

# DISEASE-RESISTANT CASSAVA VARIETIES

Increases cassava yields by preventing losses caused by disease

## TECHNOLOGY / SOLUTION



Cassava disease resistant varieties are elite lines with dual resistance to cassava mosaic and brown streak diseases. These varieties offer farmers a powerful means to combat two prevalent cassava viruses that cause mosaic disease or brown streak disease.

These varieties also withstand other major pathogens that attack cassava like bacterial blight disease, anthracnose disease, cassava green mite, and cassava mealybug. Another trait is also drought resistance.



## PROBLEM / ISSUE SOLVED

- One of the most important cassava diseases in southern Africa is cassava mosaic disease (CMD), which is transmitted primarily by the vector whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*)
- Cassava brown streak disease (CBSD), the most serious threat to cassava cultivation in East and Central Africa, is caused by two virus species, cassava brown streak virus (CBSV) and Ugandan cassava brown streak virus (UCBSV);
- Farmers in African countries lose 20 to 95% of cassava production, or about 12 to 23 million tons of fresh root per year, due to infections



## GOOD FOR

Cassava cuttings multipliers,  
Small-scale farmers,  
Commercial farmers



## BENEFITS

- ✓ Immunity to various diseases
- ✓ Short growth cycle of about 9 to 15 months whereas for non-improved susceptible varieties this can take 20 to 24 months
- ✓ Minimizing the risk of yield loss and crop failure during prolonged periods of drought



Disease control  
Speciality



Cassava  
Commodity



US\$ 30 to 35 per ha, for cuttings  
Purchase price



40% increase in yield  
Added value

## ALREADY IN USE IN



Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi,  
Cameroon, Democratic Republic of  
the Congo, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi,  
Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda,  
Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Disease-resistant varieties are multiplied and cultivated in the same way as any other cassava crop.

Caution has to be exercised by farmers when planting materials are transferred between fields to avoid contamination. Another way, planting disease-resistant varieties on boundaries of farmer fields has been shown to limit infections of susceptible varieties in the middle.

