

REPORTS ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF SELECTED YAM VARIETIES FOR REGIONAL TRIAL AND SAH TRAINING AND LABORATORY ESTABLISHMENT IN DASSA-BENIN

The 15 selected varieties for each of TDa and TDr were successfully delivered to all the Africa yam partners. These materials are to be used for the conduct of performance trials across the region selection and the best candidates from the evaluations selected.

The seed yam tubers thus distributed were sourced from materials harvested from the previous trials in Ibadan and Abuja. These tubers were selected to screen against known yam disease by the germplasm health unit of IITA. The materials were packed and sent after treatment commencing March 23, 2021. Deliveries were made in the order UAC-Benin, SARI-Nyankpala, CRI-Kumasi and CNRA-Bouake. Although, the CRI consignment was initially delivered to the IITA office in Accra while of Cote d'Ivoire was delivered to Dr E. Chamba for onward delivery to Dr Amani. All the materials had since reached the final destinations.

Challenges: There was an initial delay in procuring import permit and processing of the tubers for the issuance of a phytosanitary certificate.

The transportation of the materials met with hitches at the borders of Togo and Ghana. These two countries borders were closed 'to forestall further spread of Covid-19 across borders. The presentation of *Laiser passer* (a letter of Authority) which is only obtainable from the embassy of the government of Togo was given as the only condition for passage. However, we were able to go through both borders though at a cost. Subsequent trips of this kind will require a prior application for a Letter of Authority from the embassy of the country to be so accessed.

The training on the use of SAH for high ratio propagation of yam to meet the seed need for the commercial and breeding scheme was carried out at Dassa for the intending staffs of the SAH facility established at this location.

Key achievements.

1. Construction of SAH shelves using locally sourced and cost-friendly materials. Aluminium and mesh were sourced from Cotonou and transported to Dassa. These were fashioned into shelves by the local artisans. The use of Aluminium and local fabricators could reduce the cost of shelf construction by up to 50%.
2. Training of the Benin SAH lab staffs on:
 - i. Nutrient and substrate preparation
 - ii. Perforation methods for SAH box and plant aeration
 - iii. Plant culture and maintenance
 - iv. General SAH laboratory procedures.
3. Delivery of RVT materials to partners.
4. Covid-19 tests were not conducted in any of the countries. Saving time (no isolation) and cost of the test will enhance movement, less travel cost and enhanced research activities.

Table 1: List of items for Africa yam partners in Benin Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire

S/No	Materials needed	Quantity	Status	Cost (USD)	Responsible partner
1	Tork MH towel	2	Delivered	19.28	Benin
2	Nalgene dispenser	2	Delivered	299.13	Benin
3	Screen house net	2	Delivered	2392.13	Benin
4	Screen house nylon	1	Delivered	579.14	Benin
5	Shade net(25%)	1	Delivered	0	Benin
6	TS3 Substrate	10 bags	Delivered	100.83	Benin
7	SAH boxes	5	1 Delivered	25.24	Benin
8	Aluminum foil	4	Delivered	12.82	Benin
9	Measuring cylinder	2	Delivered	19.86	Benin
10	2 L beaker	1	Delivered	11.90	Benin
11	Cable	1	Delivered	91.74	Benin
12	Forceps	4	NYD	3.58	Benin
13	Blade holder	4	NYD	13.83	Benin
14	Blade	4	NYD	20.22	Benin
15	Ethanol(2.5litres)	2	Delivered	9.16	Benin
16	50 LED tube	1	20 Delivered	1032	Benin
17	Nutrient salts	6	NYD	143.36	Benin
18	shelves	1	Delivered as Sample	0	Benin
19	Yam tubers(RVT materials)	1.9 tonnes	30 varieties	0	
20	Transportation and per diem			2,200	All the partners
21	Transportation/Benin = 40% of item 20			880	

The amount to be deducted from the fund to Benin partner stands at 5,654.48

The amount to be shared by other partners for RVT material distribution = 1320

(CNRA=45%, CRI=35% and SARI = 20%).

1. The least of the payment is proposed for SARI since it was Dr Chamba who took the responsibility to receive and redistribute to other partners.



SAH Facility Site Dassa-Benin



Technicians mounting shelves using Aluminium



Mounted Sample Shelf



Staffs undergoing training on media and substrate preparation



Staffs undergoing training on plant culture and maintenance



Staffs sharing knowledge after culture



1st cultured SAH plants in the growth room technician



Group photo with staffs and technician

Table 2: Items needed for SAH facility setup at CSIR-SARI, Nyankpala

S/No	Materials needed	Quantity	Cost (USD)
1	Tork MH towel	4	77.12
2	Nalgene dispenser	2	299.13
6	TS3 Substrate	20 bags	202.66
7	SAH boxes	10	50.48
9	Measuring cylinder	2	19.86
10	2 L beaker	1	11.90
11	Cable	1	91.74
12	Forceps	4	3.58
13	Blade holder	4	13.83
14	Blade	4	20.22
15	Ethanol(2.5litres)	2	9.16
16	50 LED tube	1	1032
17	Nutrient salts	6	143.36
20	Transportation and per diem		2,200

1. The installation of the SAH laboratory at SARI is proposed for week 1 of May all things been equal. The table above suggests items that the lab will need to become functional at set-up.
2. The other three partners (CRI, CNRA and NRCRI) need to provide an update on the status of this project in their respective domain.