

DISEASE DIAGNOSTICS PROJECT FOR SUSTAINABLE CASSAVA PRODUCTIVITY IN AFRICA

Okao-Okuja, G., Sseremba G., Mukilbi D., Kiiza L., Nanvubya R., and Alicai T
National Crops Resources Research Institute, P.O. Box 7084 Kampapa, Uganda

Background

Disease diagnostics project for sustainable cassava production in Africa is a project with a mandate to improve and increase cassava production through better disease diagnostics and disease vector characterisation. The Project brings together National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) working on cassava in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia with a view of improving the livelihoods and incomes of persons at farm level who are the direct beneficiaries. The project is supported by the grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through Mikocheni Agricultural Research Institute (MARI) based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Purpose:

To contribute to improved cassava productivity and sustainability in sub-Saharan Africa

Vision:

To minimize persistent occurrences of cassava viruses and vectors across sub-Saharan Africa, by empowering and mobilizing communities through training and workshops



Aims:

- To understand threats from evolving viruses and vectors
- To design improved disease control strategies
- To support clean seed systems for farmers
- To build sustainable regional research capacities to improve cassava productivity



Key objectives:

- To determine disease epidemiology
- Characterise emerging viruses and vectors
- To Develop virus diagnostic tools
- To support conventional breeding and develop transgenic virus resistant cassava
- To support clean seed certification
- To reach farmers directly and through partners

To strengthen human and infrastructure capacities for cassava research

Expected outcomes:

- Knowledge on cassava virus disease epidemiology, vector diversity and evolution generated
- Diagnostic tools and durable virus resistant cassava will be developed
- Human and infrastructure capacity will be strengthened
- Effective disease management strategies designed and put in place

Project areas in Uganda

Kamuli, Iganga, Pallisa, Lira, Nakasongola, Pader, Masindi, Hoima, Kyenjojo and Kasese.

Funding by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through MARI is highly acknowledged.