



Annual Report

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Cassava Enterprise Development Project (CEDP)

Recipient:
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Reporting Period:
July 2004 - September 2005

Date: November 2005

CASSAVA ENTREPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CEDP)

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Activity Objectives

The Cassava Enterprise Development Project (CEDP) aims at increasing economic opportunities through sustainable and competitive cassava production, marketing, and agro-enterprise development in selected communities of the 11 States of the South-East and the South-South geopolitical zones, including the Niger Delta region. This report will follow the results framework of the PMP summarized below:

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

SO: INCREASED CASSAVA BASED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES			
<u>Indicators</u> 1. Income from cassava and products 2. Job creation 3. Wealth / Investment Index			
1.1.0 Increased productivity of cassava <u>Indicators</u> 1. Productivity of cassava. 2. Area under Sustainable management	1.2.0 Increased Value-added of Cassava <u>Indicators</u> 1. Volume of value-added cassava products 2. Value of value-added Cassava products	1.3.0 Increased commercialization of Cassava <u>Indicators</u> 1. Proportion of cassava production sold 2. Sustainable cassava producer associations 3. Membership in cassava producer/marketing associations	1.4.0 Reduced impact of CMD <u>Indicators</u> 1. No of farmers growing CMD resistant varieties 2. Percentage Decline in CMD disease

SO 12: INCREASED CASSAVA BASED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

SO12 Indicator 1: Income from cassava and products

The project is involved in several income yielding activities in the farm and postharvest sector of the cassava crop. At the farm level, the project intends to provide high yielding CMD resistant cassava varieties to farmers beginning from the second year of implementation. At the postharvest level the project currently supports rural-based farmer/processor groups and individuals in cassava processing. Two types of income-yielding cassava processing activities are implemented. The first supports the poor but organized groups (mostly women's groups) with setting up micro-cassava processing centers (MPCs). The second involves assisting private individuals or group investors with the development of small to medium-scale cassava processing factories. The target for the year ending 2005 for MPCs in the 11 States was 60 and three SME factories.

The project defined several criteria for eligibility for either a MPC or a SME. These criteria were guided by several factors peculiar to the area of operation. These conditions included a voluntary willingness to participate in the project. This was measured by the ability of the group to provide a site and construct the foundation of the processing center with contributed group funds. The project considered this an index of ownership of the enterprise by the groups. It also helped to reduce the pervasive "entitlement mentality" and perceived threat on the takeover of land by IP as well as giving a sense of direction to the group to operate as an independent business entity. Other criteria included the availability of a market for the products to be produced, existing infrastructure, past experience in cassava processing, and adequate sourcing of raw materials.

The methodology for site selection followed a stepwise process. Guided by the Needs Assessment report, the first step was the sensitization of a potential group which included an assessment of their ability to provide some commitment to the "their" project. This commitment varied from the provision of a floored foundation to a complete MPC building. From here onwards, the Project would take over to provide and install small processing machinery, training in farm production, product development, agro-enterprise/business training, group dynamics, and finally commissioning of the plant.

To date, the project is currently working in 61 sites with MPCs (Table 1) and three sites with SMEs in the 11 States. Two of the three SME factories have been completed and are now operational. The MPCs are in several stages of development. Of the 61 MPCs, 19 have been completed, 12 of which are currently providing income for beneficiaries, and seven are waiting commissioning as at the time of this report. The remaining 42 sites are under various stages of development. Twenty-nine are under construction; nine are under machine installation, while four are awaiting commitments from the identified groups/community. Therefore, income reported in the Table 2 is based on the 11 MPCs and two SMEs at Umuekechi in Abia State and Abak in Akwa Ibom State that are fully operational. As at August 2005, the eleven MPCs have grossed an income of N214,455.00 while the SMEs together have made an income of N426,680.00. Income here is defined as increases in sales of selected

agricultural products and services to USAID customers. A sale is at the last point in the value chain of USAID customer. Products sold by the MPCs and SMEs include garri, odorless fufu flour (new product), high quality cassava flour (new product), tapioca (new product), and kpokpo gari. The MPCs also provide a custom hire service for cassava-processing activities in the communities where they are sited. Such services also yield income to the benefiting groups. The recorded income from the sale of these cassava-based products should be viewed from the point that these groups had no initial income from these processing activities until project intervention. Secondary income is likely to accrue significantly over time as more plants come in to production.

Al-Usrah Inc. Business Seminar on turning waste to wealth - the example of cassava, plantain, and banana utilization, Al-Usrah Complex, Wisdom Close, Off Wimpey Junction, Rumuepirikom, Port Harcourt, 22 May 2005

About 1200 people attended the event. Participants came from Al-Usrah, FOMWAN, Al-Ithmam, NASFAT, Association of Muslim Professionals, City Model Schools, FOMWAN School, as well as various Islamic organizations and mosques within and around Port Harcourt to attend a business meeting on cassava and plantain 11-13 April 2005. Reporters from Thisday and Daily Triumph newspapers, Al-Risalah magazine, as well as Rivers State TV covered the seminar. A total cost of N 37,325.00 was spent in the purchase of items used for preparation of cassava, plantain, and banana food products, including transportation costs. The total amount realized from sales at the exhibition was N47,640.00, representing a net profit of N10,315 (or 27.6%). It is pertinent to point out that a significant portion of the food products were made available for free sampling and the food items were sold below commercial rates. The indication from this is that commercial production of these products could provide significant small-scale business opportunities.

SO12 Indicator 2: Job Creation

The number of persons directly employed as permanent staff by the factories and processing centers is currently 110. These plants also employ on the average 30 casuals (producers, peelers, packers, construction workers, etc.) per center making a total of 500 employees. Income and employment will continue to increase with project support to farmers/processors and vulnerable groups in the 11 States.

SO12 Indicator 3: Wealth/Investment Index

Indicator is yet to be defined.

Table 1: Distribution of MPCs and SMEs by State October 2004 –September 2005

State	No. of MPCs	No. of SMEs
Abia	7	1
Akwa Ibom,	7	1
Anambra	0	-
Bayelsa	7	-
Cross River	7	-
Delta	6	1
Ebonyi	0	-
Edo	10	-
Enugu	0	-
Imo	5	-
Rivers	13	-
Total	61	3

Table 2: Income and number of persons employed in operational MPCs and SMEs, August 2005

State	LGA	Community	Group Name	Date Center commenced processing	No. in Permanent employment	Income (N) to date
Micro Processing Centres						
Abia	Umuahia North	Uhabiri Ossah	Udochia women	14/08/2005	4	2140
Akwa Ibom	Nsit Ubium	Ikot Eyo	Ikot Eyo Farmers Multipurpose	06/03/2005	6	22265
Akwa Ibom	Mkpat-Enin	Ikot obi-onso	Nkaima Women Assoc.	16/06/2005	7	37225
Cross River	Odukpani	Okurikang	Okurikang Women Multipurpose		10	21,495
Cross River	Obubra	Iyamoyong	Idioka Iyamoyong cassava Producer	07/12/2005	20	78,540
Cross River	Yala	Okpoma	Okpoma women Coop. Society	23/08/2005		
Cross River	Akpabuyo	Kobi Farms	Koby Multipurpose Coop.Society	27/08/2005	5	40000
Bayelsa	Ogbia	Elebele	Abaiayari Elebele Farmers	26/08/2005	10	4640
Bayelsa	Sagbama	Sagbama	Adausi Farmers Coop.Society	09/02/2005	4	5050
Bayelsa	Yenogoa	Ogbogoro	Esuvie Cassava Farmers Assoc	24/08/2005	6	3100
Subtotal					72	214455
Small/Medium-Scale Enterprise						
Abia State	Ukwa West	Umuekechi	Asa North Women Coop.Society	28/04/2005	13	237540
Akwa Ibom	Abak	Ikot Etuk Udo	Widow's Mite Integrated Association	06/05/2005	25	189140
Subtotal					38	426680
Total					110	656475

Income and employment figures were as at end of August 2005.

RESULT 1.1.0: INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY OF CASSAVA

Result 1.1.0 Indicator 1: Productivity of cassava

The project believes that the introduction of high yielding CMD resistant varieties will increase land and labor productivity in the project sites. Prior to project intervention, several improved IITA and NRCRI cassava varieties had been introduced to the project area through several extension agencies. While these varieties are relatively higher yielding, they are not resistant to the virulent form of CMD. The project intends to introduce resistant varieties to participating groups.

Cassava yield samples were obtained and measured from the fields of the benefiting households. The mean yield from the cassava fields was about 11.2 t/ha with a range from 4.025 to 36.65 t/ha. Cassava yield was generally low because farmers had no access to inputs, especially fertilizer. Hence, the yield potential of the crop had not been attained. None of the participating households used fertilizer in the production of cassava. Only one field was plowed with a tractor; two farmers used herbicide in two of their fields. However, it was observed that 59% of the fields surveyed carried local varieties, 41% carried improved varieties (Figure 1). Land and labor productivity are highest when improved cassava varieties are used under traditional management systems. Fresh root yield obtained from fields carrying only local varieties was 10.4 t/ha; 12.1t/ha in fields planted with improved varieties (Figure 2). Productivity of labor is highest for improved varieties (48.5 kg/person day) and least for fields carrying local varieties (41.6 kg/personday). When improved CMD varieties were tested in on-farm trials an average yield of over 20 tons per hectare was achieved and 5 of these varieties have recently been released (see below in table 3, in bold italics).

Figure 1: Percentage of fields under different cassava varieties

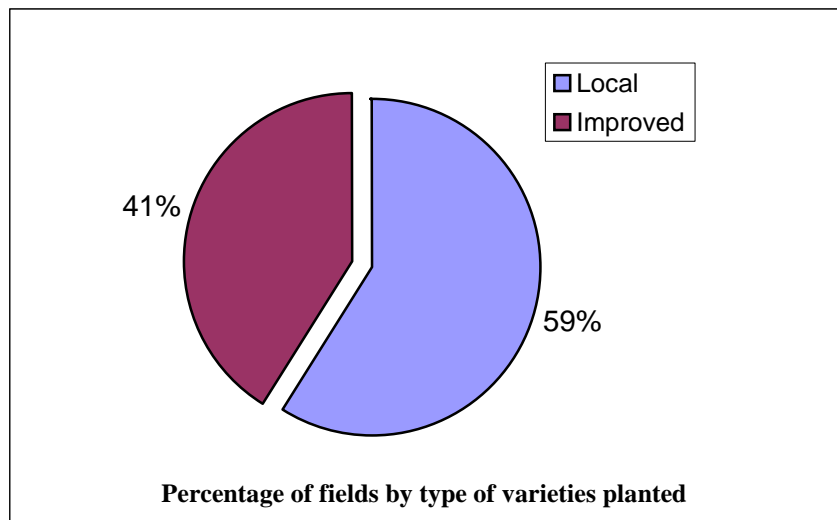


Figure 2: Cassava yields from different varieties

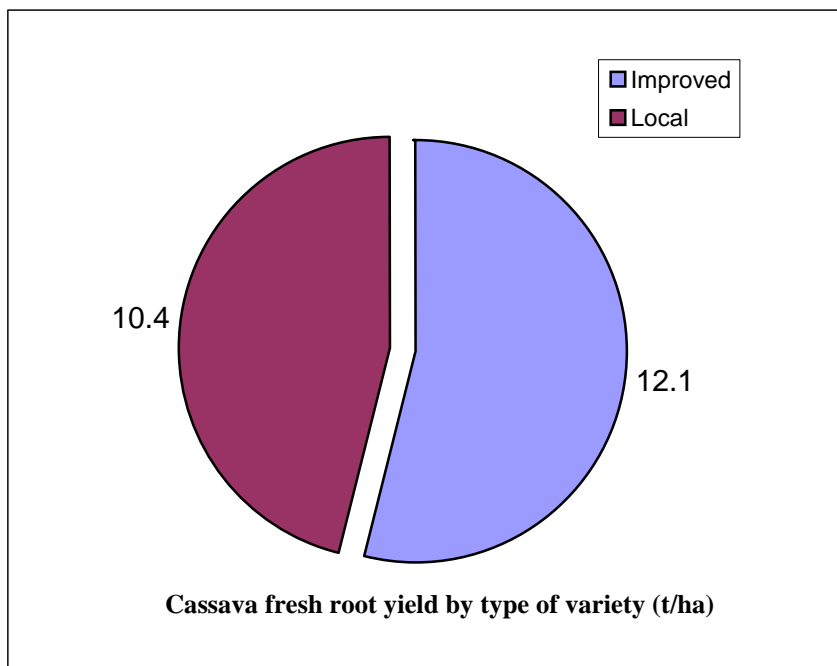


Table 3. Fresh root yield (t/ha)

Clone	Fresh root yield (t/ha)		
	Min	Max	Mean
30572	8.50	56.00	24.28
4(2)1425	2.67	51.40	24.05
82/00058	7.50	58.75	26.10
91/02324	18.67	48.13	29.77
92/0057	7.50	40.13	25.17
92/0067	17.50	41.83	25.22
92/0325	9.75	50.00	19.54
92/0326	11.43	61.33	26.72
92B/00061	14.50	44.90	28.92
92B/00068	14.29	76.00	29.94
94/0026	12.50	60.00	27.72
94/0039	13.69	61.11	28.44
94/0561	7.43	51.38	22.69
95/0166	13.40	52.22	31.58
95/0289	21.00	68.25	30.62
95/0379	14.29	66.00	28.21
96/0523	10.29	46.43	27.87
96/0603	19.38	40.00	29.87
96/1089A	16.00	42.40	27.91
96/1565	8.00	55.00	26.17
96/1569	7.60	45.40	27.33
96/1632	12.13	50.80	29.82
96/1642	18.75	47.25	28.57
97/0162	14.17	53.78	27.59
97/0211	9.30	41.38	25.76
<i>97/2205</i>	<i>10.00</i>	<i>49.00</i>	<i>23.67</i>
97/3200	8.33	41.38	22.33
97/4763	14.60	50.80	27.52
97/4769	2.88	56.00	25.64
97/4779	13.60	47.75	26.41
98/0002	13.64	60.00	28.42
<i>98/0505</i>	<i>17.63</i>	<i>58.00</i>	<i>30.72</i>
<i>98/0510</i>	<i>9.83</i>	<i>55.33</i>	<i>28.81</i>
<i>98/0581</i>	<i>14.00</i>	<i>62.50</i>	<i>29.85</i>
98/2101	10.20	46.67	26.55
98/2226	9.09	34.77	22.89
99/2123	12.67	59.20	22.91
99/3073	8.93	70.40	29.87
99/6012	14.60	44.80	24.00
M98/0028	10.91	47.78	24.32
M98/0040	10.00	49.56	24.47
M98/0068	17.60	52.67	32.27
<i>TME419</i>	<i>14.29</i>	<i>45.00</i>	<i>28.90</i>

N.B. Varieties released in bold italics

Result 1.1.0 Indicator 2: Area under Sustainable management

Area of representative sampled farmers will be measured in hectares by CEDP staff during site visits. Dissemination of CMD resistant varieties commences officially after the second year (2006) of implementation. However, informal introductions show that some farmers are currently growing some of these improved varieties. Furthermore, farmers have now been trained at 22 locations in 11 States on sustainable cassava production and IPM practices. A total of 3965 farmers were trained, 2499 men males and 1466 women (Table 4).

Table 4: Farmers trained

State	Location	Period	Men	Women	Total
Edo	Obayantor	March 2005	65	32	97
	Ekpoma	March 2005	110	13	123
Delta	Ute Okpu	March 2005	84	50	134
	Agbarotor	March 2005	25	14	39
	Agbor	April 2005	31	17	48
	Onicha Olona	May 2005	193	105	298
Cross River	Okrikan	March 2005	113	49	162
	Ogoja	April 2005	163	17	180
	Obudu	Sept 2005	55	51	106
Akwa Ibom	Asunan	March 2005	74	11	85
Imo	Dikenafai	March 2005	97	130	227
	Imerienwe	March 2005	154	78	232
Abia	Ndi Ebe	April 2005	145	76	221
	Ukwa West	April 2005	35	35	70
Enugu	Adani	April 2005	115	40	155
	Nkereffi	April 2005	154	183	337
Ebonyi	Ezzamgbo	April 2005	264	76	340
	Onueke	April 2005	207	73	280
Rivers	Ahoadia	April 2005	152	197	349
Bayelsa	Otuasega	May 2005	48	46	94
	Tungbo	May 2005	34	59	93
Anambra	Ezinato	April 2005	76	31	107
	Ekwusigo	May 2005	105	83	188
Total			2499	1466	3859

Number of extension agents trained

A total of 185 extension agents have already been trained in the 11 States (Table 5). They now have the primary challenge to extend this training, which has been put into videotapes, to other communities in their respective senatorial districts.

Table 5: Extension agents trained

State	Locations	No. extension agents	Men	Women
Edo	Obayantor/Ekpoma	10	10	0
Delta	Agbarotor/Agbor/Onicha Olona	16	10	6
Imo	Ngor Okpala/Ideato South	14	12	2
Cross River	Okrikan/Ogoja	27	18	9
Akwa Ibom	Etinan	6	5	1
Abia	Ndi Ebe/Ukwa West	12	10	2
Rivers	Ahoada	21	14	7
Bayelsa	Otuasega/Tungbo	15	12	3
Enugu	Adani/Nkerefi	20	16	4
Ebonyi	Ezzamgbo/Onueke	26	22	4
Anambra	Ezinato/Ekwusigo	18	15	3
Total		185	144	41

Printing information/training and extension support materials on improved integrated production and pest management practices in project states

In 11 States, 1564 training manuals were distributed as reference materials for farmers and new entrants into cassava production (Table 6). The manuals were kept in libraries created for farmers at the zonal offices of the ADPs, local government headquarters, Kings' palaces, community town halls, and at Farmers' Association offices.

Table 6: Training manuals distributed

State	Location	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total
Edo	Obayantor	5	5	5	5	5	6	31
	Ekpoma	5	5	5	5	5	6	31
Delta	Ute Okpu	10	5	5	4	6	14	44
	Agbarotor	10	5	5	4	6	7	37
	Onicha Olona	20	20	20	20	20	30	130
	Agbor	8	8	8	8	8	10	50
Cross River	Okrikan	7	7	7	7	7	7	42
	Ogoja	10	10	10	10	10	20	70
Akwa Ibom	Asunan	10	10	10	8	12	20	70
Imo	Ideato South	6	6	6	6	6	12	42
	Ngor Okpala	9	9	9	9	9	15	60
Abia	Ndi Ebe	15	15	15	15	15	25	100
	Ukwa West	6	6	6	6	6	12	42
Enugu	Adani	10	10	10	10	10	15	65
	Nkereffi	15	15	15	15	15	25	100
Ebonyi	Ezzamgbo	15	15	15	15	15	25	100
	Ezzi	15	15	15	15	15	25	100
Rivers	Ahoada	20	20	20	20	20	30	130
Bayelsa	Otuasega	10	10	10	10	10	10	60
	Tungbo	10	10	10	10	10	10	60
Anambra	Ezinato	10	10	10	10	10	20	70
	Ekwusigo	20	20	20	20	20	30	130
Total		246	236	236	232	240	364	1564

A= Starting a cassava farm
 C= Weed control practices
 E= Food products from cassava

B= Pest control practices
 D= Diseases
 F= Growing cassava commercially in Nigeria

RESULT 1.2.0: INCREASED VALUE-ADDED OF CASSAVA

Result 1.2.0 Indicators 1 and 2: Volume of value-added cassava products and Value of value-added Cassava products

Please see details under SO12 Indicator 1: Income from cassava and products.

To date total volume of dry matter processed by the MPCs and SMEs is 35,208 tons. To enhance the volume and value of value-added cassava products, community trainings were undertaken since January till September 2005. A preliminary analysis of these activities showed that a total of 99 training sessions have been done, 49 in postharvest and cassava utilization and 50 in enterprise development (Table7).

Table 7: Postharvest and enterprise development training activities

Post-harvest and utilization	Female	Male	Pro-ducers	Pro-cessors	Bakers	Caterers	Fabri-cators	Total
Number of sessions (49)	1059	762	1186	434	121	58	22	1821
%	58.2%	41.8%	65.1%	23.8%	6.6%	3.2%	1.2%	
Enterprise development								
Number of sessions (50)	532	186	532	186				718
%	74.1%	25.9%	74.1%	25.9%				
Total number of sessions (99)								
	1591	948	1718	620	121	58	22	2539
%	62.7%	37.3%	67.7%	24.4%	4.8%	2.3%	0.9%	

The training activities in postharvest and cassava utilization have involved 58.2% women and 41.8% men, showing similar gender interest for these activities. Producers of cassava products (65.1%) has been the category more interested in this kind of training. A total of 1821 people were trained in these activities.

Enterprise development training actives trained a total of 718 people, 532 women (74.1%) and 186 men (25.9%). These numbers show the active participation of women in cassava processing enterprises. The training of cassava enterprises starts with general management practices, including some basic concepts about marketing. After this, a more focused activity is planned to cover management, marketing, and bookkeeping. Some of the enterprises agreed to divide themselves in to working groups and by doing that promote competition to generate quantity and quality products. In addition, agroenterprise staff of the project are taking three or four members of the cassava

enterprises to the main markets and help them to negotiate and search for better deals for their products.

RESULT 1.3.0: INCREASED COMMERCIALIZATION OF CASSAVA

Result 1.3.0 Indicator 1: Proportion of cassava production sold

According to the PMP proportion of cassava sold by the project beneficiaries in 2005 is 61%.

In addition, cassava stems are currently sold in commercial quantities; for instance, five farmers at Ubiaja in Edo State sold 750 bundles of improved, high-quality stems. Two farmers in Akwa Ibom also sold about 1000 bundles of quality stems, the bulk of which was bought by the New Nigerian Foundation Project in the State. Another set of 1200 bundles was purchased by Imo State Ministry of Agriculture and distributed to farmers in the State. Farmers could have sold more stems, however, most of them preferred to multiply against 2006 (see above).

Result 1.3.0 Indicators 2 and 3: Sustainable cassava producer associations and Membership in cassava producer/marketing associations

Group membership is an important criterion of the project. The related SO 12 indicator defines sustainable producer groups/associations based on several criteria. Groups must be registered, have regular meetings and contributions. Other criteria include changes in group membership since project intervention, frequency of meetings and number of meetings held and total dues paid up by members. A summary of these criteria is presented in Table 8. Of the 64 project sites with processing centers, 45 (70%) groups are registered farmer/processor groups, 17 (27%) are not registered, while 2 (3%) are charity groups. A group becomes registered when there is evidence of documentation with the Ministry of Commerce and/or the Ministry of Agriculture in the respective project States. Since project intervention, there has been an increase in membership in 29 groups. There has been no change in membership in 33 groups, and a decrease in membership in two groups. The decrease was due to the inability of some members to meet up with an increase in membership dues, while some members relocated to the cities. Initial membership before project intervention ranged from 5 to 200 persons with an average per group of 25 persons. But with project intervention, group enthusiasm and membership increased averaging about 70 persons per group. Current membership per group ranges from 5 to 1000 in persons. Most groups hold their meetings on a monthly basis and membership dues range from N20/week to N1000/quarter. As at August 2005 all group members had paid up their dues in 30 of the 64 groups. About 50 of the 64 groups own and cultivate cassava in cooperative farms. Forty-two (66%) of the groups are women's groups, (30%) are mixed male and female groups, while two are charitable groups/organization. This is a positive indication for the project. Evidence has shown that incomes accruing to women are more likely to be used to improve household welfare.

Table 8: Membership in organizations found in communities with processing centers

State	LGA	Community	MPC/ SME	Group Name	Registered Y=1, N=2	Initial members in the group	Current membership	Frequency of meetings	No. of meetings held 2005	Paid-up members	Non paid-up members mid year	Own coop. farm Y=1 N=2
Abia	Umuahia North	Uhabiri Ossah	MPC	Udochia Women	1	5	30	Weekly	30	16	14	1
Abia	Umuahia South	Umuabali	MPC	Imebuogu Umuabali	1	21	23	Monthly	8	15	8	1
Abia	Umuahia South	Ubani Ibekwu	MPC	Udokanma Women	1	50	93	Bimonthly	3	50	43	1
Abia	Ohafia	Agboji Abriba	MPC	Akoli Agboji Abriba FMCS	1	12	29	Monthly	7	29	0	1
Abia	Ossisioma Ngwa	Ossisioma	MPC	Ihunanya Umunwaogu Women	1	10	40	Weekly	29	40	0	1
Abia	Isiala Ngwa	Amaoji	MPC	Idinaotu Women's Group	2	200	1000	Monthly	7	300	700	2
Abia	Ukwa West	Umuekechi	SME	Asa North Women Coop. Society	1	20	39	Weekly	30	26	13	1
Akwa Ibom	Ini	Ogun Itu	MPC	Ekemini Women Coop. Society	2	20	50	Monthly	3	40	10	1
Akwa Ibom	Nsit Ubium	Ikot Eyo	MPC	Ikot Eyo Farmers' Multipurpose	2	55	35	Monthly	8	15	20	1
Akwa Ibom	Mkpat-Enin	Ikot Obi-onso	MPC	Nkaima Women Assoc.	2	30	68	Weekly	30	0	68	2
Akwa Ibom	Abak	Ikot Etuk Udo	SME	Widow's Mite Integrated Assoc.	1							1
Cross River	Odukpani	Okurikang	MPC	Okurikang Women's Multipurpose	1	15	93	Weekly	28	10	83	2
Cross River	Obubra	Iyamoyong	MPC	Idioka Iyamoyong cassava Producers	1	48	64	Weekly	29	20	44	1
Cross River	Boki	Kanyang	MPC	Kanyang Women's Assoc.	2	20	102	Biweekly	14	102	0	2
Cross River	Boki	Bamba	MPC	Bamba Women's Assoc.	2	20	153	Weekly	28	69	84	1
Cross River	Bekwarra	Upah	MPC	Abua-Aluka Women's Assoc.	1	35	44	Weekly	28	40	4	1
Cross River	Yala	Okpoma	MPC	Okpoma Women's Coop. Society	2	17	19	Weekly	2	19	0	2
Cross River	Akpabuyo	Kobi Farms	MPC	Koby Multipurpose Coop. Society	1	5	5	Monthly	7	5	0	2
Bayelsa	Ogbia	Elebele	MPC	Abaiyari Elebele Farmers	1	10	10	Monthly	3	10	0	1
Bayelsa	Sagbama	Sagbama	MPC	Adausi Farmers' Coop. Society	1	10	12	Quarterly	3	12	0	1
Bayelsa	Yenegoa	Agbia-Nedugo	MPC	Kemebigha Cassava Farmers	1	20	20	Monthly	4	20	0	2
Bayelsa	Yenegoa	Ogbogoro	MPC	Esuvie Cassava Farmers' Assoc.	2	10	16	Biweekly	18	16	0	2
Delta	Isoko North	Otor Iyede	MPC	Ewoma Iyede Women Farmers	1	10	43	Monthly	7	35	8	1
Delta	Isoko North	Ozoro	MPC	Happy Ladies Multipurpose	1	10	25	Monthly	8	15	10	1
Delta	Ndokwa West	Obetim Uno	MPC	Otu Onye Lu Olie Coop. Society	1	33	40	Biweekly	14	31	9	1
Delta	Bomadi	Bomadi	MPC	Meiyekeremogbo Erebo Assoc	2	42	42	Monthly	8	25	17	2
Delta	Ethiophe West	Kokori Inland	MPC	Sio Cooperative Society Ltd	1	25	10	Monthly	9	10	0	2

Edo	Esan West	Ogwa	MPC	Royal Palace Coop. Society	2	5	5	Monthly	8	5	0	2
Edo	Etsako Central	Ekperi	MPC	Akugbe Multipurpose Society	1	15	15	Biweekly	17	15	0	1
Edo	Esan West	Warrake	MPC		2	10	10	Monthly	8	10	0	1
Edo	Ovia North East	Utese	MPC	Utese Cassava Growers' Assoc.	1	25	73	Monthly	9	40	33	2
Edo	Orhionmwun	Oben	MPC	Nomwun Multipurpose Coop.	1	10	20	Monthly	9	20	0	1
Imo	Ideato South	Okohia	MPC	Ugochinyere Women's Coop. Society	1	30	137	Bimonthly	3	96	41	2
Imo	Nwangele	Umudurunna Abba	MPC	Udoka Women In Agriculture	1	12	16	Monthly	6	16	0	1
Imo	Orlu	Awo Idemili	MPC	Amaraihe Awo Idemili Ward Two	2	7	51	Monthly	7	25	0	2
Imo	Ehime Mbano	Umuebo Ezeala	MPC	Aladinma Coop.Society	1	10	70	Monthly	9	22	48	1
Imo	Ngo Okpala	Obaingwu	MPC	Ezuala Women's Welfare Association		75	75	Monthly	8	25	0	1
Delta	Ika South	Abavo	MPC	Abavo Cooperative Farmers Group	1	22	22	Monthly	8	12	10	1
Delta	Ukwuani	Umutu	SME	Ajuwa Multi purpose Coop Soc.	1	13	13	Monthly	8	13	0	1
Edo	Esan West	Ogwa	MPC	Royal Palace coop.society	2	5	5	Monthly	8	5	0	2
Edo	Etsako Central	Ekperi	MPC	Akugbe Multipurpose Society	1	15	15	Biweekly	17	15	0	1
Edo	Esan West	Warrake	MPC	Warake Cassava Growers Association	2	10	10	Monthly	8	10	0	1
Edo	Ovia North East	Utese	MPC	Utese Cassava Growers Assoc.	1	25	73	Monthly	9	40	33	2
Edo	Orhionmwun	Oben	MPC	Nomwun multipurpose Coop.	1	10	20	Monthly	9	20	0	1
Edo	Ovia South West	Aifesoba	MPC	Aifesoba Farmers Association	1	34	34	Biweekly	15	34	0	1
Edo	Edo South	Iguelaba	MPC	Iguelaba MPC farmers society	1	16	16	Monthly	8	16	0	1
Edo	Uhumwode, Edo South	Orhua	MPC	Cassava Growers Association, Orhua	2	14	14	Monthly	7	11	3	1
Edo	Owan East	Ubeleke	MPC	Cassava Growers Association, Orhua	2	18	18	Monthly	7	13	5	1
Imo	Ideato South	Okohia	MPC	Ugochinyere women Coop. Society	1	30	137	Bimonthly	3	96	41	2
Imo	Nwangele	Umudurunna Abba	MPC	Udoka Women in Agriculture	1	12	16	Monthly	6	16	0	1
Imo	Orlu	Awo Idemili	MPC	Amaraihe Awo Idemili assoc	2	7	51	Monthly	7	25	26	2
Imo	Ehime Mbano	Umuebo Ezeala	MPC	Aladinma Coop.Society	1	10	70	Monthly	9	22	48	1
Imo	Ngo Okpala	Obaingwu	MPC	Ezuala Women Welfare Association	1	35	35	Monthly	8	35	0	1
Rivers	Eleme	Ebubu	MPC	Royal Farms association	1	5	5	Weekly	31	0	0	1
Rivers	Tai	Kpite Tai	MPC	Kporaks Cooperative Society Ltd	1	8	8	Biweekly	12	8	0	1
Rivers	Khana	Loyo Bori	MPC	Le Zia Bori Farmers Investment	1	11	11	Monthly	8	11	0	1

Cooperative												
Rivers	Gokana	Kigbara Dere	MPC	K'Dere Apex Farmers Cooperative Society Ltd (11 cooperative societies)	1	18	18	Monthly	8	18	0	1
Rivers	Tai	Ban Ogoi	MPC	Gba-Nkporo Ban ogoi Farmers Cooperative Society	1	30	30	Monthly	8	27	3	1
Rivers	Emohua	Rumuekpe	MPC	Rumuekpe Women Cooperative Society (Elemama)	1	31	31	Monthly	5	17	14	1
Rivers	Emohua	Umudioga	MPC	Umudioga Apex Farmers Cooperative Society (10 cooperatives)	1	28	28	Monthly	7	22	6	1
Rivers	Etche	Umuechem	MPC	Chinyere Umuechem Women Farmers and United Daughters Women Cooperative Society Ltd	1	48	48	Biweekly	14	43	5	1
Rivers	Oyigbo	Afam Ukwu	MPC	Afam Ukwu Women Cooperative Group	1	36	36	Monthly	5	24	12	1
Rivers	Oyigbo	Umuagbai	MPC	Ihunanya di mma and Umuagbai Women Cooperative Society	1	40	40	Monthly	8	33	7	1
Rivers	Emohua	Elele Alimini	MPC	Elele Alimini Farmers Association	2	21	21	Monthly	8	21	0	1
Rivers	Abua/Odua	Abua	MPC	Abua Women Cooperative farmers Association	1	17	17	Monthly	7	13	4	1
Rivers	Oyigbo	Umuebule1	MPC	Umuebule 1 Women Cooperative Society Ltd	1	46	46	Monthly	6	32	14	1

RESULT 1.4.0: REDUCED IMPACT OF CMD

Result 1.4.0 Indicator 1: No of farmers growing CMD resistant varieties

The CMD resistant varieties will be assessed after the second year (2006) of multiplication and distribution. However, various informal testings have been going on at the on-station and on-farm levels as mentioned in the next pages.

A total of forty-three (43) newly improved, high yielding cassava varieties that have multiple resistance to diseases and pests were introduced to members of the Cassava Growers Association of Nigeria (CGAN), Women in Agriculture, and the organized private sector in the following States: Enugu, Abia, Edo, Delta, Anambra, Cross River, Imo, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Ebonyi, and Bayelsa as early as July 2004. On-farm trials and community-based demonstration plots were established to evaluate and select those with high potentials for economic returns to their investments. In community-based demonstration plots, the new CMD resistant varieties were planted on 1-ha plot. This land area was apportioned to 10 representative producers in each community so that each managed 1000m² and evaluated the 43 varieties along with other members of the community. Each demonstration plot served as a training center for the community; the selected farmers served as local resource persons for other farmers.

In collaboration with the CMD project in the South-South and South-East States jointly sponsored by the Federal Government of Nigeria, NDDC, SPDC, and USAID, farmers in each of the participating States have now successfully selected 10 improved varieties from the 43 varieties that were evaluated in on-farm trials and demonstration plots in 2004/05 (see above). Overall, 15 varieties were selected across the 11 target States. Farmers' selections were based on high fresh and dry root yields, multiple pest resistance, particularly to the dreaded CMD. Farmers also considered the suitability of each variety for specific cultural practices and food preferences. These 15 varieties are the following: 98/0581, 96/1632, 97/4763, M98/0068, 96/0603, 97/2205, 95/0289, 97/3200, 92B/00061, 92/0057, TME419, 98/0510, 98/0505, 92/0326, 97/0162.

Five of the above varieties (TME 419, TMS 97/2205, TMS 98/0505, TMS 98/0510, and TMS 98/0581) were found to be widely adapted and were being nominated for release. They are not only resistant to CMD but also have adequate resistance to the other major diseases and pests, such as cassava bacterial blight (CBB), cassava anthracnose disease (CAD), cassava mealybug (CM), and cassava green mite (CGM). The varieties produced high and stable root yields (over 20 t/ha). In addition, TME 419 and TMS 98/2205 are suitable for food, industrial uses, and livestock feeds. TMS 98/0505 is suitable for food and industrial uses; TMS 98/0510 and TMS 98/0581 are suitable for food and livestock feeds.

In the conduct of its statutory function, National Root Crops Research Institute, Umudike, through the Coordinator of the Cassava Program, Dr F.O. Ogbé, presented the five selected varieties on 30 August 2005 to the Technical Sub-Committee (TSC) on naming, registration, and release of crop varieties under the chairmanship of Prof. P.O. Oyekan. The TSC, after considerable deliberations, recommended the five new cassava varieties along side new varieties of maize, cowpea, rice, kenaf, millet, and wheat to the National Committee on naming, registration, and release of crop varieties, livestock/fisheries.

Prof. P.O. Oyekan presented the recommendation of the TSC on 1 September 2005 to the meeting of the National Committee on variety release. Mr Oladosu Awoyemi, the chairman of the National Committee on variety release, presided over the meeting. All the new crop varieties, including the five new cassava varieties listed above, were officially released. This is a significant achievement for the CMD/CEDP projects, the cassava farmers, and for Nigeria. Due credit must be given to the collaborators and sponsors of the project: the Federal Government, the participating State governments, NDDC, USAID and SPDC. The comments of the Minister of Agriculture, Mallam Adamu Bello, about the success recorded are encouraging.

The five varieties are now being extensively multiplied for distribution to farmers to sustain cassava cultivation even under CMD stress (see below).

Establishment and maintenance of strategic reserves of diverse CMD resistant varieties for food, feed, and agro-industrial uses through the use of extension network and private sector multiplication and dissemination of the improved CMD resistant varieties

Community-based rapid multiplication and distribution of improved clones to farmers using a national network of Cassava Growers Associations in various States

Working in collaboration with various stakeholders, including the Cassava Growers Association of Nigeria (CGAN), the NEPAD Youth Organization of Nigeria (NEYON), State ADPs, NGOs, and industries that depend on cassava as a raw material in the target States, strategies are being put in place to make planting materials of these varieties available to farmers for the next cropping season. Three tiers of multiplication are concurrently used to increase and sustain stem supply. These are (1) primary multiplication managed by the project; (2) secondary multiplication managed by collaborators, NGOs, and industries, and (3) tertiary multiplication managed by farmers and farmers' groups.

Primary multiplication

At primary multiplication sites managed by IITA (Table 8), 125 ha of improved varieties are available. Of this area, 70 ha were planted between July and September 2005 while the rest is made up of fields ratooned in 2005 and expected to produce a second cycle of stems in 2006. Multiplication

in primary sites is still on going and it is projected that an additional 50 to 100 ha of new fields will be planted in October/November 2005.

Table 8: Multiplication of improved varieties of cassava in primary multiplication sites

S/N	State	Location	No. of ha	Quantity of cuttings expected in 2006	Contact
Newly planted fields					
1	Edo	Obayantor	12	1,440,000	IITA
2	Delta	Abraka	10	1,200,000	IITA
3	Delta	Onicha Olona	10	1,200,000	IITA
4	Akwa Ibom	Ikot Ekpene	5	600,000	IITA
5	Anambra	Achala	5	600,000	IITA
7	Kogi	Ejiba	13	1,560,000	IITA
8	Niger	Mokwa	5	600,000	IITA
9	Oyo	Ibadan	6	720,000	IITA
10	Ogun	Ikenne	4	480,000	IITA
Subtotal 1:			70	8,400,000	
Ratooned fields					
11	Kogi	Ejiba	28	3,360,000	IITA
12	Kwara	Oke Oyi	10	1,200,000	IITA
13	Edo	Irrua	10	1,200,000	IITA
14	Abuja	Kwali	5	600,000	IITA
15	Niger	Mokwa	2	240,000	IITA
Subtotal 2			55	6,600,000	
Total available hectarage			125	15,000,000	

In preparation for large-scale multiplication of stems of these new varieties from 2005 a total of 38 ha of 40 improved varieties was planted under intensive management with irrigation at River Basin Authorities in Kwara and Kogi States between November 2004 and March 2005. A minimum estimate of three million cuttings sufficient to plant 300 ha was to be realized. This quantity of planting material is now being used to establish bigger multiplication farms in collaboration with farmers in Edo, Delta, Rivers, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Imo, and Abia State. This activity will start in December in Bayelsa, as soon as the soil water level is low enough for cassava production

Secondary multiplication

This level of multiplication is intended to provide quality stems of desirable varieties to farmers through rural industries that use cassava as raw material. The industries are encouraged to multiply stems of good varieties and make them available to clusters of farmers who will produce, not just for food but for income generation. This is a market approach that will enhance the adoption of these varieties and increase cassava hectarage per farmer, since farmers are assured of immediate markets for their tuberous roots and stems. Apart from industries, some serious NGOs and State ADPs are involved at this level to multiply stems for farmers against 2006.

In the past 12 months, stems of improved varieties covering 95 ha have been planted, as shown in Table 9.

Table 9: Newly established multiplication fields – 2005/06 season

State	Location	Quantity of cuttings supplied	Plot size planted (ha)	Period of activity	Contact
Anambra	Awka/Igbariam	11,000	1	March - June	Agwuncha 08033257985
	Ezinato	24,000	2	March – June	Agwuncha 08033257985
	Ekwusigo	50,000	4	March – June	Udeaja 08025637740 Echendu 08030862232
Enugu	Nkerefi	35,000	3	March – June	Igwe of Nkerefi 08033062616
	Adani	25,000	2	March – June	Nwabunne 08043131954
Imo	Ideato South	25,000	2	March – June	LGA chairman 08036776306
	Ngor Okpala	26,000	2	March – June	LGA chairman 08037091190
Ebonyi	Ikwo South	11,500	1	March – June	NEPAD youths 08037791357
	Umuta	10,000	1	March – June	NEPAD youths 08037791357
Edo	Aviodor	10,000	1	March – June	Christopher 08043206894
Delta	Agbor	30,000	2.5	March – June	Onyenekwe 08037206247 Obuh 08034628385
	Ute Opku	11,000	1	March – June	Charles (ADP) 08034909226
Cross River	Calabar	17,000	1.5	March – June	Madam Nora 08023677947
	Boki	23,000	2	March – June	Omang 08033023540
	Bekwara	12,000	1	March - June	Mama Grassroot 08023081503
Edo	Afuze	180,000	15	July - Sept	Mr George % FDA Ubiaja 08054214134
Edo	Akoko Edo	60,000	5	July – Sept	Mr Dinsu % FDA Ubiaja 08054214134
Edo	Irrua	36,000	3	July – Sept	Hebzzibah farms 08057417257
Imo	Ohaji	72,000	6	July – Sept	% FDA Ubiaja 08054214134
Delta	Abraka	120,000	10	July – Sept	Hon. Paul Ogbue 08035068976
Delta	Onicha Olona	120,000	10	July – Sept	Olona Ranch 08034042312
Delta	Ibuzo	12,000	1	July – Sept	Delta ADP 08034909226
Cross River	Obudu	144,000	12	July – Sept	Godilogo farms
Akwa Ibom	Uyo	60,000	5	July – Sept	Akwa Ibom ADP 08035524602
Imo	Amaozari	12,000	1	July - Sept	Forward Africa 08033075001
Total		1,136,500	95	March - Sept	

It is estimated that an additional 50 ha or more would be planted in collaboration with the Nigerian Starch Mill (NSM) using stems from fields established in 2004. Hundreds of farmers in Delta and Imo States will be involved in this operation. They will benefit directly, since the bulk of the stems that will be harvested from this field in 2006 will be used to support clusters of farmers who would produce cassava roots for sale to the industry. It has been observed in the southwestern part of Nigeria that such industries are very important catalysts for expanding production at the farmers' level and, by so doing, they enhance food security, alleviate poverty, and create jobs.

Tertiary multiplication

This level of multiplication is intended to hasten farmer-to-farmer distribution of planting materials and to sustain stem multiplication at the farmers' level from a commercial perspective. The

demonstration plots established in 2004 have been the main source of planting materials for farmers in 2005. Farmers as groups or individuals received planting materials from these fields for further multiplication in 2005. In addition to the 16 ha planted before July 2005 and managed directly by farmers, an additional 30 ha of these improved varieties have been multiplied by farmers, using planting materials from the 2004 multiplication fields. These clusters of farmers will provide their members with planting materials and sell excess stems to intending buyers from the next planting season. A bundle of stems of any of these improved varieties attracts as much as N450.00 in the open market and farmers see this as an avenue for income generation.

Farmers have generally observed that the new varieties introduced to them by IITA are very good compared with the varieties they are used to. The performance of some of the new varieties in their on-farm and demonstration trials has been so impressive that farmers take the extra cost of protecting their stems from theft. The following varieties (TME419, 98/0505, 92/0326, 92/0057, and 96/1632) are rapidly spreading among farmers, particularly in Edo, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Abia, Ebonyi, and in other States. It has become very common to find one or two of these varieties growing in farmers' fields particularly in communities where on-farm or demonstration trials have been planted in the past 2 years. This has been the case in almost all the States and, as a result, the exact number of ha multiplied by farmers between June and September 2005 cannot be estimated because hundreds of farmers in each of the States harvested stems from the old fields to run their own private businesses. The effect of this will become more evident from 2006 as farmers begin to increase that land area under the new varieties.

Table 10: Quantity of stems pruned and multiplied from 2004 multiplication fields by farmers

State	Location	Quantity of cuttings available	Quantity pruned and planted	Land area planted (ha)	Period of activity
Abia	Ndi Ebe	95,000	36,800	3	March – June
	Elugu Nkporo	72,200	22,400	2	March – June
Imo	Obi Ngwa	52,800	12,800	1	March – June
	Ngor Okpala	40,000	10,000	1	March – June
Rivers	Ahoada	100,000	10,000	1	March – June
Delta	Ezi	50,000	11,000	1	March – June
Akwa Ibom	Abak	100,000	36,000	3	March – June
	Etinan	70,000	22,000	2	March – June
	Akansoko	70,000	0	0	March – June
Enugu	Adani	65,000	22,000	2	March – June
Ebonyi	Onueke	50,000	0	0	March – June
	Ikwo	50,000	0	0	March – June
Cross River	Adagor Ukpe	50,000	0	0	March – June
	Okuku Yala	50,000	0	0	March – June
Edo	Obayantor	70,000	0	0	March – June
	Ekpoma/Abudu	120,000	0	0	March – June
Abia	Ndi Ebe, Elugu Nkporo, Obi Ngwa	148,000	120,000	10	July – Sept
Akwa Ibom	Abak, Etinan	200,000	60,000	5	July – Sept
Cross River	Yala, Obudu	100,000	72,000	6	July – Sept
Edo	Obayantor, Irrua, Ekpoma	190,000	120,000	10	July – Sept
River	Ahoada	90,000	36,000	3	July – Sept
Ebonyi	Abakaliki, Ikwo	100,000	96,000	8	July – Sept
Total		193,3000	687,000	58	

Apart from these community-based multiplication plots, about 850 other farmers in Bayelsa, Rivers, Delta, Anambra, Akwa Ibom, Ebonyi, and Abia States directly received one packet of 25 improved stem cuttings each for multiplication. This distribution was done during the Farmers Field days that were organized in April-May 2005.

Result 1.4.0 Indicator 2: Percentage Decline in CMD disease

Since intensive distribution of the improved varieties to the beneficiaries will actively commence in 2006 no change in the reduction of the disease incidence from the baseline figure of 24.4% is reported. However, preliminary observations show that the severity and incidence of Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD) were generally very low in all multiplication sites. This can be attributed to the fact that the improved clones being promoted have good levels of resistance to CMD. Mild symptoms were observed only on 99/6012 and 92/0326. The two checks, TMS 30572 and 4(2)1425, showed severe symptoms of the disease. A number of cassava clones were also affected by Cassava green mite, which is a dry season pest.

Farmers were trained, on their farms, on the sanitation of planting materials and good nursery management so as to produce high quality planting materials. Consequently most farmers can now easily identify the major diseases of cassava and have coined names that they can easily remember such as “AIDS” for CMD. They are now aware that any disease or pest that affects cassava leaves also reduces root yields. They also know that these diseases and pests can be carried from one location to another through stems, hence the need for sanitation and good field management so as to produce healthy and quality cassava planting materials. In the current production and multiplication fields, stems were carefully selected with farmers’ participation before planting at each location. The high demand for improved planting materials has encouraged farmers to adopt sanitation practices that guarantee quality stem production. Consequently, the spread of improved varieties in farmers’ fields is beginning to reduce the horrible sight of sick leaves, characteristic of plants attacked by the mosaic virus. Additional care is also now taken by farmers to plant cuttings from healthy plants, whenever they use stems from their old fields.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Capacity improvements in key institutions

The project has set up a market information service and an active website (www.cassavabiz.org). Information on market prices are provided on the website as well as on local radio, and newspapers. Market prices are provided for 22 major staple commodities across 30 States from 30 urban and 40 rural markets in the Federation. For a global information on market prices in Nigeria, check the market information page of the project website on www.cassavabiz.org.

The project uses the market information service to develop institutional capacity to provide this service for Nigeria. In collaboration with the MISTOWA project another USAID, WARP- funded project and the CIDA funded PROSAB project at IITA, CEDP provides leadership in the development of the National Agricultural Market Information Network (NAMIN). This network consists of the National Agricultural Market Information Service (NAMIS) of the Projects Coordinating Unit of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Abuja Securities and Commodity Exchange (ASCE), representatives of the Dawanau Market Traders Association, and the Mile 12 Market Traders Association. Both NAMIS and ASCE are potential institutions that need support and development to undertake the role of providing an agricultural commodity market information service.

In providing leadership in this activity the project has moved away from startup with NAMIN and NAMIS to the development phase. The data collection, transcription, and dissemination procedure, data analysis and management of the funding system using electronic media have been institutionalized with NAMIS. The objective is to institutionalize agricultural market information and broadcasting service within a national or private sector organization in Nigeria.

One-day interactive session with Women in Agriculture, South-South and South-East ADPs, IITA Onne, 17 August 2005

Based on the previous training from IITA, participants reported that they had enough capacity to conduct training on various cassava products. Specifically, they noted their best products as follows:

Abia: All cassava products; plus Chom Chom –cassava flour plus cooking banana.

Anambra: Cassava flour, starch, poultry feed.

Edo: All including tapioca plus native product.

Delta: flour, bakery.

Imo: All.

Ondo: flour, starch, chips, tapioca, bread, cake, etc.

Rivers: Odorless fufu, flour, confectionery.

Bayelsa: Flour, starch, chinchin, etc.

Ebonyi: All.

Cross River: All.

Akwa Ibom: flour, confectionery.

Enugu: All, except salad cream.

To be able to conduct training without stress, participants reported that they will need the following:

Table 11: Equipment and accessories required by participants

Equipment	Delta	Rivers	Abia	CR	Albm	Bayl	Anam	En	Ebo	Edo	Imo	Ond
Dryer	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
Blender	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
Extruder	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ovens	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Gas			X	X	X					X		
Kitchen scales	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
Baking pan	X	X		X	X							
Measuring cups	X	X		X	X	X				X		
Manual molding			X		X		X	X	X			
Icing string		X	X		X							
Skill on flour/conf				X	X	X						
Mixer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Skill center			X		X							
Mustard salt					X		X	X	X			
Sealing machine			X		X	X	X	X	X		X	

At the end of the workshop participants resolved as follows:

Training venues: Three Senatorial Districts in each State with 10 LGAs.

Products for first training: Cassava flour, starch, tapioca, fufu flour/gari, flakes/poultry feed.

Commencement date: September 2005.

Participants: Processors (men, women, youths).

Advocacy

Stimulate and promote advocacy (through participatory mechanisms) for strategic policies to enhance cassava competitiveness and commercialization and trade

Interaction with policymakers

A.G.O. Dixon and L. Sanni attended the meeting of all stakeholders about the 10% cassava content in bread-making, on Tuesday, 7 December 2004, at State House, Abuja. The President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, chaired the meeting. The Vice President, Alh. Atiku Abubakar, PDP Chairman, Chief Audu Ogbe, and Ministers for Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce were in also attendance. Representatives of master bakers, flour millers, research institutes (FIIRO, NRCRI, IITA), regulatory bodies, consumers, and the information media were present.

The President welcomed all stakeholders and informed the meeting about the genesis of legislation to include 10% cassava flour in bread-making. The Attorney General advised Government that there was no need to draft a new law, SON through the Honorable Minister of Science and Technology could issue a regulation about the inclusion of composite flour in bread-making and the Minister should announce this new development in the National Dailies and the Government Gazette.

At the end of the meeting, Dr A.G.O. Dixon interacted with the President and his team. IITA distributed CEDP flyers and news bulletins to them. The demand was so high that interested members were advised to send their contact addresses to IITA. IITA was requested to plan a series of trainings on the production of high quality cassava flour and cassava-wheat bread at the State level of the Federation in conjunction with Mrs. Adetunji, Special Adviser to the President on Food Security.

The Minister of Agriculture at IITA

The Nigerian Minister of Agriculture, Mallam Adamu Bello, paid a short visit to IITA on Thursday, 10 February 2005. In his message, he mentioned that the Government of Nigeria was very proud to be associated with IITA. He further said that the good work done in IITA always brought hope that the continent of Africa would attain food security in the nearest future. He urged IITA to conduct research that would ensure that the cost of production of cassava was greatly reduced. DG Hartmann explained the involvement of IITA in the NEPAD-Africa initiative and emphasized that this would be

a good opportunity for Nigeria because of the country's potential in cassava production. Dr A. Dixon presented an overview of the Integrated Cassava Project (ICP) consisting of CMD and CEDP to the Minister and his entourage. He mentioned that ICP complements the Presidential Initiative on Cassava in Nigeria and collaborates with public and private organizations to execute its various activities. Two major breakthroughs for the project are the identification of promising high yielding disease resistant cassava varieties that would soon be released to farmers and the development of a flash dryer in Nigeria at half the price of those manufactured in Brazil.

The Minister of Commerce with CEDP scientists

The project had a meeting with the Honorable Minister of Commerce at Sheraton, Abuja, 18-19 March 2005. IITA briefed the Minister about the Integrated Cassava Project, the various opportunities and challenges, and its role in the Cassava Presidential initiative. The Minister was very pleased with the positive roles being played by IITA and the donor agencies in commercializing cassava in Nigeria. He promised to continue to show his interest in the project.

Stakeholders meeting on strategies on sourcing high quality cassava flour

To facilitate the implementation of Federal Government policy on 10% inclusion of cassava flour in bread production, effective January 2005, IITA organized a stakeholders' meeting on strategies for sourcing high quality cassava flour at an affordable cost at the H.R. Albrecht Conference Center on 13 January 2005. More than 188 designated participants attended the meeting, representing the Nigerian Milling Association, the Master Bakers' Association, the Cassava Processing Association of Nigeria, the Nigerian Cassava Growers' Association, national and international development scientists and researchers, small and large-scale investors, journalists, and farmers. The keynote address was delivered by the Special Assistant to the President on Food Security, Mrs. M.O. Adetunji. Among other things, the meeting resolved that Government should support farmers to ensure the production of enough cassava to meet the estimated 200 000 t/yr of flour required by the flour millers. In addition, there should be training and retraining of processors with an emphasis on group formation for processing. Participants were given flyers on the production of high quality cassava flour, cassava as a multipurpose crop, and information from training workshops on the production of high quality cassava flour.

Problems or special opportunities, which are critical to the progress of CEDP

- There are youth, political, and land tenure problems in some States, thereby affecting project activities.
- Some project activities were delayed or poorly implemented due to delays in recruiting consultants (EfDI and Technoserve) and the Station Managers.
- The long-awaited SPDC funds have started coming in. This has enhanced some of our activities.
- All staff has been recruited, meaning that CEDP will now accelerate its agenda, at the same time paying attention to environmental issues and quality.

- The Nigerian Government has now made mandatory the inclusion of 10% cassava flour in bread, making, a decision, which will promote the CEDP agenda.
- We are being encouraged by the number of bodies, especially private enterprises, NGOs, consulting companies, etc., who have contacted CEDP for collaboration.
- Five of IITA's improved cassava varieties have been released, giving room for a widespread distribution of these materials to clients.

Priority activities for the coming quarter/or 12 months (October 2005-July 2006)

- Multiplication and dissemination of the 5officially released CMD resistant varieties.
- Continue with multiplication, demonstration, and expanded on-farm trials of 10 selected varieties.
- Conclude outstanding work in the remaining 42 MPC sites before the end of December 2005.
- Continue with the establishment of MPCs and SMEs in the 11 CEDP States.
- Conduct on-farm training on improved cassava production and crop utilization.
- Establish a micro credit system for the project beneficiaries.
- Intensify cluster farming around processing centers, micro-enterprise skills, group dynamics, and credit management.
- Conduct community analysis in each State prior to the introduction of SMEs and microprocessing centers.
- Hold investors' forum (to attract foreign investors in cassava subsector) jointly with other partners.
- Begin radio and SMS broadcasts for market prices.
- Launch book on cassava products standards jointly with SON.
- Organize multiple commissioning of SMEs and microprocessing centers in CEDP States.
- Conduct monitoring of project activities on beneficiary welfare (food security, income generation, wealth).
- Establish linkages and technical assistance to potential investors.
- Produce additional extension material for dissemination.
- Arrange publicity and project intervention in target States.
- Facilitate procurement and fabrication of post harvest equipment.