

DESCRIPTOR FOR FARMERS' KNOWLEDGE ON MUHIKA NA IHU" SWEETPOTATO.

1 IDENTIFIERS
FIELD WORK DATE 2019/1/22
FIELD WORK ACTIVITY: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION
NAME OF LOCAL INFORMATION PROVIDER: KARUNGA SELF-HELP GROUP
AGE: 21-75YEARS
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: MUHIKA NA IHU
SPECIES RICHNESS:
3 SITE (ECOGEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT)
COUNTRY : KENYA COUNTY: NAKURU SUBCOUNTY: GILGIL WARD: MORENDAT VILLAGE: NGETETI
LATITUDE S0° 24.556' LONGITUDE E36° 21.864' ELEVATION 7323 ft
LOCATION OF FIELDWORK SITE: KARUNGA
NAME OF THE LOCATION OR NEAREST PLACE: KARUNGA CENTRE
DISTANCE TO SITE : ESTIMATED 32 KMS FROM SEED SAVERS NETWORK OFFICES
TYPE OF DISTANCE: ROAD DISTANCE.
DIRECTION FROM THE NEAREST PLACES: KARUNGA CENTER
LAND ELEMENT: Open depression

4.RELATIVE ABUNDANCE
IN CULTIVTED AREAS:-
TOTA LAREA OF FARM LAND USED INHA:-
IN UNCULTIVATED AREAS:-
NUMBER OF COLLECTING SITES/NICHES:-
ESTIMATED AREA OF EACH COLLECTING SITE:-
REASON FOR FREQUENCY OF COLLECTION:-

Name of the cultivar/landrace/botanical variety or wild form		Sweet potatoes		
Plant further identification	Local vernacular names	Muhika-na-ihu		
	Language(s) of local vernacular name	Muhika-na-ihu.		
	Local name meaning	Matures very fast, after you have planted the vines, the tubers develops very fast within two and a half months. The name is compared to a lady who get married carrying a baby in her womb how she delivers so fast without completing the expected nine months since she got in the marriage.		
	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	Main reasons for using the cultivar / landrace or wild form	Food security (Eating as snack and Feeding vines to livestock.		
		Parts of the plant used	Leaf;tuber	
	Distinguishing traits /characteristics used	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	Organoleptic qualities	Taste sweet		

	traits related to the food uses	Nutritional qualities		Good source of vitamins.	
		Other quality traits		Cooks very fast compared to other tuber crops. Incorporated with wheat flour to make chapatis	
	Market traits				
	Social aspects	Division of labour by gender	Labour		
			Gender		Female
	Socio-economic characteristics		Seed supply		Exchange with relatives,neighbor
			Main use of plant		Home consumption(including for animal fodder)
			Main form of market outlet		Local

Collectors note:

1. The plants vines are slender and don't have many leaves.
2. The tubers also are slender and doesn't grow big and has red outer cover
3. The leaves are pale green leaves as compared with other sweet potatoes.
4. Believed to boost memory, students encouraged to take in the morning before they sit for their exam so that to pass.
5. Also believed it's a fortune food, when eaten in the morning fortune will befall you on that particular day.
6. Matures fast within 3 months.
7. Mostly eaten as snacks for breakfast in the morning.