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IITA Cassava Value Chain Development Project

The Dos and Don'ts of Cassava Root Production

G. Tarawali, P. Ilona, I.A. Ojiako, C. Iyangbe,
D.S. Ogundijo, G. Asumugha, U. Udensi, and T. Dialo











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About IITA

Africa has complex problems that plague agriculture and people's lives. We develop agricultural solutions with our partners to tackle hunger and poverty. Our award-winning research for development (R4D) is based on focused, authoritative thinking anchored on the development needs of sub-Saharan Africa. We work with partners in Africa and beyond to reduce producer and consumer risks, enhance crop quality and productivity, and generate wealth from agriculture. IITA is an international non-profit R4D organization established in 1967 and governed by a Board of Trustees. IITA is a member of the CGIAR Consortium."

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Contents

1. Land preparation 2
   Plant on well-drained land 2
   Avoid a waterlogged area 3
   Plant on friable, loamy land 4
   Avoid stony land 5

2. Land management 6
   Plant leguminous crops in rotation with cassava 6
   Do not crop cassava after cassava..... 7
   Allow organic manure to cure 34 weeks before applying 8
   Do not apply uncured, organic manure..... 9

3. Stem management: cutting, handling and plant 10
   Obtain stems from plants that are 10-12 months old. 10
   Do not cut stems from immature plants 11
   Keep stems for planting under shade 12
   Do not keep stems out in the sun 13
   Use sharp tools to cut stems for planting..... 14
   Do not use blunt tools to avoid damage to the stems..... 15
   Select and use healthy stems..... 16
   Do not use diseased stems 17
   Plant stems with 5–7 nodes..... 18
   Do not plant stems that are too short or too long 19

4. Weed control 20
   Use adults when spraying..... 20
   Avoid using children when spraying 21
   Use the right protective clothing when spraying..... 22
   Avoid using wrong protective clothing when spraying 23
   Spray when there is clear weather..... 24
   Do not spray when the weather is cloudy..... 25

5. Fertilizer application 26
   Apply fertilizer by the band or ring method 26
   Do not scatter fertilizer on the plant or the leaves
   of the plant 27
   Apply fertilizer on weed-free plots 28
   Do not apply fertilizer on weedy plots 29
   Apply fertilizer in cool weather 30
   Do not apply fertilizer in hot weather 31

6. Harvesting 32
Harvest with the use of a mechanical harvester 32
Harvesting with many workers means a high cost 33
Harvest carefully with the use of a hoe and cutlass ... 34
Do not use bare hands to pull roots forcefully..... 35
Use hoe/cutlass to cut roots from the stem base 36
Do not use your hand to break roots 37

7. Post harvesting..... 38
Load roots gently in layers in vehicle immediately after harvesting 38
Avoid headloading or the use of bicycles..... 39
Convey roots to processing centers immediately (within 24 hours) to add value 40
Do not leave roots for too long (more than 24 hours) after harvesting to avoid spoilage..... 41



Land preparation



Plant on well-drained land



Avoid a waterlogged area



Plant on friable, loamy land



Avoid stony land

Land management



Plant leguminous crops in rotation with cassava



Do not crop cassava after cassava



Allow organic manure to cure 34 weeks before applying



Do not apply uncured, organic manure

Stem management: Cutting, handling and planting



Obtain stems from plants that are 10-12 months old



Do not cut stems from immature plants



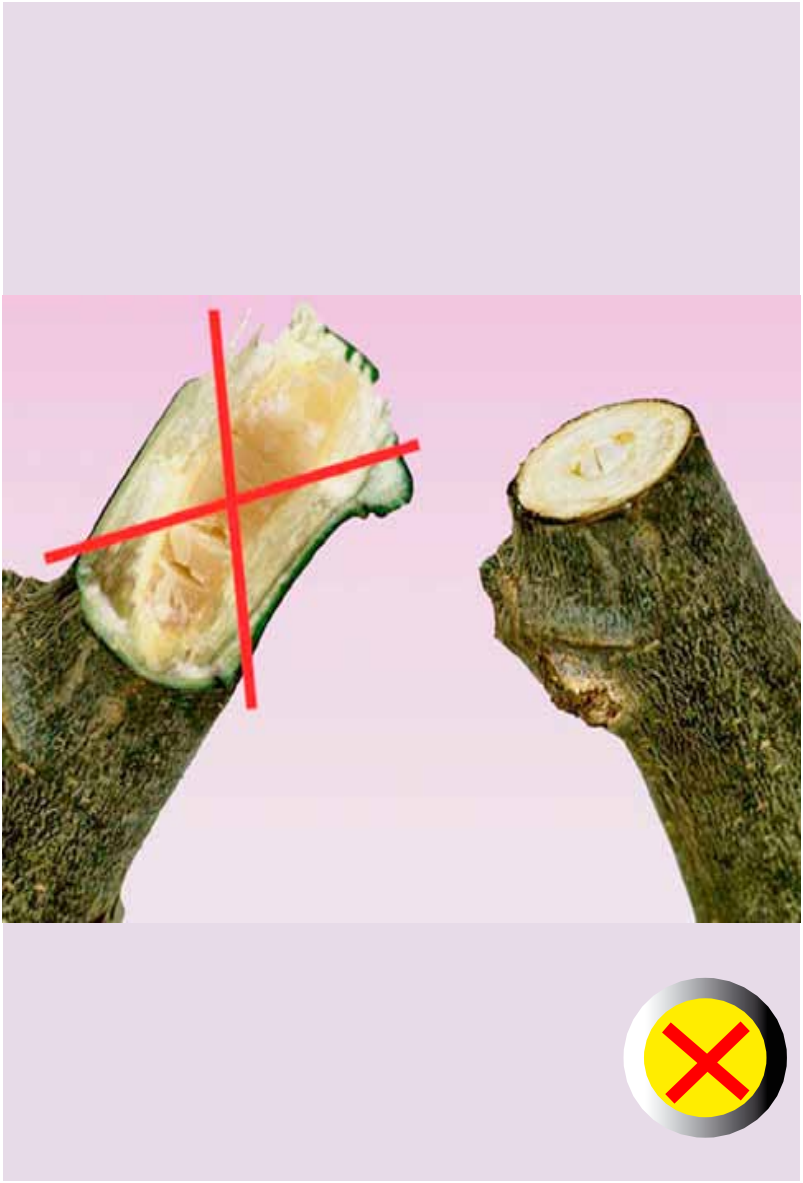
Keep stems for planting under shade



Do not keep stems out in the sun



Use sharp tools to cut stems for planting



Do not use blunt tools to avoid damage to the stems



Select and use healthy stems



Do not use diseased stems



Plant stems with 5–7 nodes



Do not plant stems that are too short or too long

Weed control



Use adults when spraying



Avoid using children when spraying



Use the right protective clothing when spraying



Avoid using wrong protective clothing when spraying



Spray when there is clear weather



Do not spray when the weather is cloudy

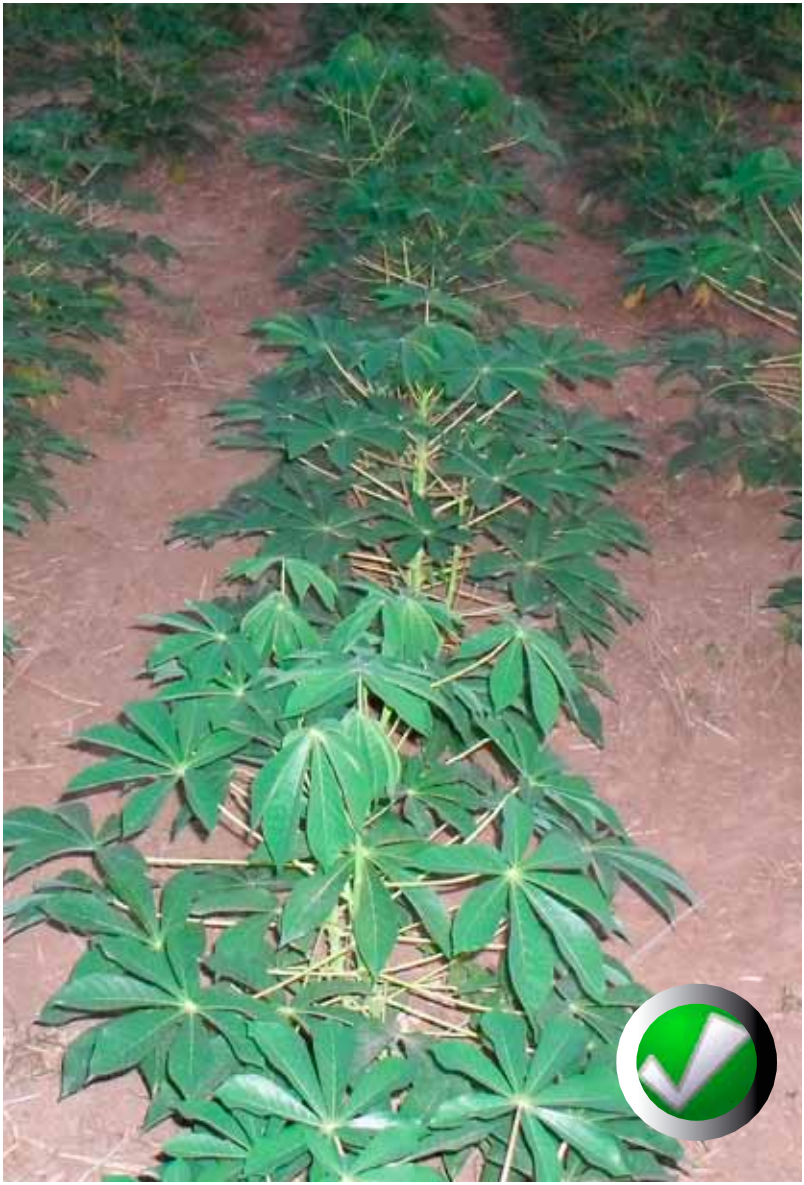
Fertilizer application



Apply fertilizer by the band or ring method



Do not scatter fertilizer on the plant or the leaves of the plant



Apply fertilizer on weed-free plots



Do not apply fertilizer on weedy plots



Apply fertilizer in cool weather

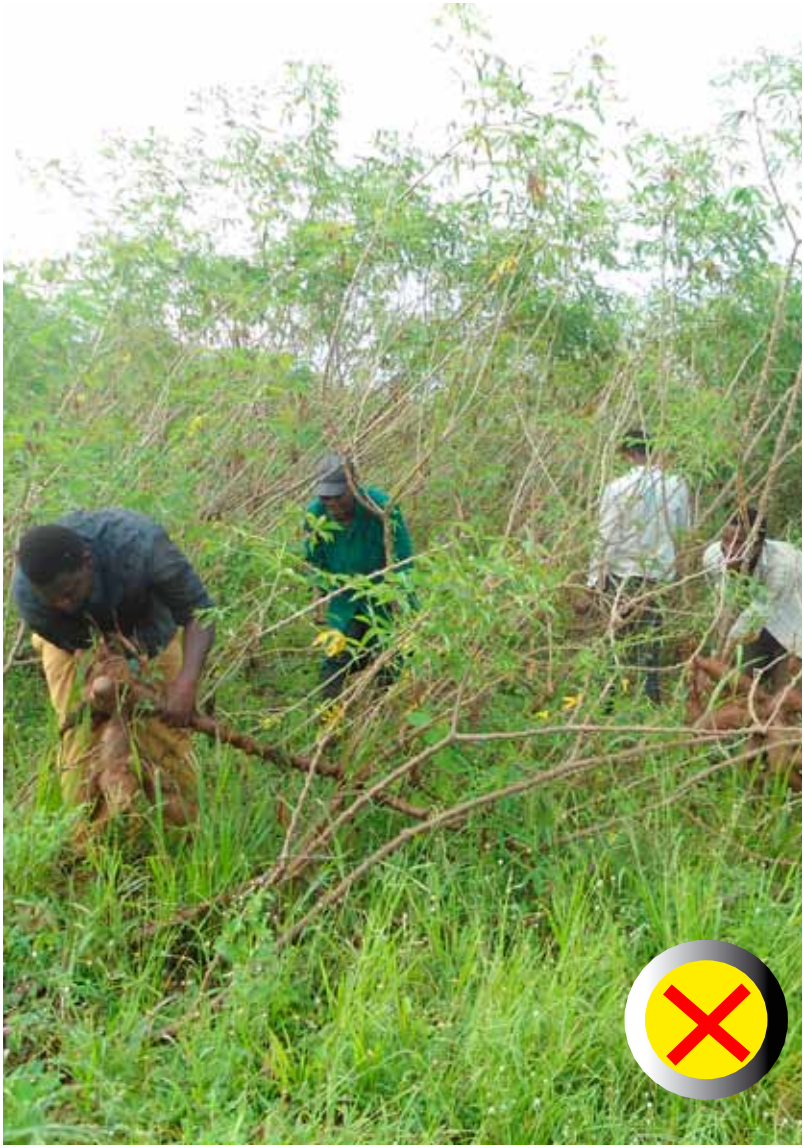


Do not apply fertilizer in hot weather

Harvesting



Harvest with the use of a mechanical harvester



Harvesting with many workers means a high cost





Harvest carefully with the use of a hoe, cutlass or harvesting tool.



Do not use bare hands to pull roots forcefully.



Use cutlass to cut roots from the stem base



Do not use your hand to break roots

Post harvesting



Load roots gently in layers in vehicle immediately after harvesting





Avoid headloading or the use of bicycles



Convey roots to processing centers immediately (within 24 hours) to add value



Do not leave roots for too long (more than 24 hours) after harvesting to avoid spoilage