DEFEATING CASSAVA WITCHES’ BROOM
A cartoon guide for extension workers and farmers in South East Asia

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This cartoon guide is also available in Khmer, Vietnamese, and Lao.

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Cassava Witches’ Broom disease has been reported in several countries in South East Asia.
Infected cassava can show:
- A proliferation of buds with small and yellowing leaves;
- Short and irregular internodes;
- Brown streaks in the stems;
- Smaller and thinner roots, with brown streaks and reduced starch content;
- Stunting.
Cassava Witches’ Broom can spread rapidly and affect yields, starch quality, and the availability of planting material.
You need to eliminate plants that show signs of infection immediately. Rogue them out, including the roots...
... and incinerate the diseased plants to prevent spreading.
Because if you don’t act now, you may lose all your production.
First, you need healthy planting material. Don’t buy seeds showing brown streaks or with sprouts as they may be infected.
Buy only healthy-looking planting material: regular nodes, no sprouts, no brown streaks.
Plant at the start of the rainy season.
Then, choose a zone of your field where plants are healthy and vigorous.
It will be your corner of prosperity.
Fertilize and give good care to that corner as you will use it for selecting planting material.
Check your plants regularly in your corner of prosperity. Rogue out and burn any plant showing signs of infection.
Select healthy planting material from your corner of prosperity, and keep it in the shade, away from risks of infection. But don’t wait too long! Do not plant seeds with new sprouts as they could be infected.
Good quality cassava will sell better!