

Viazi Vitamu Mobile Application in sweet potato seed system



Preamble

Sweet potato is a key food crop for over 100 million people in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). It is not only fast growing, but also high yielding, nutritious and adaptable to a wide range of agro-ecologies. These numerous benefits have renewed interest in the crop, especially for ensuring food and nutrition security. Therefore, genetically pure, physiologically sound, pest and disease-free sweet potato seed is important for farmers to improve their yields.



About the Products

A tissue culture multiplication protocol was developed to produce pre-basic, basic, and certified seed under screen house conditions and in open fields, respectively. 24 market preferred varieties have been assembled for commercialisation in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Uganda. A web-based mobile application branded 'Viazi Vitamu' App is operational and supports real-time mapping of sweetpotato farmers, vine multipliers and other value addition components. Additionally, the App provides disease outbreak surveillance through automatic mapping of farmer queries.

About the Ventures

The Sweetpotato clean seeds are commercially produced by:



Mimea International Limited, Kenya

Mimea is an agribusiness company registered in Kenya specializing in in-vitro micro propagation and propagation of high quality, disease, and pest-free superior planting materials such as bananas, sweet potato vines, cassava among other agricultural crops. The company strives to build a first-choice community firm with a regional network in the propagation and supply of high quality, disease, and pest free superior planting materials. Mimea has sold over 40,000 certified sweet potato seeds to vine multipliers.

Senai Farm Supplies Limited, Uganda

Senai Farm Supplies Limited (SENAI) is a private limited company incorporated in Uganda. It is poised to provide quality Seeds and novel agricultural innovations, and other agricultural inputs including agro-chemicals and agricultural tools. The company envisions becoming the leader in agricultural innovations and bioscience applications in East Africa. Senai has sold over 900,000 certified sweet potato seeds to vine multipliers and farmers in Uganda.

Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) – Mikocheni

TARI is a semi-autonomous research organisation established by an act of Parliament under Tanzania's Ministry of Agriculture. It is responsible for all agricultural research activities conducted by the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) in the country. The Tissue culture laboratory at TARI-Mikocheni obtained official certification from Tanzania government to produce clean seed. TARI-Mikocheni has now established partnerships with two (2) private laboratories to produce certified seed leading to sales of over 20,000 clean vines.

Other contributing partners: Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Makerere University (MAK), and Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB).

For More Information

Mimea International Ltd P.O. BOX 4583 00506 Nairobi-Kenya | mimea_international@yahoo.co.uk

Senai Farm Supplies Ltd P.O. Box 70, Nateete-Kampala-Uganda | senaifarmltd@gmail.com | www.senaibioscience.org

Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute P.O. BOX 1571 Dodoma, Tanzania | dg@tari.go.tz | www.tari.go.tz

