Staple Crops Programme

Cassava R4D (Past, present and future)

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About ASARECA?

- Specialized sub-regional intergovernmental organization with extensive experience of pulling together scientific capacity from research, universities, and other partners in its 11 member states (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda)

- Collaboration with global sources of scientific expertise and innovations, to address issues of regional importance
Priority Areas

- Staple Crops (Banana, Cassava, Maize, Rice, Millet, Sorghum, Wheat, Potato and Sweet potato)
- High Value Non-staple Priority Crops (Vegetables, fruits, legumes, oil crops and beverages)
- Livestock and Fisheries: Cattle, Goats, Aquaculture.
- Natural resource management: climate change and land degradation.
- Agro-biodiversity and Biotechnology
- Policy analysis and advocacy
- Knowledge management and Up-scaling
- Regional Centres of Excellence
How ASARECA Operates

- Brings together partners (NARIs, farmers and producer associations, NGOs, CGIARs, donors, Universities, etc) to set regional priorities and responses on agricultural research and development issues.

- Through collective action we generate and share knowledge and innovations to solve the common challenges in the ECA region.

- Building and managing strategic partnerships with NARES, Farmers, Private sector, NGOs, regional organizations, CGIAR.

- Disseminate and up-scale of appropriate TIMPs within & across borders.

- Capacity building, Environment and Social Safeguards and Gender mainstreaming are explicitly built into our operations.
Cassava R4D Prior to 2008

- Between 1994 and 2006, ASARECA was organized in 15 commodity networks
- Cassava R4D was nested in the Eastern and Central Africa Root Crops Research Network (EARRNET)
- The mission of EARRNET was to transform cassava from a “poor man’s crop” into a broad based commercial commodity through development, transfer and promotion of market-oriented technologies
- EARRNET coordinated setting the agenda, priorities for the region and implementation of the priority activities
Achievements of EARRNET

- Over 150,000 ha of farmland was by 2006 planted to improved varieties increasing, farm productivity, and valued at about US$ 40 million in ECA.

- Over 96 high yielding cassava genotypes released and promoted by national programmes in partnerships with IITA and other NARS actors.

- Productivity improved from 1.2 ton/ha to about 3.6 tons/ha. *Migyera* resistant to CMD was bred in Uganda and occupies 80% of cassava fields in Teso district of Kenya.

- Improved productivity of between 400- 700 USD per ha, depending on the commodity sold (stem cuttings, or root-dry or fresh).
Achievements of EARRNET

- Facilitated regional and national policy options for cassava (standards developed) – 15 draft policies for different products.
- Strengthened regional and national capacities of the NARS in ECA (human and infrastructure).
- Enhanced availability of information systems for research and development.
ASARECA 2007-2011-Cassava Mega Project

- At the time of development of the ASARECA strategic operational plan, cassava was identified as one of the most important staple crops for investment.
- SCP developed the cassava mega project aimed at unlocking the potential of cassava for development.
- This project sought to address in an integrated manner the constraints and opportunities along the value chain in order to stimulate cassava productivity in ECA.
- Develop and disseminate improved cassava varieties that are resistant to CBSD and CMD with desired root qualities in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Madagascar.
- Promote wide use of quality planting materials of improved cassava varieties by the users in the region.
The cassava mega project for ECA

- Develop and promote relevant approaches for scaling up improved cassava technologies and marketing improved cassava technologies in the ECA sub-region.
- Promote wide utilization of cassava product diversification technologies to enhance commercialization within the ECA sub-region.
- Build capacity for enhancement, promotion and utilization of cassava and its products within the ECA sub-region.
- Develop and promote the formulation and implementation of policies and standards for cassava within the region.
- The activities of this project were incorporated in the cassava research centre of excellence (CRCCE) of the Eastern Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (EAAPP)
The cassava mega project for ECA
ASARECA and EAAPP

- EAAPP is an extension of ASARECAs R4D on cassava in ECA building on strategic partnership with key stakeholders in the cassava subsector.
- EAAPP operationalizes the CAADP pillar IV and the Framework for Africa’s Agricultural Productivity Programme (FAAP).
- EAAPP is premised on the establishment of Centers of Excellence in agricultural research and development.
- Each EAAPP is taking the lead in a respective commodity’s value chain R&D to address its national needs while taking into account the regional research and development priorities.
- Uganda as the CRCoE was very ideal due to strong background on cassava research and the requisite human resource.
Process for setting EAAPP research agenda

- The prioritization of cassava R&D for the CRCoE was on the premise that future R&D projects would be based on a process that conforms to the aspirations of the ASARECA subregion.

- Process involved harmonization of existing cassava activities in the EAAPP countries to ensure that existing projects fit within the prioritised R&D areas.

- Involved identifying on-going and future cassava R&D activities, mapping the constraints, opportunities & additional gaps in cassava R&D, identifying critical R&D areas and lastly prioritizing them for identification of the critical R&D areas of regional natures and defining the roles and responsibilities of participating countries in the priority areas.
EAAPP Regional Priorities

- Development & Promotion of Cassava-based Products in ECA region
- Germplasm development for nutrient enhancement, earliness & resistance to CBSD, CMD & Whitefly
- Enhancement of technology uptake along the cassava value chain
- Understanding the biology, ecology, epidemiology and diversity of major pests and diseases of cassava
- Monitoring prevalence and severity of cassava diseases and pests
ASARECA support activities to EAAPP-CRCoE

- Setting priorities and development of regional activities,
- Facilitating collective action and sharing of information and knowledge
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
- Policy harmonization and advocacy
- ASARECA plays a convening role for the CRCoE, and technical back-stopping particularly in implementing the regional priorities, technical reviews, M&E, communication and ICT, gender mainstreaming and policy harmonization.
- ASARECA established an EAAPP program as part of its management structure to coordinate these activities.
Achievements of EAAPP

- Regional collaboration
  - Over 130 researchers in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania are implementing EAAPP projects
  - M+E WG use one common PMF
  - Policy WG updates on country level policy undertakings
  - T&D WG group on farmer empowerment and technology out-scaling

- Sharing of TIMPs
  - Uganda shared botanical seed of cassava to Ethiopia
  - Cuttings elite materials tolerant to CBSD from Tanzania shared with Uganda
Outcomes of EAAPP

- Improved infrastructure, human, and financial resources to conduct cassava priority R4D
- Generation of agricultural knowledge and improved agricultural technologies for cassava R4D enhanced
- Information and improved cassava technologies and innovations in ECA sub-region enhanced
- Availability and access to improved cassava planting materials in ECA countries
- Policy options for enhancing access to improved cassava planting materials in ECA countries
- EAAPP Phase 1 ends in 2015; activities to be integrated in EAAPP Phase 2...to what extent can the outcomes of this forum be integrated in Phase 2?
Future cassava priorities at ASARECA

- Coordinate and facilitate regional platforms/forums that bring together stakeholders at the different levels of the cassava value chain for R&D actions.
- Lobby for funding and start up fund for business development and facilitate formation of cassava incubation centres based in different countries in the region.
- Support public-private partnerships in cassava entrepreneurship.
- Facilitate the development and brokering for supportive policies on cassava investments to fast track the transformation process.
- Establish the knowledge and information hub for cassava in the ECA region.
- Continue the coordination activities for cross-cutting issues such as germplasm development, pests and diseases management.
ASARECA Development Partners

- European Union (EU)
- Department for International Development (DFID)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
- International Development Research Center (IDRC)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- World Bank
- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
- CIMMYT
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)