

WPI

Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes: Managing Hunger and Vitamin A Deficiency in Burundi

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Abstract

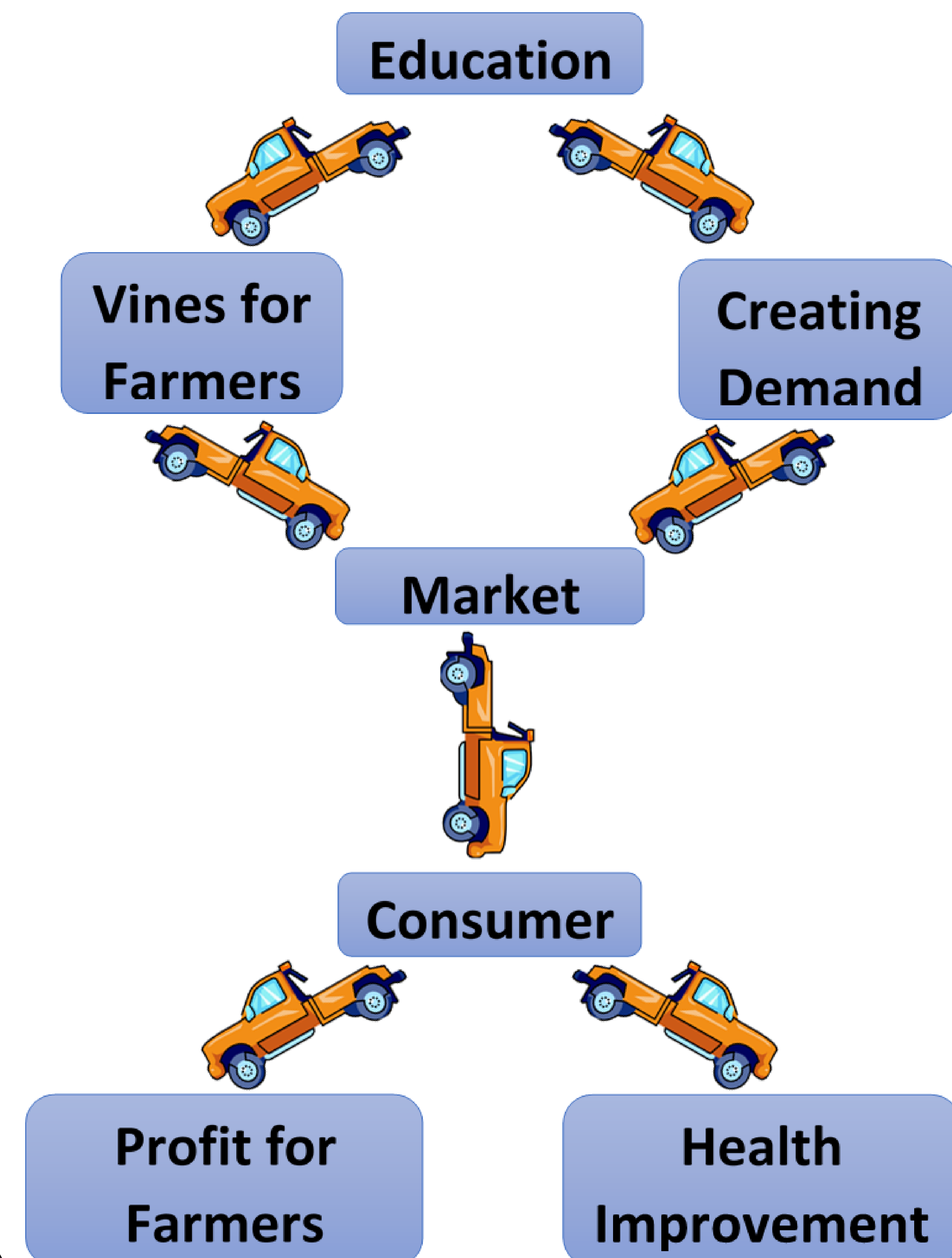
80% of Burundians live in poverty¹, and 56.8% of children suffer chronic malnutrition². These problems were alleviated using methods adapted from Project Orange (from Uganda) in Burundi, by advertising Orange Flesh Sweet Potatoes to both farmers and consumers. These methods resulted in a decrease in Vitamin A deficiency, an increase in demand for sweet potatoes, and an increase in profit for farmers.

Project Goals/Objectives

- Adapt Project Orange to Burundi
- Introduce sweet potatoes as a staple crop
- Reduced percentage of public suffering from vitamin A deficiency and hunger/malnutrition.



Methods/Process



Results/Outcomes

Tangible

- Brochure for the Burundian public
- Brochure for farmers
- Grant pre-proposal
- 2 Orange Trucks

Potential

- Lowered vitamin A deficiency and malnutrition/hunger rates
- Integration of the OFSP

Background

The Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP)

- Potato is rich with beta carotene
- Grows well in sub Saharan Africa³
- Doesn't need a lot of space (13 kilos for 10sq meters)⁴

Burundi

- Burundi is a very needy country, with widespread poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.
- Agriculture is the largest industry in Burundi

Project Successfully Completed in Uganda⁵

Conclusions/Recommendations

- Blood tests culminating in a graph showing the downward trend of malnutrition and vitamin A deficiency.
- Cost of OFSP production is around 345,739.13 Burundian Francs per acre (\$224.51 USD).
- Profit should be around 98,559.21 Burundian Franc per acre (\$64 USD)⁶.

References

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