



# Value addition crucial to development of Nigeria's cassava industry



Processors frying gari, a high value food product made from cassava, in one of the CFC-IITA project sites.

Efforts to add value to crops such as cassava require more attention now than ever before if Nigeria's agricultural sector is to evolve. Aside from improving farmers' incomes, value addition is one of the best ways to address the increasing level of unemployment in Nigeria.

This was the statement made by IITA Director General Hartmann in his address delivered by Gbassey Tarawali, IITA scientist and representative of the DG, to stakeholders at a forum in Abuja, Nigeria marking the end of the Cassava Value Chain Project. The initiative is funded by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and implemented by the institute and its national partners in Nigeria.

Hartmann says the establishment of cassava processing centers in Masaka, Lafia and Kuje under the project for the production of gari, fufu, cassava flour, and starch is producing positive results by offering new income streams to the beneficiary communities.

With an annual production of about 44 million tons, Nigeria is currently

the global top producer of cassava. However, the country is yet to harness the maximum benefit of this unique position mainly because of inadequate processing facilities, which render cassava vulnerable to seasonal gluts.

"This is an area that needs urgent attention," Hartmann emphasized.

Abubakar Abdullahi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Investment, said value addition to cassava would help turn around the fortunes of farmers.

Represented by Julius Apanisile, the Abdullahi added that cassava offered tremendous opportunities that would further broaden the country's economic viability and improve its competitiveness particularly in the non-oil sector.

"Nigeria, as the world's largest producer of cassava, can benefit immensely from this great crop if concerted efforts were made at harnessing its numerous potentials," he said. He then called on all key players in the cassava industry and prospective investors "to take a cue from the

cassava prototype projects with a view to putting in place standard processing plants to utilize the volume of cassava produced in the country as a source of income."

Omololu B. Ope-ewe, Country Project Coordinator for Nigeria, said that the approach used in the project was to strengthen farmers, processors and marketers through the introduction of appropriate technologies.

"I am glad to inform you that the Cassava Value Chain project was very successful in all project sites in Nigeria, namely Kuje (Shabach Food), Mararaba (Joe Beg Farms) and Angwa village in Lafia, Nasarawa State. In all these communities, the project built the needed infrastructure and buildings, installed cassava processing equipment, gave packaging materials, and other interventions. The products produced by the project beneficiaries from these communities have been inspected and approved by NAFDAC," she proudly said.

Lateef Sanni, IITA-CFC Regional Coordinator, called on the beneficiaries to make the most of the processing centers. He appealed to policymakers and the private sector to take advantage of the untapped opportunities in the cassava industry, particularly in processing.

## Help conserve electricity!

Before leaving the workplace at the day's end, make sure that you have:

- (1) Powered off all unnecessary electrical office/lab equipment;
- (2) Turned off air conditioners; and
- (3) Switched off all lights.

# Ibadan inundated by record rainfall

On 26 August, IITA-Ibadan was hit by torrential rain and storm-strength winds that wreaked havoc on the campus. On that day, 187.50 mm of rain fell accompanied by wind gusts reaching 65 km/hour. The previous highest recorded rainfall was 178.30 mm in Sept 1987.

The rains started at 16:40H and continued until 20:00H, with intermittent drizzle until 23:00H. Rainfall was most intense between 18:10-19:20H when 75% of the

rain fell. The amount of water dumped on campus, coupled with high winds, led to severe flooding, swelling of the lake, uprooting/toppling of many trees, and damage to crops in the experimental plots.

According to the IITA Geospatial Services, by comparison, the average daily rainfall in August 2010 was 8.9 mm considering all days, and 25mm considering only rainy days. Maximum daily rainfall for August 2010 was 62 mm.

The following is a list of the 10

highest recorded rainfall at IITA-Ibadan (information provided by Geospatial Services):

Year	Rainfall (mm)	Date
2011	187.5	26 August
1987	178.3	21 September
1955	153.2	17 June
1978	147.5	20 April
2001	143.4	22 June
1963	130	28 August
1985	130	3 July
2007	126.2	7 June
1994	120.2	1 October
2010	118	20 October

## Images of the August 26 storm aftermath



(1st row) Maize and banana flattened by high winds, demo farm damaged; (2nd row) Screenhouses submerged, fallen tree branches litter FMS car park, fallen tree blocking entrance to Bldg 400; (3rd row) Whole trees uprooted, roads such as Africa Drive were impassable due to fallen trees, IITA Lake peninsula disappeared; (at left) road leading to IITA Forest and tree seedling nursery disappeared under flood waters. Photos by J Franco, K Lopez, and JT Oliver.