

**SOIL IS LIFE (program #3)**  
**Orange Sweet Potatoes cultivation**  
Ushindi FM Radio  
Script

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**Host:** Dear listener welcome to the Soil Is Life programme. I am Niku Mwakyusa. Today we are discussing about Orange Sweet Potatoes production in Tanzania. The case has great development in Mwanza, where farmers use improved seeds and proper fertilizer. Another vital issue is extremely rich of vitamin A found in orange sweet potatoes. We have managed to speak to experts and farmers in Mwanza. This programme is supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC). Please stay tuned to Ushindi FM Radio 98.6 Mhz.

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**Host:** Many regions in Tanzania have been cultivating sweet potatoes as food crop, but have been facing poor yields due to pests and drought facing the country. Ukiriguru Agricultural Research Institute from Mwanza region has developed a research and reproduces more improved orange sweet potatoes seeds which were brought in the country by 2002 from Uganda by International Potato Center. Currently, residents in the lake zone regions are enjoying production of orange sweet potatoes.

While other regions like Shinyanga, Dodoma, Morogoro, Kagera, Arushana Ruvuma are producing orange sweet potatoes. Mwanza has become the key region for this production.

Let us now listen farmers from Mwanza telling the success of orange sweet potato production.

**Farmer 1:** *I am the house mother and living alone. The care of my family depends on me, i started engaging in orange sweet potatoes since 2002 and now have managed to send my children to school, build a good house and get sufficient money for daily spending. I am selling orange sweet potatoes seeds and processing orange sweet potatoes for juice. Also, I have been teaching others about production of orange sweet potatoes. Through all this, I am earning money for life.*

**Correspondent:** How is the market in your area?

**Farmer 1:** *There is a small processing industry at Usagara and we always sell orange sweet potatoes there so, about the market, there is no problem. And sometimes, they even lack of orange sweet potatoes hence they have encouraged us to expand our farms.*

**Correspondent:** What about the orange sweet potatoes seeds? Can it be planted anywhere in the country?

**Farmer 1:** *Yes, you can plant anywhere.*

**Correspondent:** What about the market for others who are far away from Mwanza, like neighbours regions?

**Farmer 1:** *They will need to come in Mwanza for markets if they want to sell fast, as i have said there is a*

*small processing industry in Usagara. Or they can learn themselves how to process orange sweet potatoes.*

**Host:** Remember you are listening to the Soil is life programme and today we are discussing about Orange sweet potatoes production. You can give your opinion about what you have heard in this programme by writing a short message on the phone number 0719 97 06 65.

Now let's listen to other farmers who are telling how to select the best seeds for orange sweet potatoes production.

**Farmer 2:** *First we make a survey of the farms to see if current seeds have no any infections before we can plant to other farms. We always get few pieces of seeds then we multiply by planting in a safe place where they will be no any infection from pests. Within six weeks we can have more seeds and share with other farmers.*

**Correspondent:** How do you help other farmers who are using old seeds?

**Farmer 2:** *When they come we always sell seeds to them at a low price. For instance we sell 300 pieces for 5,000 Tanzania shillings which is low and affordable for all farmers. Sometimes we can give them for free.*

**Correspondent:** How do you protect from pests?

**Farmer 2:** *These seeds are resistant to diseases from pests. Also we are making sure there is no other farms with different seeds near the farm where we produce seeds.*

**Host:** It is generally understood that, if we follow the instructions, we can harvest quality and high production of orange sweet potatoes. Let's now listen to Mr. Juma Ramadhani. He is telling us about type of oranges sweet potato seeds.

**Group Leader of farmers:** *First let me remind that all seeds are good because each of them has a unique factor. For instance, Ejumla has a short time to harvest. It takes only two months.*

*Another type is Karoti. It takes a long time to harvest but it is very tolerant to drought and pests diseases. Another type is kabode. It produces big potatoes and its leaves can be used for vegetable.*

*Ejumla is best for processing while other types are best for food.*

**Host:** How did Ukiriguru Agricultural Research Institute played its role to facilitate farmers in the case of orange sweet potato farmers in Mwanza.

**Expert 1:** *My name is Mrs. Adventina Babu, Head of social economic department at Ukiriguru Agricultural Research Institute. Currently orange sweet potatoes are processed by*

*small industry at Usagara for flours which are used for cake cooking and other related foods. Also they are used for processed juice.*

*Because they are rich in vitamins A, orange sweet potato have started to find markets in different places like hospitals and supermarkets where these products can be used with different peoples as you know availability of vitamins A is important in human health. This will increase the market of farmers.*

*We also develop different researches to help produce improved seeds. For instance, when we find an infection on seeds we work to resolve the problem and bring new produced seeds.*

*The processing industry is founded by our Processing unity department to help farmers find markets to different places. Also, all seeds are used by farmers are produced by our institution. There are many other issues we do to facilitate farmers.*

**Host:** Can you please tell us the most important benefit that can be found in orange sweet potato?

**Expert 2:** *The extremely high levels of vitamin A which can be found in orange sweet potato. This is the big difference from other sweet potatoes.*

**Host:** Dear listener, our programme has come to an end for today. What I encourage is to start orange sweet potato cultivation in your area as we have heard the great impact of this product in our family economy and health factors.

For comments and advice on this program write short messages on the following phone number 0719 97 06 65. My name is Niku Mwakyusa, thank you for listening and goodbye.

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