

Achievements

- Generated disease, virus and vector prevalence maps
- Determined primary structure of diverse cassava virus forms
- Supported breeders by testing their cassava materials for virus loads
- Enhanced laboratory capacities for virus testing
- Trained researchers and inspectors in cassava disease assessment, virus testing and management



Training farmers on cassava virus disease symptom recognition and management



Symptoms of CBSD on leaves (A) and roots (B)

For more information, contact...



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**Disease
Diagnostics for Sustainable
Cassava Productivity in
Africa Project**

Background

Disease Diagnostics for Sustainable Cassava Productivity in Africa Project is being implemented to improve diagnosis of cassava viruses and their vectors. This will help to minimize occurrence and impact of cassava virus diseases.

The Project brings together National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) working on cassava in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. It is lead by Mikocheni Agricultural Research Institute (MARI) based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with financial support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Purpose

Strengthen diagnosis, minimize occurrence and impact of cassava viruses and their associated vectors.

Vision

To minimize persistent occurrence of cassava viruses and vectors across sub-Saharan Africa, by empowering and mobilizing communities with knowledge for better management of the diseases

Aims

- To understand the threat from evolving viruses and virus vectors in order to design effective disease management strategies
- To support clean seed systems for farmers resulting in better access to virus-free planting material of resistant varieties
- To build regional capacity to sustainably address cassava virus disease problems

Objectives

- Disease epidemiology determination
- Characterisation of emerging viruses
- Characterisation of disease vectors
- Development of diagnostic tools
- Identification of a key gene for mosaic disease resistance breaking satellites
- Support conventional breeding
- Develop transgenic virus resistant cassava
- Support certification systems of clean seeds
- Reaching farmers directly and through partners
- Strengthening stakeholders linkages with farmers
- Strengthening human and infrastructure capacities



Key expected outcomes

- Improved knowledge on cassava virus disease epidemiology, vector diversity and evolution for effective management of cassava diseases
- Better virus diagnostic tools and durable virus resistant cassava for increased access to virus-free cassava planting materials
- Improved regional human and infrastructural to sustainably address cassava disease problems in place



Virus-free and resistant cassava varieties for food security and income generation