

DESCRIPTOR FOR FARMERS' KNOWLEDGE ON SWEET POTATO "NGWACI NDUMA"

1 IDENTIFIERS
FIELD WORK ACTIVITY: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION
NAME OF LOCAL INFORMATION PROVIDER: KARUNGA-WENDANI SELF-HELP GROUP
AGE: 21-75 YEARS
MAIN OCCUPATION: FARMING.
ADDRESS : KARUNGA
ETHNIC GROUP : AGIKUYU
NAME OF PERSON CONDUCTING THE INTERVIEW : PERIS KAMAU (SEED SAVERS NETWORK)
2 PLANT IDENTIFICATION
GENUS <i>Ipomoea</i> SPECIES <i>batatas</i>
COMMON NAME OF CROP OR WILD SPECIES: SWEET POTATOES (NGWACI NDUMA)
SPECIES RICHNESS:
3 SITE (ECOGEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT)
COUNTRY :KENYA
LATITUDE S0° 24.549' LONGITUDE E36° 21.875' ELEVATION 7392 ft.
LOCATION OF FIELDWORK SITE: KARUNGA
NAME OF THE LOCATION OR NEAREST PLACE: KARUNGA CENTRE
DISTANCE TO SITE : 22 KMS FROM SEED SAVERS NETWORK OFFICES
TYPE OF DISTANCE: ROAD DISTANCE.
DIRECTION FROM THE NEAREST PLACES: KARUNGA CENTRE
LAND ELEMENT: OPEN DEPRESSION
4.REIATIVE ABUNDANCE

IN CULTIVATED AREA:
TOTAL AREA OF FARM LAND USED IN HA:
IN UNCULTIVATED AREAS:
NUMBER OF COLLECTING SITES/INCHES:
ESTIMATED AREA OF EACH COLLECTING SITE-FREQUENCY OF COLLECTION(IF UNCULTIVATED:
REASON FOR FREQUENCY OF COLLECTION:

Name of the cultivar/landrace/botanical variety or wild form			Sweet potatoes		
Plant further identification	Local vernacular names		Ngwaci Nduma		
	Language(s) of local vernacular name		Ngwaci Nduma.		
	Local name meaning		Its purple in colour While cooked it resembles the colour arrowroot that why named .		
	Biological status		Traditional cultivar		
Relative abundance	Area cultivated for each cultivar		Small		
	Number of plants		Few plants distributed.		
	Total uncultivated area				
	Relative abundance of the plant (if uncultivated)		Rare.		
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PLANT	Distinguishing traits /characteristics used	Main reasons for using the cultivar / landrace or wild form		Food security (Eating as snack for breakfast and Feeding vines to livestock.	
		Parts of the plant used		Leaf; tuber	
		Plant uses		Food; fodder	
		Parts of the plant used		Leaf; tubers; vines.	
		Traits attribute		Taste(sweet)	
		Agronomic traits		High yielding; matures early	
		Abiotic stresses			
		Biotic stresses	Diseases		
			Pests		Cutworm
			Other biotic stresses		-
		Quality traits related to the food uses	Organoleptic qualities		Taste sweet
			Nutritional qualities		Good source of vitamins.
			Other quality traits		Cooks very fast compared to other tuber crops.
		Market traits			
		Social aspects	Division of labour by gender	Labour	Sowing, harvesting.
				Gender	Predominantly female
		Socio-economic characteristics		Seed supply	Exchange with relatives, neighbours.
Main use of plant	Home consumption				
Main form of market outlet	Local				

Collectors note:

- Easily recognized by purple color at the joint of the leaves.
- Few crops distributed in the area, not so embarrassed in the region because it takes long to mature up to 5months.

- While cooked it resembles arrowroot that why it's called Ngwaci nduma.
- It is very hard while eating raw compared to other sweet potatoes varieties.
- Its vines is not as slender as other varieties.
- Broader leaves compared to kiburi and kiganda variety.
- At a certain stage of growth it produces purple flowers.
- Once planted it produces many branches becoming dense within a short while.
- No noted diseases yet.