

## **The status of sweetpotato improvement and promotion in Nigeria**

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**Abstract.** Although sweetpotato has great potential, it has not been promoted in Nigeria. IITA and some regional research centres have carried out limited research on sweetpotato by IITA and regional research centres, although documentation of results has been poor. The potential of sweetpotato lies in its capacity to grow well in areas with less rainfall and soil fertility compared to other crops. A huge opportunity for sweetpotato promotion in Nigeria is the potential role it can play in the rural household food security given that up to 74% of Nigerians live in rural areas. In addition, the crop can be made into other products, thus diversifying its utility base and therefore assuring its market. Sweetpotato production promotion in Nigeria will have to consider introducing a wide range of varieties for adaptability and acceptability tests, while planning for a sustainable seed multiplication and distribution system.