

TAAT Technology: Pro-vitamin A Cassava

<https://taat-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Cassava-Technology-Toolkit-Catalogue.pdf>

- Specially bred golden cassava varieties are more nutritious alternative to common white fleshed types
- Pro-vitamin A enriched cassava typically possess other improved traits such as resistance to diseases and pests, higher yield, and higher DM.
- The traits make them highly commercially demanded.



Problems solved and Benefits

- Cassava is a main staple for millions of people in Sub-Saharan Africa. Most cassava varieties contain low levels of vitamins and minerals.
- This shortcoming contributes to poor nutrition and hidden hunger; with 50% of children between one-half to five years old suffering from vitamin A deficiency
- Cheaper means of getting needed vitamin-A for pregnant women and nursing mothers
- Readily available solution to health challenges of Vitamin A deficiency (VAD) and other forms of malnutrition
- Cost of processing into food products is lower than for white varieties while the products are of higher market value.
- Higher nutritional value
- Easier to blend with cereal products thereby increases profit margins of composite flour processors

Commodity

- Cassava

Value chain position

- Production

Geographical Coverage

- Sub-Sahara Africa

Cost /ROI

- The selling price of golden cassava is up to 20% higher than that of white non-biofortified types
- Cultivating pro-Vitamin A enriched cassava thus offers a substantial economic advantage to the growers over similar yielding varieties and non-improved types

Links to Associated technologies

“Six Steps” cassava weed management: <https://propas.iita.org/solutions/six-steps-cassava-weed-management/70/details/>
 Semi Autotrophic Hydroponics for Cassava Multiplication: <https://propas.iita.org/solutions/semi-autotrophic-hydroponics-for-cassava-multiplication/58/details/>
 Cassava varieties with high dry matter and starch content: <https://propas.iita.org/solutions/cassava-varieties-with-high-dry-matter-and-starch-content/53/details/>
 Disease-resistant cassava varieties: <https://propas.iita.org/solutions/disease-resistant-cassava-varieties/51/details/>
 Cassava Business Connector (CBC): <https://propas.iita.org/solutions/cassava-business-connector-cbc/21/details/>
 Cassava Seed Tracker (CST): <https://propas.iita.org/solutions/cassava-seed-tracker-details/>