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## Susceptibility of cassava genotypes to physiological deterioration

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By evaluating the progression of vascular streaking down 15 cm root sections the percentage of deterioration can be determined after only 3 days of storage (CIAT 1979 Annual Report). This method was used to investigate the variation in susceptibility within and between cultivars. Although there was great intravarietal variation (in typical trials M Col 22 a highly susceptible variety varied between 87 and 60% and CMC 40 a resistant variety from 31 to 8%) it was possible to distinguish susceptible and resistant cultivars as well as to eliminate the effect of microbial deterioration.

Studies on roots from plants of different ages revealed no relationship between the percentage of deterioration and plant age nor any correlation with HCN or fiber content. A significant positive correlation was however found with the starch content of the roots. The effectiveness of pruning the aboveground part of the plant three weeks before harvesting to control physiological deterioration (CIAT 1978 Annual Report) was shown with a reduction from 56 to 5%.

Of 20 local varieties evaluated (from areas located above 1400 m (CIAT 1979 Annual Report)) 19 were found to be resistant (less than 15% deterioration) and only one susceptible (40% deterioration) suggesting that in these regions local varieties may also have been selected for their root durability.

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## Cameroon invests \$ 8 m on cassava expansion

The Cameroon Government has decided to go ahead with a project involving the establishment of a 3000 ha cassava plantation in the eastern province and the construction of a processing plant to produce 4000 t of starch glucose and tapioca a year.

HVA Holland Agro Industries the Dutch agricultural group has won a \$8.10 million contract to set up the plantation and processing plant and to manage both for the next 5 years. Nivoba another Dutch company will supply equipment for the starch factory.

The plantation is expected to produce a minimum of 20 000 t of cassava/yr to meet the needs of the Cameroon paper and cotton industries. It will allow the substitution of home produced products for the estimated 1500 t of starch/yr Cameroon presently imports.

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## V International conference on plant pathogenic bacteria

The V International Conference on Plant Pathogenic Bacteria to be held at CIAT from August 16-23 1981 is being organized to provide a forum for scientists interested in any aspect of study on plant pathogenic bacteria to establish professional contacts and exchange experiences and ideas. The conference site was selected to emphasize the importance of both basic and applied research to bacterial diseases of tropical crops grown by developing nations throughout the world: legume and other vegetable crops, tuber and root crops, fruit and forest trees and other crops such as cereals, coffee and bananas.

The lists of proposed sections and workshop or symposia topics are as follows:

### SECTIONS

- I Reports of bacterial and other procaryotic diseases
- II New developments in microbial identification and taxonomy
- III Ecology of bacterial and other procaryotic pathogens
- IV Host pathogen interactions
- V Disease management of bacterial and other procaryotic pathogens

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### WORKSHOP OR SYMPOSIA TOPICS

- I Recent developments in *Rhizobium* research
- II Recent developments in *Agrobacterium* research
- III Recent developments in *Pseudomonas solanacearum* research
- IV Recent developments in research on soft rot bacteria and postharvest decay
- V Screening procedures for evaluating resistance to bacterial diseases
- VI In vitro culture of *Mycoplasma* and *Spiroplasma* organisms
- VII Role and importance of air borne bacterial in phyto pathology
- VIII Challenges to disease management of tropical bacterial diseases
- IX Seed borne bacterial diseases and their detection
- X Recent development in rice bacterial blight research
- XI Role of bacterial toxins during pathogenesis
- XII Role of antibacterial substances in plant resistance
- XIII Recent developments in research with plasmids
- XIV How and why do pathologists distinguish races from strains of bacterial pathogens
- XV Role of and challenges to international and national agricultural research in the management of bacterial diseases
- XVI Utilization of advanced training materials to teach bacterial disease management