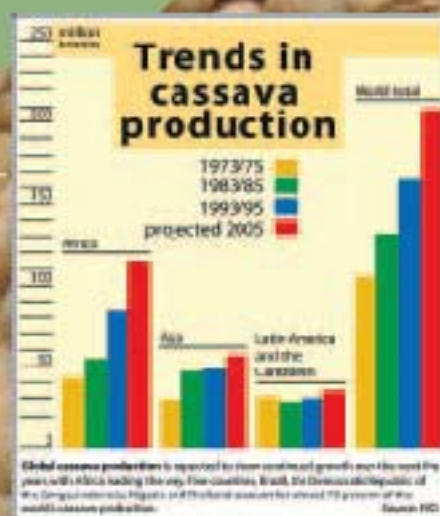


PROCEEDINGS OF THE VALIDATION FORUM
ON THE GLOBAL CASSAVA DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Volume 4

A review of cassava in Latin America and the Caribbean with country case studies on Brazil and Colombia



FOREWORD

Latin America is the evolutionary homeland for cassava and all its wild relatives as well as the major part of the crop's genetic diversity and, the inter- and intra-species diversity of natural enemies of many cassava pests and diseases. Cassava genetic resources available in Latin America are of critical global importance for the crop's further development. The Americas gave cassava to the rest of the world after the arrival of early European explorers. Along with the crop itself, these explorers introduced cultivation and processing techniques from cassava's homelands.

Despite the historical importance of cassava in the Americas, the region currently accounts for less than 20 percent of the world's cassava production. On the basis of current projections, it is expected that by 2020, the production of cassava in the region will remain important in quantitative terms but will become less and less significant from a global perspective. However, private sector investment and public/private partnerships will make an increasing contribution to research and development of cassava for its use as processed food, animal feed and raw material for starch and starch derivatives. In particular, the inclusion of refined cassava flour for partial substitution of wheat flour in bakery products and the speciality markets that require the unique traits of cassava starch will need to be more fully developed.

As a contribution to the Global Cassava Strategy, the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)'s generous financial assistance supported the preparation of the Latin America Regional Review on Cassava, the Country Case Studies on Brazil and Colombia, and the Report of the Latin America Consultation on the Global Cassava Development Strategy.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Crop and Grassland Service of the Plant Production and Protection Division has compiled the documents prepared during the process of building the strategy on the cassava sub-sector in Latin America and the Caribbean. These were presented at the Validation Forum that was jointly organized by FAO and IFAD at FAO headquarters, Rome, April 2000.

It is hoped that the available information will contribute to supporting the potential of cassava to be a vehicle for linking the rural poor to new and improved growth markets and to guide research and development efforts towards a particular regard for increasing entrepreneurial entry into the cassava sector by small to medium growers and investors in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	vi
----------------------------------	----

CASSAVA IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: Resources for Global Development	1
---	---

FARMER PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH: THE TURNING POINT FOR CASSAVA DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH-EASTERN BRAZIL	59
---	----

CASSAVA CROP DEVELOPMENT IN COLOMBIA	99
--	----

REPORT OF A REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE GLOBAL CASSAVA DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY	147
---	-----

APPENDIX Organizing Committee of the Validation Forum	170
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BID	Inter American Development Bank
CBN	Cassava Biotechnology Network
CIAT	Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical
CIRAD	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement
CLAYUCA	El Consorcio Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Apoyo a la Investigación y Desarrollo de la Yuca
CNPMF	National Cassava and Fruit Research Center, Brazil
CENARGEN	National Center for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, Brazil
EMBRAPA	Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation
EPACE	Agricultural development Organization of the State of Ceara, Brazil
FAG	Agricultural Guarantee Fund, Colombia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAOSTAT	FAO Statistical Database
FENALCE	National Cereal Federation, Colombia
FINANCIACOP	Financial and Development Cooperative Institute, Colombia
IEANE	Agricultural Development Organization of the State of Pernambuco, Brazil
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IPA	Agricultural Research Institute for Northeast of Brazil
IPEACO	Agricultural Research Institute for North of Brazil
IPEACS	Agricultural Research Institute for East Brazil
IPEAL	Agricultural Research Institute for Southeast Brazil
IPEAN	Agricultural Research Institute for the Center of West Brazil
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
NRI	Natural Resources Institute
UNDP	United Nations Development Program