

Cassava Mechanisation and Agro-processing Project



CAVAP
Cassava Mechanisation
& Agro-processing Project





Background

Africa is the world's largest cassava producing region and accounts for nearly 55 percent of the world's cassava. However, Africa's yields are the lowest in the world standing at only 10 tonnes per hectare compared to 26 tonnes per hectare in India.

The low productivity is a result of limited market opportunities due to low utilisation of mechanisation and

production or processing tools. It takes a farmer in Africa 10 days to uproot or harvest their fields while a farmer in India requires only six hours. Cassava has enormous potential to improve food security and the livelihoods of people in Africa - it is an industrial crop in emerging countries like Brazil, Indonesia and Thailand.

55 percent...*Africa's contribution to world cassava production*
10 tonnes...*Average cassava yield per hectare compared to 26 tonnes in India*

Cassava Mechanisation – Transforming Lives

The competitiveness of Africa's cassava manufactured products at the world market has been low because cassava is produced and processed for subsistence, not as a commercial crop

Lack of access to appropriate mechanisation to support production and processing of cassava is impeding the development of the cassava market in Africa even though the continent is the highest producer of the crop in the world. This technological gap has left farmers with no option but to produce cassava on a low scale mainly for subsistence and for the local markets. In Africa, 93 percent is consumed as food – compared to Latin America and Asia where less than half is consumed. This situation is underutilising the potential that cassava offers the continent – both as a source of food and as an industrial raw material.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) recognises the need to develop technologies for planting, harvesting and processing cassava in order to improve productivity and reduce post-harvest losses. Such technologies will provide farmers with

incentives to exploit the evident potential offered by cassava beyond consumption. It is well established that where cassava farmers have access to markets they tend to adopt productivity-enhancing technologies and increase production.

Project goal

The goal of the Cassava Mechanisation and Agro-processing Project (CAMAP) is to enhance cassava production and processing technologies for sustainable improvements in food security, incomes and livelihoods for farmers, processors, and marketers in the cassava sector. This will be achieved through the upgrading and expanding of traditional planting, harvesting and processing methods. These changes will contribute to the development of competitive cassava commodity value chains resulting in reliable supply of processed products for food and non-food industrial use.

“Cassava is an industrial crop of the future in Africa, with the potential to generate income for poor farmers and a huge number of jobs”

*Claude Fauquet, Director,
Global Cassava Partnership
for the 21 Century.*





Implementing CAMAP

CAMAP is a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) that is coordinated by AATF. The goal is to bring together cassava product processors, farm machinery manufacturers and fabricators and governments of participating countries. CAMAP is linking farmers to mechanisation service providers and processors and building their capacity to do farming as a business based on best cassava agronomic practices. CAMAP is also building on work already done on high yielding, disease resistant cassava varieties by other partner organisations.

To ensure sustainability, this project is being implemented through existing local institutions, organisations and structures. This will also ensure that project activities are adapted to fit local conditions, while improving on existing ways of doing business along the cassava value chain.

The project is targeting 3.5 million farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa. The project is making deliberate efforts to include youth and women in all project activities.

Project objectives:

- Negotiate access and transfer of cassava mechanisation and agro processing technologies for use by smallholder farmers
- Increase cassava production through mechanisation across the entire value chain and thus reduce post-harvest losses and demand for intensive labour
- Add value to the cassava industry through value addition and the creation of market linkages between smallholder farmers and agro processing centers
- Build the capacity of local entrepreneurs to design prototype machines, manufacture, maintain and repair equipment for planting, harvesting and processing cassava
- Expand the utilisation of safe, quality, diversified, value-added cassava products and derivatives



3.5 million...*people expected to benefit from the project*

Expected results from CAMAP

- Appropriate prototypes required for planting, harvesting and processing technology developed and promoted for use by farmers
- Enhance agricultural business management capacities of 300 entrepreneurs
- Cassava productivity will be enhanced to double the current yields - from 10 tonnes to at least 20 tonnes per hectare - through the creation of demand for quality cassava products
- Robust cassava value chains and market linkages and capacities will be developed and strengthened for cassava products
- Increase incomes from the sale of cassava products
- Reduce the demand on the labour market and improve quality of lives by decreasing the amount of time required for farming activities, especially by women
- Strengthen market linkages and market capacities
- Enhance enterprise development and employment creation

200%...*Expected increase in cassava yields due to utilisation of appropriate mechanisation for production and processing*



Project Partners

Proposed CAMAP countries



CAMAP brings together various players along the cassava value chain that include the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), national and international agricultural research organisations, farm machinery producers, government ministries, regional and sub-regional organisations, NGOs, cooperatives, regional growth centers, small and medium size fabricators, private enterprises and investors.

Current partners in Zambia, Nigeria and Uganda, the first pilot countries for the project include:

- Zambia Agricultural Research Institute
- Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Zambia
- National Root Crops Research Institute, Nigeria
- National Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation, Nigeria
- Kwara State, Nigeria
- Osun State, Nigeria
- Ogun State, Nigeria
- Kogi State, Nigeria
- National Crops Resources Research Institute, Uganda

Investors

CAMAP activities are supported with funding from UK aid from the UK government.

“CAMAP is set to positively impact the cassava industry and to also present market opportunities for farmers given the recent government directive to incorporate 20 percent cassava flour in each package of 20kg mealie meal and the possibility of setting up a cassava beer brewing factory in Zambia and the mandated incorporation of cassava flour in bread making in Nigeria”
George Marechera, Business Development Manager, AATF

For more information contact:

African Agricultural Technology Foundation

P O Box 30709-00100, Nairobi, Kenya | Tel: +254 – (0) 20-4223700 | Fax: +254 – (0) 20-4223701

Email: aatf@aatf-africa.org | Website: www.aatf-africa.org