

Cassava Germplasm: Collection Process and Action Plan for South, East and Central Africa

Hosted by the
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
and the
Global Cassava Partnership for 21st Century



Kindly funded by the
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

June 4th – 6th 2013, Dar-es-Salaam





Background



- Importance of cassava in South, East and Central Africa



Background

- Importance of genetic diversity and farmer knowledge in cassava breeding
- Available in farmer's fields but not conserved or easily accessible to breeders
- This lack of a repository of germplasm means that:
 1. Local landraces are **not readily available** to breeders
 2. **No 'type-specimen'** of varieties are available so breeders are often not sure of what they are breeding with
 3. Disease-free farmer landraces are not available, preventing the **movement** and sharing of germplasm
 4. Farmer varieties are vulnerable to **genetic erosion**
 5. There is no germplasm **database** concerning the various attributes of particular clones, geographical location and farmer perceptions for use as a decision-making tool

Background

We believe that it is urgent that the **cassava community** comes together to remedy to this situation and **act together** at collecting, evaluating, identifying and preserving this valuable germplasm for the benefit of farmers and breeders to improve **cassava productivity** in the SEC Africa region.

Purpose

To devise a **strategy to work together** to efficiently and effectively **harness genetic resources** and the **farmer knowledge** associated with these resources for a more **farmer-centric approach to cassava breeding** in South, East and Central Africa.

This will lead to better **adoption** of improved cassava varieties particularly by women farmers, with **impacts on increased food security, income generation, nutrition** which all contribute to improved **livelihoods** of particularly female led households.



Outputs

A **strategy** and **roadmap** for the conservation, exchange and compilation of knowledge relating to cassava germplasm in the region and a **white paper** on the topic. The roadmap will form the basis of new grant developments.



Agenda – Day 1

1. Introduction
2. Cassava landraces in SEC Africa: value, diversity and conservation status
3. On-going cassava conservation activities in Africa
4. Introduction to a roadmap for cassava conservation and exchange in SEC Africa
5. The genetic resources global policy environment



Agenda – Day 2

6. Components of Genetic Resource Conservation and Dissemination

- Identification of questions or issues that need to be addressed for the development of a roadmap.
- Flagged for brainstorming in the working groups (Day 3)

7. Managing diversity in cassava varieties



Agenda – Day 3

8. Working groups: Development of a Regional Strategy

- Working groups A, B and C

9. Working groups: Components of a Roadmap

- Working groups D, E and F
- Working groups G, H and J

10. Consolidating meeting outputs



We have an amazing opportunity

Let's use it!!!!

