



National Agricultural Research Institute

## **Best Management Practice for Cassava**



NARI TOKTOK  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

Cassava is a very important staple food crop for many people in Papua New Guinea. It is also widely grown in other parts of the world as a famine reserve crop. It has high yielding capability, easy to grow and Performs well even in marginal areas.

### **Soil**

Cassava can be grown on a wide range of soil but best on deep, free draining soils with reasonable fertility levels. Shallow soils which may restrict tuber expansion should be avoided.

### **Rainfall**

Cassava is highly drought resistant and grown in many parts where rainfall is low and unreliable.

### **Altitude**

Cassava grows at all altitudes but best on low to medium altitudes. It is low yielding at altitudes above 1500m a.s.l.



## **PLANTING MATERIAL**

### **Recommended varieties**

There are some recommended cassava varieties that are low in cyanide content held at NARI sites. Four varieties for the lowlands and four for the highlands.

### **Propagation**

Cassava is propagated vegetatively using stem cuttings.

## **AGRONOMIC PRACTICES**

### **a) Land preparation**

The cassava seedbed requires deep cultivation to a depth of 25 cm. A rough seedbed is preferred. Ridges or mounds are used in other areas and it encourages tuber development.

### **b) Planting materials**

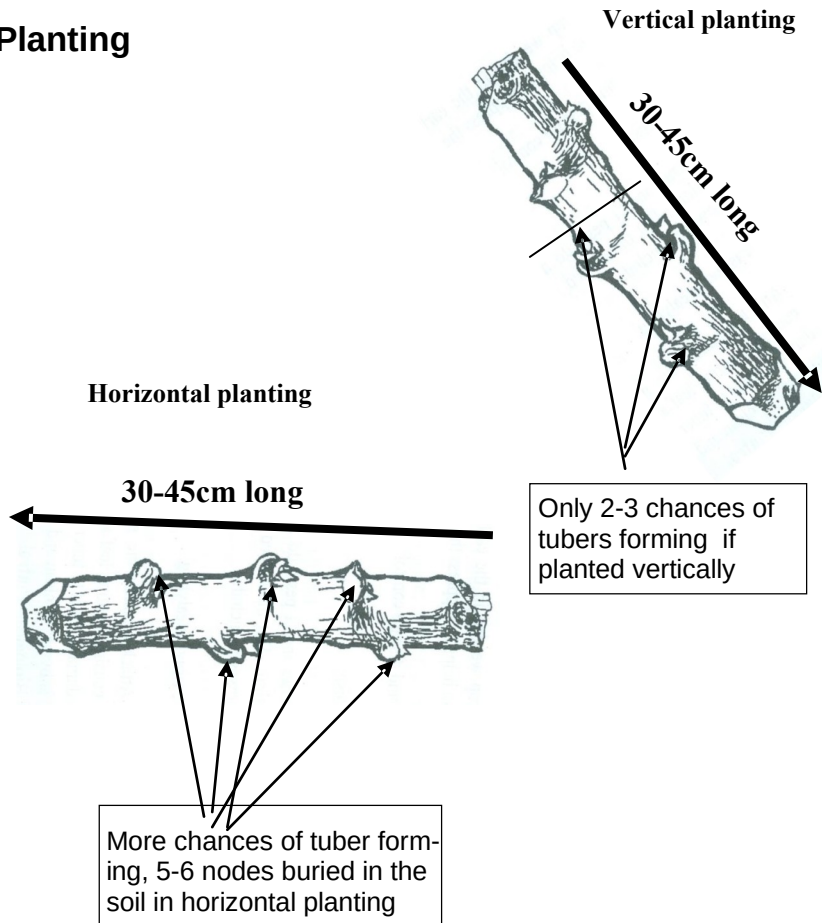
Planting is done by use of cuttings. These are parts of the stem which should be from a mature plant, especially the middle part. They should be 30 – 45 cm long and 21/2 – 4 mm thick with buds above the leaf scar

### **c) Planting method and spacing**

Cuttings may be buried in a horizontal position 71/2 – 10 cm deep or vertically buried half way into the soil. In pure stands (without intercropping), a spacing of 1.5 m x 0.9 m is recommended.

When inter cropped, interplant with a cover crop of beans or groundnuts at a spacing of 50cm x 20cm. This combination gives maximum yields of both cassava and bean or groundnuts.

## Planting



## Weed control

### Weeding

Keep the crop weeded in the early first 3 months. Inter cropping also helps to suppress weeds. -

## **HARVESTING YIELDS AND POST HARVEST HANDLING**

- i. Cassava takes 8 – 36 months to mature depending on the variety.
- ii. Yields also vary depending on variety and soil type. Average yields are 10 – 30 tons/ha.
- iii. Cassava harvesting may be done piecemeal (one by one) or by uprooting whole plants. A stick or hoe may be used to remove the tubers.
- iv. Cassava cannot be stored fresh for a long time. It is therefore sliced and dried in the sun (See Fig. 4). In this dry form, it can be kept for long periods of time in a dry bag in a place such as granary or other food stores. The dry cassava may also be pounded into flour which can be stored for a long period of time in a dry place.



**Harvested cassava from  
Horizontal planting**

# STEPS IN MAKING CASSAVA FLOUR AND PRODUCTS

1. Harvest and sort.
2. Peel, wash and soak
3. Grate using a grater.
4. Add enough water
5. Sun dry the grated cassava
6. Mill into flour



## **Cassava (Tapiok) Flour and Products**

**Cassava (Tapiok) Flour**



**Cassava (Tapiok) Crisps**



**Cassava (Tapiok) Muffin**



**Cassava (Tapiok)  
Noodles**



Copies of this leaflet can be obtained from:

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