

PREFACE FOR THE SPECIAL TOPIC “CURRENT CASSAVA RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT IN CAMEROON”

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As a special topic of *African Study Monographs*, this issue includes articles on cassava dissemination activities in relation with Forest-Savanna Sustainability Project (FOSAS) in Cameroon, whereby the team on sustainable agriculture tries to analyze the whole process of cassava production, processing and marketing in eastern and southern Cameroon.

Sarr's paper works on elucidating factors affecting the two years cassava on-site trials at Andom village, and found that tuber yield of improved varieties was 2 to 5 times as high as that of local variety due to high resistance to cassava mosaic disease, and soil conditions such as soil organic matter content and pH plays an important role in determining the yield of improved varieties. Cassava has been viewed tolerant in low fertile soils, but its mechanisms and ecological roles should be further investigated.

Shioya's paper analyses the economic role of cassava in the suburbs of Yaounde, and found that processed cassava products are important source of income by women at village market, supported by women's local skills both for processing and selling. She emphasizes also that such village-based technology could be an added value in cassava commercialization in the city.

Njukwe's paper discusses about strategy for cassava dissemination in Cameroon whereby the participation of farmers in selection of cassava genotype played an important role to determine the adoption of improved varieties. He assessed perception and criteria for cassava variety preference of smallholder farmers prior to the dissemination of varieties that were introduced from International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)-Ibadan, Nigeria since 2001. As an agronomist at IITA, he is compiling the whole process of cassava evaluation and dissemination in Cameroon as Ph-D thesis.

Cassava now gains a growing interest in Africa for both domestic food security and promoting international trade to balance the national budget. The papers presented here cover key issues of cassava enhancement, which could be developed further by FOSAS project through participatory research.

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