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The Recap

2016 was a good year for cassava, the global production is up everywhere, the demand for starch and other products in the SE Asia has been growing, the demand for food and other products makes cassava the most valuable crop in South Brazil, the demand for food in Sub-Saharan Africa is pushing cassava production and transformation up!

Let's hope that 2017 will be equally good or better! There will be for sure turmoil and difficulties with the new corn subsidies in China, and the low international price for cassava starch, but there might be also major changes up-coming with the Technologies for African Agriculture Transformation (TAAT) program that will hopefully be launched by the African Development Bank in 2017!

GCP21 Activities in 2016

Congress

January 2016 was the month of the First World Congress for Root and Tuber Crops in Nanning, ([WCRTC](#)) China and it was a real success as judged by the attendance, and by the outcome of the survey where more than 95% of the participants qualified the Congress of very good or better and they all want to have another one!

GCP21 website

In 2016, we launched the first phase of the GCP21 website posting all the past [International Conferences](#) and the first 8 [Strategic meetings](#) we organized in the past 3 years. It is our pleasure to let you know that all the presentations, posters and abstracts for all these meetings are now on the [GCP21](#) website for you to download and particularly we posted all the plenary presentations with the voice over to make it more appealing for those who could not attend or to revisit for special interest. We also launched a new feature called: [Cassava News](#) that will be collected worldwide, spread through emails and social media, and also posted for your interest.

GCP21 Strategic Meetings

In 2016, GCP21 organized two special Strategic meetings, the first one on Oct 4-6 was about the Gari Revolution, and the second one about An Integrated System for Cassava Production in Africa on Oct 26-27, 2016.

The [Gari Revolution meeting](#) aimed at dissecting all the components of this extremely important value chain in West Africa. Many millions of people depend on Gari everyday and many more in the future. Once produced gari has the capacity to be stored for months, making it as the super food for expanding cities in Africa. However, its transformation productivity is poorly efficient and there are major concerns about food safety, working conditions for women and pollution for the environment. GCP21 is developing now a roadmap with activities to remedy to these issue and improve the efficacy of the value chain.

[The Integrated System for Cassava Production in Africa](#) aimed at reviewing all the issue that could prevent the efficient mechanization of the cassava production in Africa. It has been demonstrated many times that mechanization of the cassava production in addition to other important elements such as improved varieties, excellent weed control and good management of the production can boost 3 times the cassava productivity in Africa above 25Mt/ha, which would be needed to feed the continent by 2050. However, there are many hurdles that could prevent this to happen and GCP21 has reviewed and listed them with a panel of experts in order to be tackled in the near future.

Both topics are at the center of the TAAT program and therefore essential for the success of the development plan and it is timely to discuss these issues and to fill the gaps to increase probability of success.

What's Next for 2017?

Announcement of the Next Cassava Conference for 2018

The IVth GCP21 conference is planned for mid 2018, we received 3 proposals and the GCP21 Secretariat will decide soon, where and when the conference will happen. As soon as a decision will be made it will be posted on the website and widely advertised.

GCP21 website

In early 2017 we will launch the second phase of the GCP21 website with the development of the ***Membership system***. The concept is to list individuals, associations, R&D organizations, companies and projects. We have already selected a large number of those members and we are developing the database now. The membership will be free, and auto-updated by the members. As soon as the database will be up and running you will all be individually contacted to check your information and sign-in.

Cassava Stories, [a new type of information on GCP21 website](#): the concept is to share an experience in the cassava community about cassava production, transformation or use of cassava products. Cassava is produced and used in many different ways throughout the world and we believe there is much to be gained by sharing this information. Our recent experience is about [Cassava in Parana](#). In this South Brazilian state cassava is mechanized from production to products. Farmers can attain fairly high yields, and processors have extremely high efficiencies for transformation that are 50 times more efficient than in Africa. Cassava is currently the most valuable crop in this part of the world! We will share this experience for everybody to discover Parana and thereby open eyes and generate ideas. We will also contact several key cassava people to call on their contribution to prime the pump, but ultimately anybody in the community can share his/her own experience.

Cassava Descriptions, Books, Infography and Maps

We have collected a number of links to provide the readers with cassava information in the form of [description of the crop](#), [books about cassava](#), [infography of cassava](#) related topics, and [maps of various topics](#) related to cassava production and other elements. All this information can be easily accessed and downloaded for use of the readers.

Cassava Stats

Although we acknowledge that the accuracy of cassava statistics is questionable (see below), we nevertheless need to use whatever data is available for many purposes. Extracting the raw data, making calculations and interpreting the data, producing meaningful graphs and tables all is very much time consuming and sometimes confusing. GCP21 has prepared a set of presentations and tables using available cassava data that will be made available shortly to the GCP21 members for their own use.

GCP21 Strategic meetings

In 2017 we will have another two strategic meetings, the first one is already in preparation and it will be about ***Data accuracy and Predication tools for cassava***. It is overly recognized that cassava data statistics are not very accurate and particularly in Africa. In a modern society this information is used for all sorts of decision making processes and if the data is bad, all decisions taken cannot be good. Development planners need better field data to elaborate better plans, investors, science and technology, policy makers and socio-economists need also better data to adjust their plans. What could be done to improve the accuracy of the collected data? what tools, technologies, training systems, support... should be undertaken to improve the situation?

In addition, we are heading at a major impact of global warming and particularly in Africa, where the population will explode more than in any other part of the globe. How can we best predict how much cassava should be produced where? How can we best respond to unexpected climatic changes? How can we prevent migration of population to

search for suitable land to produce food?...

All these questions and more will be addressed in the strategic meeting “**Data Accuracy and Prediction Tools for Cassava**” in order to manage better manage cassava production to avoid major issues

Join us in our social media sites to receive immediate updates!!!

Sincerely,
GCP21 team



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Global Partnership To Unlock the Cassava Potential

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