

What is the Strategy About?

The Global Cassava Development Strategy is an approach to identifying opportunities and constraints at each stage of the cassava development cycle from production to consumption. It is a framework for technical cooperation in research and technology transfer and for future debates on global issues affecting cassava.

GCDS is a collaborative effort aimed at promoting cassava as an important staple food and income source for its producers, processors and traders. The strategy also aims at promoting products with good markets for human consumption, animal feed and industrial use. It calls for a coalition of stakeholders including cassava producers and their organizations, governments and policy-makers, donors, technical and research institutions and their networks, NGOs, and the private sector.

The GCDS vision is that cassava will spur rural industrial development and raise incomes for producers, processors and traders.

GCDS advocates for higher incomes for cassava farmers and others involved in the cassava subsector through the development of sustainable production and processing technologies. GCDS is also committed to advocating cassava as a crop which contributes to the food security status of its producing and consuming households.

The Guiding Principles of GCDS

The GCDS should be seen as an approach to develop-



wild cassava

ment rather than as a project in its own right. It is expected to influence the formulation, analysis, funding and implementation of policies, research programmes and projects aimed at developing the cassava sector, with the ultimate goal of promoting agricultural



cassava leaf picking

development for the benefit of the poor.

In order to achieve this goal, the Strategy is faithful to the following principles and aims:

- GCDS is demand-driven and/or market oriented and maximizes market opportunities for traditional and new products;
- GCDS follows an integrated approach, involving, simultaneously, production, processing and marketing;
- GCDS provides catalysts and champions to facilitate cassava development;
- GCDS is applicable to a wide range of stakeholders

and implemented at national, regional and global levels;

- GCDS is science-based and addressing issues of sustainability, gender and equity, and potential environment impact;
- GCDS addresses food security concerns for disaster mitigation and recovery situations.

GCDS is implemented at the global, regional and national levels with special consideration taken for the existence of regional networks in Africa (for West/Central, Eastern and Southern Africa), in Asia and, in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Brief History of the Strategy and its Evolution

The development of the Global Cassava Development Strategy (GCDS) and associated documents evolved from a brainstorming meeting convened by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in 1996 in Rome, Italy. Recognizing the importance of cassava as staple food and a source of income for hundreds of millions of poor people in marginal areas in many parts of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting noted the urgent need to formulate an overall strategic plan for cassava development.

The initiative was spearheaded by IFAD and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GLOBAL CASSAVA DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

(FAO) in collaboration with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) and the "Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement" (CIRAD).

The strategy is based upon a number of country case studies (for Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda and Vietnam), regional reviews (for Africa, Asia and Latin America) and cross-cutting thematic papers (on cassava markets and environmental issues of cassava production and processing) that were funded by IFAD, World Bank, the Swiss Development Cooperation and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). In a review workshop held in 1997 in Rome, these studies were reviewed and plan for completion of the strategy was developed.

Today, the GCDS Secretariat is hosted by FAO and GCDS is made up of the following 'Partners':

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the Natural Resources Institute (NRI), the "Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement" (CIRAD), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), The International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and the International Laboratory for Tropical Agricultural Biotechnology (ILTAB).



cassava roots



GLOBAL CASSAVA DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



GLOBAL CASSAVA DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

GCDS SECRETARIAT

Horticultural Crops Group

Crop and Grassland Service

Plant Production and Protection Division

Tel.(39) 06 57054233; Fax (39) 06 57056347

E-mail: gcdsinfo@fao.org

Website:

www.fao.org/ag/globalcassavastrategy.com