

**ENHANCING FARMERS' INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE
MANAGEMENT IN CASSAVA VARIETAL TRIAL USING ANALYSIS,
FARMERS' DRAMA GROUP AND ANIMATIONS IN EASTERN PART
OF NIGERIA.**

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ABSTRACT

Indigenous Knowledge is the information base of a society, which facilitates communication and decision-making. Indigenous information systems are dynamic, and are continually influenced by internal creativity and experimentation as well as by contact with external systems. Researchers continue to come up with new varieties but farmer perspectives and preferences are very important factors for new varieties to spread in farmers' communities. Researcher priorities alone are not enough. A variety may be 'scientifically perfect by the researchers' standard but fail based on the farmers' point of view especially in terms of his location, soil nutrients, taste, texture, color or starchiness. Inability to meet up with the farmer or consumer taste of course means farmers will not grow it. Cassava is affected by many diseases which reduce yield, thus the need for application of knowledge of all types to achieve social or economic outcomes in the search for food security. This work was carried out using 80 respondents. Varietal trial was done using three different cassava varieties NR 8082, NR 8083 and an indigenous variety (Nwaibibi) which have different levels of resistance to cassava mosaic disease (CMD). The essence was to see how different crop varieties with different disease resistance would respond to different planting locations that vary in nutrient component given different management techniques (AESAs) after using animations and farmers' drama groups as a more perfect means of communication to demonstrate some useful planting practices that could

lead to an increase in yield. At the end of the first planting season, yield was 10 tonnes respectively. In the third planting season, yield was 15 tonnes, 27 tonnes and 31 tonnes respectively. It was recommended that farmers be exposed to different on-tonnes, 18 tonnes and 20 tonnes for nwaibibi, NR 8083, NR8082 respectively. In the second planting season, yield was 11 tonnes, 24 tonnes and 26 tonnes farm experiments and decision aiding practices in addition to technique- aiding animations and dramas which will only but enhance communication and efficiency all to increase yield.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is the world's leading cassava producer and consumer, but yields are suboptimal, the use of NR8082 and NR8083 are preferred varieties to the local variety Nwaibibi because they have better qualities. Animation and Agro-Ecosystem Analysis and better land use management and to improve farmers' income using improved cassava varieties.



Fig. 1. Farmer Field School



Fig. 2. Improved Cassava Variety

METHODS AND DATA SOURCES

The study was carried out in Owerri North Local Government Area, of Imo State in Southeastern Nigeria. Data were collected with the aid of structured questionnaire. Eighty respondents were used for this study. The planting seasons were done, with varying farm decisions. AESA improves learning and decision making skills of farmers through observation and group discussion.

CONCLUSION

The profit per naira invested in the first planting season was increased from ₦2.08 to ₦2.37, for Nwaibibi, ₦2.41 to ₦3.49 and ₦1.79, to ₦3.67, for NR8083 and NR8082 respectively at the end of the third planting season due to the high yields from better varieties.