

RECENT PROGRESS AND HIGHLIGHTS OF HarvestPlus – CHINA PROGRAM

Y. L. Fan⁽¹⁾, J. M. Wan⁽¹⁾, C. Y. Zhang⁽¹⁾, Lei Wang⁽¹⁾ and X. G. Lei^(1,2)

⁽¹⁾The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing, China; ⁽²⁾Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA, XL20@cornell.edu

Harvest Plus-China (HPC) Program was formed in 2004, with the generous financial and programmatic support of HarvestPlus Program. While the long-term mission is to develop bioavailable micronutrients-enriched staple food crops to reduce or eradicate micronutrient deficiencies of the public, the initial efforts are focused on improving iron, zinc, and vitamin A nutritional values of rice, maize, wheat and sweet potato. A total of 9 large integrated projects have been carried out by a national-wide collaboration of 40 institutions since 2005. The program has established major technical platforms and created 16 crop varieties/lines enriched in the target micronutrients. A new line of beta-carotene-enriched sweetpotato has been shown to improve vitamin.

A status of school children suffering from deficiency or marginal deficiency of vitamin A. The estimated benefit (return) to cost (investment) for this biofortified sweetpotato line is 300 to 1. The research projects of HPC have produced 35 scientific papers and 6 patent applications. Since 2009, HPC has officially embarked on its second phase of activities, shifting from discovery to full scale development research.