Background for the Launch of the ACU Working Group on Cassava Policy Issues

Presentation at the ACU Task Force meeting on June 17, ACF Conference Room, Lusaka.

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Research and Outreach Activities Supported By:
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ACF

FSRP/MATEP
Marketed volumes of cassava

- Still small, only about 8-10% of total production
- But growing twice as fast as production over the past decade.
Dried Cassava Trade Flows

Cassava price

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Price cassava/price maize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cassava belt</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed staple zone</td>
<td>.066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize belt</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Productivity (tons/ha)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average Yield</th>
<th>Feasible Yield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cassava</td>
<td>7 tons fresh</td>
<td>15-18 tons fresh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2 tons dry)</td>
<td>(5-6 tons dry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>1-1.5 tons</td>
<td>2.5-3 tons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cassava Opportunities

- Growing production
- Regular surplus
- High on-farm productivity
- → Low cost of cassava carbohydrates
- → Profitable commercial opportunities in foods, feeds and industrial processing
ACU Task Force

- Voluntary grouping of private and public sector stakeholders interested in cassava commercialization
- Formed August 2005
- Goals: a) realize the commercial potential of cassava; b) consolidate its contribution to household food security in Zambia.

ACU Task Force principles

- Open membership
- All information → public domain
- Value chain perspective
- Facilitate private sector
- Zero budget
- evolving strategic road map
ACU first-round activities (8/05 to 1/07)

- Value chain review
- Assessment of past promotional efforts
- Identification of first-round opportunities and constraints

### Zambia’s cassava value chain

**Consumption**
- Subsistence households
  - Volume = 920,000 tons

**Processing**
- Soaking, drying
  - Cassava traders, dried chips
  - Vol = 45,000 tons (fresh equivalent) = 15,000 dry weight

**Trade**
- Marketed Fresh Cassava for Human Consumption
  - Traders, fresh
  - Vol = 35,000 T

- Processed Cassava for Human Consumption
  - Vol = 10,000

- Livestock Feed
  - Vol = 500 dry

- Industrial uses
  - Vol = 500 dry

**Farmers**

**Channel 1.**
- Subsistence Production

**Channel 2.**
- Marketed Fresh Cassava for Human Consumption

**Channel 3.**
- Processed Cassava for Human Consumption

**Channel 4.**
- Livestock Feed

**Channel 5.**
- Industrial Uses
Round 1. Working Groups

• Cassava standards → ZABS issues standards, Nov. 2007
• Livestock feeds: LDT feeding trials → cassava-based feeds viable when cassava 60% to 70% cost of maize
• Composite foods: nshima, fritters, baked goods: → consumer taste trials; technical feasibility of composite flour products

Round 2. Activities (2/07 on)

• Cassava Belt Task Force
• Maize Belt Cassava Task Force
• Value chain review (FAO)
• Economics of cassava processing (FSRP)
• New request by MACO
Goal of this meeting

• launch an ACU working to support MACO’s development of a government policy on cassava

Proposed Agenda

• Objectives of the new working group:
• Tasks:
• Outputs:
• Composition:
• Chair (Co-chairs):
• Timeline: