

Cassava Cultivation Guide

1) Choice of site

Cassava is a plant from the zone humid tropical. The best yields are obtained on clay-type soils. sandy, sandy, permeable, deep, and rich in organic matter on a flat relief or presenting a slight slope. The floors of lowlands, steep slopes and hydromorphic (waterlogged and poorly drained) should be avoided.

Areas favorable for growing cassava are the forest zone, savannah, plateau of Adamaoua and the coastal zone.

Agronomic requirements:

- Average temperature varying between 23 and 25°C
- Annual rainfall varying between 1200 and 1,800 mm
- Altitude less than 1600 m
- Duration of the dry season: 2 to 3 months,

2) Site preparation and density

The ground is prepared before arrival rains.

The major operations are:

1. Plowing and staking:

Plowing is done either by means of a tractor or a hoe depending on the possibilities of the producer. Cassava likes soil rich in organic matter, it is therefore recommended to bury plant debris during plowing.

2. Picketing:

Picketing is done with the aim of better distribute the cuttings on the plot in respecting the spacing which is 1 × 1m, i.e. 10,000 plants per hectare in pure culture. In associated cultivation, spacings of 1.5m x m make it possible to exploit the aisles for food crops.

3. Choice of plant material:

The plant material is the cutting. Choose healthy stems with enough of nodes and aged 7 to 12 months. The stems with pruning shears or a machete, in cuttings of approximately 20 cm with 5 to 8 nodes.

4. Planting and period:

Planting is done vertically or the oblique, 2/3 of the cutting being in the ground without reversing the knots budding. Semi can also be done in positioning the cutting flat under 45 cm from the ground.

The dates of planting vary depending on the regions and localities, and depending on the agricultural calendar. The principle being that it is planted at the start of the rainy season because young cassava plants are less resistant to drought.

5. Maintenance and fertilization:

Manual weeding which consists in a sacl-mounding 1 month after the semi. Then 2 to 3 weedings to keep the cultivation space clean. Chemical weeding can be done with the use of the N-phosphonomethy family glycine).

Replacement of feet missing takes 15 to 21 days after planting if the emergence rate is less than 90% fertilization in case of cultivation continues on a floor with dolomite at a dose of 100 kg/ha when soil preparation, NPK (10-18-18) at a dose of 300 kg/ha 60 days after planting, phosphate tricalcium (100 kg/ha) and KCL (250 kg/ha) 60 days after planting.

Control the attack of insects and pest to optimize the yield and damage caused by locusts can be limited by the use of 3 kg/ha of Propoxur in 15 liters of water. From the appearance rodent damage and mollusk, you have to put in some apartments.

6. Harvesting and Conservation:

The cassava stalk harvest can start between 7 and 9 months after planting. The conservation (in the shade) of cuttings can be made maximum 1 to 10 days before planting.

Cassava tubers after harvest can be kept in pits variable dimensions depending on the quantity tubers, 60 cm protenders. This technique makes it possible to store the tubers for approximately two weeks.