asare-Marfo, Program Manager, HarvestPlus, IFPRI
(*Nutrition and Impact Evidence*)

Bho Mudyahoto, Senior Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation Specialist, HarvestPlus, IFPRI
(*Crop Releases and Delivery/Reached Figures to Date*)

Nelson Ojijo-Olang'o, Lead Specialist, Capacity Development, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
(*Partnerships for Scale Up*)

Discussant: Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Nutrition (GAIN)

Abstract & Objectives

Micronutrient deficiency affects over two billion individuals globally. Across regions, the highest prevalence of vitamin A deficiency and iron-deficiency anemia among children is in Africa. One potential solution to alleviating micronutrient deficiency, also known as hidden hunger, is *biofortification*: the process of breeding staple food crops to have higher micronutrient content. Since 2003, HarvestPlus has been leading the global effort to: breed biofortified crops for Africa (namely iron beans and vitamin A cassava, maize and orange sweet potato); develop evidence based around the acceptability, efficacy and effectiveness of these crops; and engender partnerships, mechanisms and markets to deliver the seeds of these crops to rural families in five target countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia.

The main aims of this side-event are to: (1) provide an overview of the socio-economic and nutrition research conducted to date; (2) present a status update on the biofortified crop releases and numbers of farming households reached in Africa; and (3) share HarvestPlus' vision of scaling up biofortification through public-private-NGO partnerships, national and regional policies and global and regional movements, to contribute to the nutrition revolution in Africa.

Objectives





- Introduce the audience to the concept of biofortification, and its importance and role in achieving a nutrition revolution for Africa
- Present the scientific evidence on acceptability, efficacy and effectiveness of biofortified crops developed for Africa
- Provide an update on the availability of biofortified crops in Africa (tested and released varieties)
- Provide a summary of the current delivery models used in target countries in Africa, and present the numbers of farming households reached with biofortified planting material
- Present and discuss the vision for scaling up biofortification in Africa through Strategic Partnerships

