

BASICS: Building a Economically Sustainable, Integrated Seed System in Nigeria



Introduction

Cassava is a primary crop of Nigeria, providing income and food security. However, it is widely recognised that, despite significant progress through breeding for yield, nutrition and disease resistance, farm-yield remains low. A main factor perpetuating this unmet potential is with seed (stem-cuttings) quality and the farmer-practice of home-saved seed or securing seed from local unregulated sources. Such seed overlooks the opportunity of accessing 'breeder-improved' varieties and seed of certified status.

Overview of basics

BASICS is a 4-year project (2016-2019) to innovate across the seed multiplication chain, from Early Generation Seed (EGS: Breeder and Foundation) to Commercial seed, based on principles of economic viability and certified quality. The seed system will provide a pipeline for fast-tracking new and recommended varieties to farmers.

BASICS is delivered through 4 components:

- Breeder's Seed Component- Multiplication of EGS of ultra-low pest & disease status for further multiplication as Commercial seed
- Village Seed Entrepreneur Component - Multiplication of Commercial seed for farmers producing roots primarily for food markets
- Processor-led model Component- Multiplication of seed for contracted out-grower farmers producing roots exclusively for processing industry
- Quality Seed Component - Setting of seed certification standards and delivery of service to clients (above)

Delivering change to the seed sector and farmers

- New methods of EGS multiplication from Nuclear Seed (see image)
- Over 150 Village Seed Entrepreneurs registered as seed agent
- Industry multiplying seed for out-growers
- Evidence on Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD) virus levels in susceptible and tolerant varieties underpins setting of seed certification standard
- National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) providing certification
- NASC staff and facilities upskilled and upgraded to provide first national molecular seed testing capability, initially for CMD viruses in EGS
- Cassava Seed Tracker developed as a 'digital tool' for farmers and NASC to achieve certification of seed



Nuclear seed as EGS starter material



Delivery Partners