Biofortification offers hope for Africa’s malnourished

**NUTRITIONAL ADVANCE**

Busani Bafana

Vitamin A deficiency is a serious health problem in more than 30 countries but is worst in Africa, where the deficiency causes preventable blindness in children and increases the risk of death and survival from severe infections. It also causes night blindness in adults.

In Africa, biofortification estimates that 30% of children younger than 5 years are affected. A woman harvests carrots in Rwanda. Farmers using this variety are harvesting more productive plots and selling the surplus.

Biofortification is a process in which crops are bred to increase their nutritional value. The idea behind biofortification is that adding nutrients to crops makes them not only healthier but also cheaper than buying supplements. To add nutrients, a crop scientist will crossbreed a crop with one that is rich in the nutrient of interest to fight malnutrition, say carcinogenic and nutrient-rich. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), a UN food agency, said that biofortification has the potential to address the lack of essential nutrients such as vitamins A, iron, zinc and iodine.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26 2014

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

I believe life is a series of near misses. A lot of what we ascribe to luck is not luck at all. It is the right person, in the right place, at the right time.

— Howard Schultz, American businessman

**TRADE MOVES**

Trade paints over South-East Asian simmering tensions

**CHINA’S ECONOMIC REVIVAL**

Volker Stanzel

What the world might be talking about this month:

**BUSINESS REPORT**

Buying statues, selling embryos: China’s trade directorate

Trade organises statues and embryos for sale as gifts

PHOTO: BLOOMBERG

A woman harvests beans high in iron in Rwanda. Farmers using this variety are harvesting more productive plots and selling the surplus.

**DIARY**

Playing top team sport is good for salary as well as health

Playing team sports such as Badminton and Table Tennis is good for salary as well as health.

**CONTACT**

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