



Swiss Programme for Research
on Global Issues for Development



Biophysical, institutional and economic drivers of sustainable soil use in yam systems for improved food security in West Africa (YAMSYS)

Yams are tuber crops essential for food security in West Africa. They can also be a significant source of income for the actors involved in the yam chain value (producers, traders, processors) as their tubers are highly appreciated by urban populations. They are also a very important part of West African culture and are present in many rituals and ceremonies.

YAMSYS aims at developing sustainable methods for soil management that will allow settling yams in long-term crop rotations, increase tuber yields and increase income of the actors working along the yams chain values. To reach these goals we carry out research both on biophysical aspects to assess the effects of soil management options on soil fertility and yams yield and on the socio-economic and institutional settings to understand the drivers of soil use and the role of these crops. Four innovation platforms, gathering the important project stakeholders, elaborate and validate innovations that can have a sustainable impact in the region.

Improved soil management will decrease the need for new land, increase and stabilize yam production, and improve food security and income at household level. Since there is a strong demand for yam by consumers, the results of the project will positively impact the actors of the entire yam value chain. Finally yams are just one group of neglected crops among others that play an important role in the livelihoods of poor people in the tropics. YAMSYS aim to serve as a model for analysing underutilised tuber and root crops in the tropics and for developing and implementing innovations that benefit both their producers and society at large.

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YAMSYS Website: <https://yamsys.org/>



Video YAMSYS: Sustainable Yam Systems in West Africa