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CASSAVA FIELD TRIALS

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Introduction

There is considerable expenditure for research work on different aspects of cassava. While many of these trials are properly conducted and provide useful information, others could be improved through relatively minor changes in techniques. Most experiments on cassava culture could provide useful information to a much wider audience if the experimental work included:

- 1. Well defined purposes, including those practical problems that stimulated the research work.
- 2. Uniform standarized designs and evaluation systems.
- 3. Proper support on ecological and climatic conditions of the area to provide background information.
- 4. Wide distribution of summarized results to insure broad application and prevent unnecessary duplication of experiments.

Frequently, faulty reporting of experimental work may lead other researchers to make errors. In such cases in which the objectives of the experiment were not achieved due to specific problems or unforeseen errors, it will be of great value to other researchers to expose these happenings in newsletters or circulars sent to cooperators. Unfortunately, such reports are not published very often.

The present guide for cassava trials is intended to provide a basic tool for the design of experimental work. Each research study will require additional plans, details and specific information. But it is hoped that this guide will assist the researcher in drawing up his experimental procedures and in obtaining a more complete record of his particular experimental conditions.

Through the cooperative effort of various institutions, more rapid advancement in cassava improvement should be possible. This cooperative work should in no way restrict independent and original work but rather enable the wider adoption of superior techniques and research systems, and reduce unnecessary duplication and thus, a regrettable loss of time and money. The following are some of the items which should be given consideration in setting up experimental work.

Research objectives

Research is conducted to provide solutions to questions which cannot be obtained from available information. There is an unlimited number of interesting unanswered questions that may be asked about any subject in the universe; so one of the difficult jobs of the researcher is to define those problems which are significant, and to concentrate effort in providing solutions which will be of the greatest benefit compared with alternative uses for the inputs of time, effort and finances.

To assist in the evaluation of proposed research, it is necessary to answer questions similar to the following:

- 1. Is the problem important and why?
- 2. What information is presently available?
- 3. What will be the benefits from its solution?
- 4. Who will receive the benefits from its solution?
- 5. What is the cost of doing research on the problem and what might be the expected returns (cost-return ratio)?

If answers to these questions indicate that the problem is sufficiently important, clearly defined objectives or goals must be enumerated to assist in keeping work proceeding according to the plan and to provide guidelines for evaluating progress. These objectives must be specific to be of any value. As an example, "the evaluation of cassava roots" would be more clearly stated as the "measurement of diameter, length and distribution of 'Tempranita' cassava roots grown in fertilized and non-fertilized soil, nine months after planting."

A research project may have one or more objectives. List these in order of priority. It is often possible to use a single experiment for more than one purpose with relatively small additional inputs. The objective of a variety trial is usually to determine which varieties give the highest yield. Other objectives which can be included are evaluations for root size, starch, dry-matter content and plant evaluations for insect and disease resistance, growth habit, amount of planting material produced, and many others. If these are listed before the start of the work, it is easier to organize data collection.

The researcher must always be alert for the opportunity to obtain information which was not in the plan. However, if a decision must be made between meeting the requirements of the original plan and "an idea" occurring later; careful consideration must be given before making changes. If sufficient background information available from a literature review was used in drawing up the original plans, few changes are normally needed to complete the project.

CIAT is working on a collection of cassava literature which will soon be available to assist research workers in obtaining additional background information which is essential in all areas of research.

Experimental technique

No experimental plan or design will compensate for carelessness in experimental work. The use of replications and proper experimental design may help in the determination of better cultural practices, varieties, or management systems; but statistical calculations will never correct errors made in field plot technique. The objectives of the experiment must be clearly in mind before the plot layout or design can be made.

Location of experimental site

The first consideration must be to select experimental sites with environmental conditions which are representative of those where the results are to be applied. If the research is expected to give results for farm recommendations, a site with soil or other conditions typical of areas where cassava is produced must be chosen. Unfortunately, experimental farms cannot be suitable for all crops and may be on an atypical site for cassava. In this case, off-the-farm experiments should be considered. Where work has to be done on an experimental station, choose the site which is most representative of areas where the results are to be applied.

After selection of the general area, the specific site should be chosen to ensure uniformity of soil color, texture, slope, and previous cropping history. One of the best systems for evaluation of soil uniformity is to look at the proposed experimental area with a uniform crop on it, when it is under a slight moisture stress. Soil texture, moisture holding capacity, and other differences can be readily observed. Likewise, during rainy periods poorly drained areas are easily noted. If a field cannot be selected by observing a crop on the area, investigate soil depth, hard pans, plow soles etc., by using a soil auger and at the same time, take soil samples for **analysis**.

Avoid sites which may be on areas of old fertilizer experiments or where residues from chemicals applied for weed control in previous crops are a possibility. Low areas and banks of rivers which are likely to flood should not be used as cassava will not thrive in poorly drained soils. In laying out fertilizer trials avoid steeply sloping land which may allow movement of nutrients down the slope. Evaluation of specific conditions, such as varietal resistance to poor drainage, high or low soil pH, specific weed competition and others, must be conducted on areas where the conditions are uniform for the desired factor being tested.

Avoid placing experiments close to trees, hedges, ditches, and buildings which could influence the growth of the cassava. An experiment neatly laid in a rectangular block is the ideal of all research workers but **this** should not be done at the expense of experimental precision. Bad soil spots, ditches, trees, old building sites, and other poor areas can be avoided by placing individual replications wherever a uniform area with the correct dimensions can be found. Replications do not have to be adjacent to one another but the soil type should be as uniform as possible.

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Laying out of plots

Transferring the experimental plan from paper to the field is normally easily done with well drawn plans. First establish a base line with a reference stake in one corner of the plot. Usually plots are located along a road, fence, or field border but provide sufficient border rows to eliminate effects of differences in fertility, compaction or other abnormal conditions often found along the edge of fields.

To finish laying out the plot a simple method for establishing square corners is the 3-4-5 system. Measure 30 feet (9.14 meters) from the plot corner along the base line, 40 feet (12.19 meters) at approximately right angles to the base line. If the corner is square the diagonal between the 30and 40-foot points will be 50 feet (15.24 meters); if not, the angle should be adjusted so that the 30-40-and 50-foot ratio is reached. Other measurements can be used equally well but this ratio is simple to remember.

Any system for labeling plots which reduces the possibility of errors to a minimum is a good system. The amount of information included on the label depends on the treatments and purpose of the experiment. Taking unbiased notes is easier when the label only includes a plot number; however, including treatment information on the label facilitates applying treatments and makes it easy for anyone to observe differences without having to go back to the planting plan.

Regardless of the system used for coding treatments on the label, a standard system for positioning the label for each plot helps to avoid confusion among workmen and other persons looking at the plot. Labels fixed to stakes placed in the front left corner as one looks at a plot has some advantages over other locations. With that system there is no confusion as to the number of rows on each side of the stake as happens with center-placed stakes. Plot size

Evaluation made on the basis of one or two plants is often useless due to plant-to-plant variation in the particular trait being measured. A preliminary

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review of the literature indicates that a minimum of between 16 to 32 sample plants are needed to give a reliable estimate of yield for particular treatments. Where plants are missing or stands are lacking in uniformity a larger number of plants must be available so that plants with normal competition can be harvested for yield purposes.

The plot area for yield determination should be readily converted to a universally acceptable large unit, e.g. hectares. One hundred square meters is a convenient unit which can be further subdivided into smaller areas as required. In this way the raw data can be converted into large units by moving the decimal place and multiplying by small whole numbers, and errors in calculation can be easily identified.

As an example: 130 kg of roots from 25 plants spaced 1 x 2 meters is easily converted to 26 tons per hectare by multiplying by 2 and adding 2 zeros (x200), where as the conversion of the yield of 114.4 kg from 22 plants would require a conversion factor of 227.27 which would be difficult to evaluate under field conditions.

Normally, it is desirable to have equal size plots for all treatments. However, in row-spacing and plant-population studies it is often difficult to maintain this equality. To obtain sufficient plants in wide-row spacing at low populations the plots may be excessively large at narrow spacings. Using equal numbers of rows may not be satisfactory either, since more rows may be needed to eliminate border effects in the narrow row spacing than in wide rows. For these reasons it usually is advantageous to use a combination of area and number of rows to secure reliable information from this type of study.

At present, spacing experiments are underway at CIAT using a systematic design resembling a fan. When the results become available it will be decided whether this type of design can be recommended for cassava. Where yield samples are taken from plots of different areas, precautions must be taken to insure using the correct factor to convert sample yield to the standard yield per hectare. Conversions of yields obtained on a per-plant basis to a yield per hectare is meaningless unless there is a perfect stand and the border effect has been eliminated. Even then, yield overestimation is to be anticipated.

Replications

Experimental projects often fail to provide results because of overcomplex plans involving too many treatments instead of sufficiently replicated simple experiments. Because of the variability observed in cassava it appears that four replications in simple experimental designs is the minimum. The purpose of replicating or repeating each treatment several times in an experiment is to obtain an average measurement of a particular treatment and. secondly to provide a method of evaluating the variability and comparative "yield" between the different treatments within an experiment. Unless the difference between treatments within replications is greater than the variation between replications the differences one may find between treatments is probably due to chance alone. Uniformity within a replication is important. Differences between replications are not serious as long as the results of individual treatments remain in the same sequence. That is, if treatment A is higher than B in all replications one can be relatively sure that A is better than B even if the yield of all treatments in one or more of replications is considerably above or below those of the other replications.

Border rows

Most experiments will require border rows around each plot in order that edge effects and unequal competition effects between varieties or treatments producing different growth habits are eliminated. Fertilizer applications are difficult to distribute uniformly and accurately to an exact line, especially when incorporated by machinery, thus roots of plants take in nutrients from adjacent plants unless sufficient borders are provided for plot separation.

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The number of border rows required will vary with the type of experiment, experimental plan, row spacing and other factors. Normally, at least two border rows are desirable around the outside of an experimental area. Within the experimental block, at least one row around the plants to be sampled is required. Additional rows will be required where close row spacing, widely contrasting plant types or other specific experimental conditions exist.

Where evaluations are to be made before there is competition between adjacent plants for light, moisture, or other factors necessary for growth, plants may be left unbordered but care must be exercised when such decisions are made. Germination studies may be left unbordered.

Border rows always enlarge the area needed for an experiment but neglecting to provide these borders may completely change the results of an experiment. Border plants can be used for developing sampling systems, testing materials and for other purposes before entering the experimental plot <u>per se</u>, providing that the destruction or reduction of the competitive effect of the border row does not occur more than a few days before taking the actual data from the experimental plot.

Management of experimental material

Seed material and planting system must be as uniform as possible for critical experimental work.

Cuttings should be selected from parent material of the same age grown under the same conditions and taken from similar positions on each plant. Cuttings taken from plants produced under very favorable conditions and moved to a new location to be compared with cuttings produced under unfavorable conditions may give biased or erroneous results. One research worker reported getting excellent results the first year when growing newly introduced varieties in a particular area. The second and following years most of the varieties were only ordinary in tests. Consistently reliable results were obtained only after using seed material produced under local conditions.

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This requires planning trials at least a year ahead of time to have locally produced cuttings for all varieties being tested. The practice of taking seed material from uniform nurseries established for supplying cuttings should be followed whenever possible.

Seed material should always be handled carefully to avoid bruising which damages the buds and stem tissue. This can allow entry of disease organisms and cause drying out which reduced germination and seedling vigor where long time storage is required. The practice of dipping cassava cuttings in paraffin has been recommended. Experimental evidence will soon be available.

Planting systems

The system of planting varies greatly from one area to another. Therefore, length of cutting, position or depth of placement, planting on level land or ridges are factors to be decided by the experimenter in accordance with previous experience and experimental results. Whatever system is used should be clearly reported and the same system should be used throughout the entire trial.

The spacing of plants within the plot is very important if sample plants of uniform size are to be obtained. If the plants are to be grown on ridges formed either by hand or with machinery, care must be taken to assure that the rows are equally spaced at the desired distance apart. Check the distance between ridge tops after the first few passes of the tractor and adjust the implement if necessary. Never set up a ridging plow without checking the ridge it produces.

To obtain equal distances along each row use poles or wires the length of the plot, marked out at the desired distance between plants. Where labor is plentiful use two marked poles or wires, placing one down each outside row of the plot. Then, having squared the plot using the mentioned 3-4-5 triangle system, stretch string or something similar between the marks on the

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pole. In this manner, all rows can be planted simultaneously using a man for each row and a very uniform spacing can be achieved.

A stick cut to the desired distance between plants can be satisfactory but great care is required to do this. This method is not recommended because errors made in estimating the starting point for each distance can be easily introduced.

Missing plants

The loss of plants in many experiments masks the treatment effect which is being evaluated. As an illustration, in a comparison of size of seed pieces, the small cuttings germinated only 50 percent but, because of moisture shortage, the reduced population produced a higher yield-per-unit land area. The conclusions might be that small seed pieces are better than large, whereas in fact the experiment more correctly evaluated effect of populations and under more normal conditions the higher population would be expected to give better yields.

Where treatments might be expected to reduce populations, yield measurements can be misleading. A better evaluation of the treatments would be to count the cuttings which germinate and become established and express this as a percentage of the number of cuttings planted.

Almost perfect stands are desired in experimental work. Therefore, it may be advisable to put in extra cuttings when the trial is planted. Where adequate cuttings are available, perfect stands can be obtained by planting two cuttings for every plant desired and removing the extra plant after the seedlings are established. It cuttings are not plentiful, 20-30 percent more should be prepared and planted adjacent to the experimental site or in between border plants aroung the plots. These can later be transplanted to fill in for missing plants. Transplanting should be done as early as possible. "Hardening" the plants before transplanting by restricting water, avoiding root damage and giving abundant water after transplanting will help assure normal plant and root development. Growing extra plants in soil-filled plastic bags will provide transplant material of the same age and origin as the original material. Care should be taken to avoid damaging the fragile root system of the young plant. Do not remove the bag from around the roots until after it is placed in the hole. Then, fill back the soil and press firmly around the plant. Since there is no root pruning when transplanting under this system, the plants will continue to grow more uniformly than where plants are dug out of the field and moved. The plastic bags are relatively cheap and plants can be maintained for up to 60 days with a minimum of effort to improve experimental results.

Experimental plot management

Experimental work should normally be conducted under cultural practices which can be followed by the majority of cassava producers regardless of the size of their operation. Different methods may be used by large commercial producers but the principles remain the same as for growers with only a few plants.

Unrealistic practices may lead to misleading experimental results. As an example, the practice of irrigating a variety trial in an area where water is unavailable to commercial growers may lead to the recommendation of a variety which will not maintain its yielding ability in the absence of irrigation.

On the other hand, good farming practices such as drainage, control of excess water, regular weeding (especially during the early growing period), attention to nutrient requirements, and pest and disease control, are essential. Of course, specific objectives of many experiments will require special management practices.

Application of fertilizer and chemicals

Several cassava field trials will be designed to determine what levels of plant nutrients are required for specific varieties, under different soil conditions during different stages of crop growth.

Simple "with or without" fertilizer trials can make use of granular formulations of a complete N-P-K type from commercial sources. If there is any

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doubt about the reliability of the grade used, a laboratory test should be made to confirm the analysis.

These formulations may not be available or be satisfactory for specific experimental requirements. If individual nutrients are to be mixed to make complete fertilizers they should be applied separately, or thoroughly mixed in the field immediately before making the application. Shaking mixtures of different-sized particles, while driving to the experimental site, can cause separation of the material resulting in uneven distribution in the field.

For hand application of fertilizers or chemicals the amount of material for each plot should be divided into half, and each portion spread separately over the entire plot to assure uniform application. Spreading half the material on the plot in one direction and the other half at right angles in regard to the first, also contributes to give better uniformity. Where a small amount of material is to be applied it should be mixed with some relatively inert substance such as soil, sand, or sawdust to provide enough volume to get an efficient coverage.

Spraying and dusting equipment must be well calibrated and carefully handled to assure complete coverage and uniform application rates. Care must be taken with the use of wettable powders in spray equipment that does not have an agitator in the tank. Settling to the bottom of the tank results in uneven applications and this will cause damage to plants when the last few liters of liquid in the tank are sprayed.

Testing or calibration of equipment should be done under field conditions but should not be done in the experimental plot. Extra plots or extra border rows in the field are often useful for testing of equipment or techniques.

It is desirable to have separate sprayers for herbicides and insecticides. However, when this is not possible, thorough cleaning between materials is essential. A 1 percent solution of ammonia left overnight in the sprayer will normally reduce the danger of damage from residues of hormone chemicals. It is important to pump the ammonia solution into all hoses and

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valves to be sure that residues in these parts are also neutralized. Soap and water solution work well for cleaning sprayers which have used nonhormone substances.

Weed control

Maintain experimental plots free of weeds. Better cassava producers follow this practice, so allowing weed growth in an experiment to "evaluate competition differences between varieties" could hardly be justified. Herbicides, hand weeding, or mechanical cultivation can all be used satisfactorily. Keep in mind the possibility of damage by incorrect choice or dosages of chemicals. Consult compatibility charts before mixing chemicals. Hand weeding and mechanized cultivation need careful supervision to avoid root damage by too deep penetration, erosion of ridges by hoeing or damage to leaves and branches when the plants are large. All practices by hand, machinery or chemicals must be uniform throughout the experiment.

Insect control

The amount of insect damage that one can allow before applying control measures is always a difficult decision. Regular application of insecticides regardless of insect infestation are justified only for specific types of experiments where freedom from injury is the objective. Often, if a low level of damage can be tolerated, the insect's natural enemies may increase and provide satisfactory biological control. Application of insecticides at the first indication of the insect presence often reduces the natural predators or other biological control system so that continued measures are required. Daily observations of plants with potential problems is the best system for evaluating the need for control measures. If an infestation continues to increase, control measures can be taken at the point where damage no longer can be tolerated. Experience is the best guide to what that level of damage by a particular insect might be, before yield reduction occurs.

Plant diseases

After a disease infection is found there is little that can be done to

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eliminate it. This is the case with the majority of disease. Precautions should always be followed to prevent the introduction of new disease by spreading infection from one planting site to another. Several diseases are spread by using infected planting material. To prevent this, careful selection of disease-free planting stock is essential. Any plant which appears to be somewhat abnormal in growth habit should be avoided. Field sanitation procedures, such as crop rotation, weed control, destruction of all old plant material or complete coverage of such material by clean plowing, will reduce chances of infection by several diseases.

Extra precautions are needed to avoid transferring disease problems to new areas when planting material is transported. Whenever possible, a plant pathologist should inspect plantations before cuttings are taken for this purpose.

Identification and evaluation of new diseases should be made as quickly as possible by a plant pathologist. Where facilities are not available for immediate identification of diseases, samples of the affected plant or plant part can be taken, and forwarded to a laboratory for identification. Appendix A-7 gives instructions concerning the method for handling these samples and information to be submitted with the sample.

Harvesting and yield evaluation

Harvesting probably requires more labor than any other operation in cassava research and the system used will depend on availability, dependability and cost of labor. At present, no machine is available specifically for cassava harvesting. Various plows, disk hillers, subsoiling tines, cultivator shovels, and other types of equipment are used to assist in harvesting with varying degrees of success. The harvesting rate can be increased some but usually there is an increase in damaged roots and roots left in the field. Hand harvesting using shovels, pick axes, poles, and other hand tools still remains one of the most reliable systems for harvesting experimental plots. The ideal situation for experimental work requires that conditions for all comparisons are identical except for those which are being evaluated. Harvesting procedures are no different and should be completed as rapidly and uniformly as possible, with emphasis on care and precision when yields are measured. A rain occurring at night, after part of an experiment has been harvested, may result in more soil adhering to the roots. Unless this soil is removed before weighing, the experimental results will be inaccurate. In a plot of 25 square meters, a weight variation of only 1.25 kilograms will result in a change in yield of half a ton per hectare. This would be the equivalent of only 50 grams per plant for an experiment spaced 1 m x 1 m. It is easy to see that care must be taken to harvest all roots and pieces of roots as well as removing dirt, stem pieces and other unwanted material before weighing.

Harvesting one replicate at a time rather than individual treatments in an experiment helps to insure uniform conditions. Weighing, dry-matter determination etc., should be done as soon after harvest as possible. A reliable scale must be used for field weighing. A portable "clock-type" spring balance, with a tripod and basket, is convenient for direct field weighing but it has a relatively low capacity and may be inadequate where large amounts of cassava are to be weighed. A platform scale which has a larger capacity can also be used in the field. However, it is more difficult to move and is more likely to be damaged by rough handling.

Regardless of the type used, the scale should be checked periodically for accuracy. Metal weights of precisely five or ten kilos should be obtained to test the scale up to its capacity or, at least, to the usual amount weighed on it. If the weights can not be bought locally, some kind of metal blocks can be accurately weighed, marked and used for calibration. Platform scales should not only be checked with different weight loads but with the weights located on different areas on the platform.



All scales are precision instruments and require careful handling to maintain them in proper working condition.

Under present marketing practices fresh root weight, total dry-matter and total starch are all important for yield considerations. Fresh root weight as discussed can be determined simply and easily. In evaluating varieties, fertilization practices and other experimental treatments — where there may be a change in starch content and thus in dry matter — some system for evaluating this material must be used.

Dry-matter determination sufficiently accurate for most purposes can be quite readily made by taking fresh root weight, chipping and drying the cassava chips to a constant weight in an oven at approximately 55-60 °C. To determine the percent of dry matter, divide the oven dry weight by the original fresh weight and multiply by 100.

The length of time required to complete the oven drying will depend on type of oven, air circulation, thickness of the chips and other factors, but normally 24-36 hours should be sufficient. Preliminary tests made by weighing a few samples each 4-8 hours until a constant weight is reached will give a good indication of the time needed. Because the gelatinization temperature of starch is from 60-85°C, drying at too high a temperature may cause gelatinization and actually slow down the drying process.

Where oven facilities are not available for dry-matter determination, root samples can be weighed, chipped and sun-dried to prevent spoilage. In this form, the samples can be later taken to some other facility for determination of residual moisture through oven drying. For this system, larger samples (up to 10 kg) are recommended. Where dry-matter estimates for different varieties or treatments are not required, bulked samples may be used to give some idea of dry matter to supplement the fresh weight yield data.

Analysis for starch content is complex and requires precision equipment for accurate results. Standard methods for determination of starch and

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dry matter are described in the publication Official Methods of Analysis, published by the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, must be followed where precise analysis is required. Estimates of starch can be made based on dry-matter content by subtracting a constant. The constant 7.3 has been utilized by several workers. However, it is recommended that workers determine constants under their own conditions and for each new set of circumstances such as change of variety or cultural practice.

Similarly, estimates of starch content can be made from specific density of the root. Appendix B-3 gives a conversion for root density to total and industrial starch content prepared by Cours (3). It is recommended that a similar table be prepared for use under local conditions. Root density is obtained by weighing a sample of roots in the air and again under water and then calculated using the following formula:

$$Density = \frac{Root weight in air}{(Root weight in air) - (Root weight in water)}$$

By using large samples (5-10 kg) for density evaluation, small variations between samples can be detected.

A relatively simple mechanical starch analysis system reported by Krochmal & Kilbride (7) can be used to give a close approximation of starch recovery to that of a commercial mill. Duplicate fifty-gram samples of fresh cassava roots in 500 ml of water are macerated in a blender for five minutes and the starch washed out of the pulp through a 200 mesh screen with 500 ml of water. The washings are dried in a convenient-sized pan in a forced-draft oven at 85°C and then weighed. The results are expressed as a percentage of the fresh root weight.

Recording of data

The recording of data is simply making notes of evaluation through observation or measurement. The notes should be sufficiently complete and organized to permit comparison and to serve as a reminder to the researcher and others. This requires that they are brief, accurate and easily interpreted after one has forgotten many of the little details which were observed at the time they were taken. Photographs are very helpful for giving overall impressions but cannot replace accurately taken notes.

Notes are best taken in field books or directly in specially designed data sheets: the last method does not require unnecessary transfer of data. A somewhat soiled book is often more reliable than an immaculate typewritten sheet where errors have been made in the transfer of data. Wherever possible, the use of numbers or letters which can be converted to numbers is advisable for recording of data. Almost all types of information can be grouped and assigned numbers which facilitate analysis. The careful choice of units for recording data can help avoid errors during transfer and calculations. Yields in pounds per plot requires an additional conversion when the yields are to be reported in kilograms per hectare.

Because of the wide variation in growth period of cassava, yields are more easily compared if they are reported in kilograms of dry matter per hectare per day (kg/day) in addition to unit weight per unit land area (kg/ha). In areas where possibilities exist for continuous cropping programs the yield per unit time is as important as the yield per unit land area.

Numbering the days in the year beginning with "1" for January 1 and running through "365" for December 31, can facilitate calculation of time intervals between various growth stages, observation, or treatment periods. Presentation of results

Maximum utilization of information collected and recorded by an investigator must be encouraged. Other persons will benefit from the widespread distribution of pertinent information. If the results of the research are not of sufficient importance to warrant publication in journals, other types of publications can be used (leaflets, progress reports, and other informal types of communication). Nevertheless, the results, with explanations of problems or discrepancies, should be published in order to insure that other investigators who may encounter similar problems may benefit from the experience.

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Opinions without factual evidence may also be included as long as they are clearly stated as such.

Results should be reported initially in terms that will be meaningful to the individuals using the results. This will include the farmer or producer in such areas where the same local units of measurement are used. To avoid confusion to collaborators in other countries it is helpful to convert the obtained results into standarized terms which are easily comparable from one area to another, such as kg/ha, or include a conversion factor for this purpose.

Selected references

About two thousand individual articles dealing directly with cassava appear in the literature. These articles are widely distributed throughout journals, experimental station annual reports, bulletins, etc. They are written in any one of six languages.

CIAT is currently collecting much of the published material and is publishing relevant references in order to assist interested workers in obtaining copies or abstracts of papers. Requests should be sent to The Librarian, Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical, Apartado Aéreo 67-13, Cali, Colombia, S.A.

A list of references which should help in obtaining background information and assist in finding specific information is presented below.

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a = books; b = articles; c = bibliographies.

Supplementary Information

Keeping an experimental diary with careful recording of treatments and observations is essential in order to interpret results correctly. With this purpose in mind we are including pertinent supplemental information to help the researcher organize his experimental work. Permission is here given to anyone wishing to use or copy these forms. Individual preferences and experiment design will require modification of these forms. Any comments, changes or additions concerning any of them would be appreciated by the authors. In some cases, it will be impossible to obtain or supply all the information called for but, in many instances, the blanks will serve as reminders of information that is readily available. The following list includes the supplementary information that we can offer at the present time:

Appendix A-1: Form for planning the experiment.

The planning form includes objectives for the work, treatments planned, organization of plants within the plots and the plots within the field. Also included is a sheet for calculation of fertilizer applications, but this could be used for insecticide or herbicide applications as well.

Appendix A-2: Background information.

A properly filled out background information form will supply information on soil, climate and previous crop history of the experimental site.

Appendix A-3: Diary of experimental procedures.

Information for the diary of experimental procedures forms normally is well known to the researcher but often neglected when the work is described to someone else. Proper use of a form similar to this can provide a record of all field operations.

Appendix A-4: Economic evaluation form.

This form includes two parts; the first is intended to provide

a brief frame of reference for the monetary value of a particular country at a particular time. This would enable a comparison of production costs between different countries or within a country for different time periods. Admittedly the data would be rather crude but would be better than no information at all.

The second part of this form provides opportunities for recording production costs.

Appendix A-5: Harvest data form.

This form will provide an idea of some of the items which might be considered important at harvest. When possible, drymatter determinations should be made for all items when fresh weight values are made. For some items such as weeds a single bulk sample may be sufficient rather than a moisture determination for each plot.

Individual research objectives will determine the actual information needed on this form.

Appendix A-6: Climatic data form.

Some type of form or book should be used to record weather data. These records must be maintained in a permanent file. Standard reporting forms are often available from the national weather services.

Appendix A-7: Instructions for handling plant-disease samples for identification.

Instructions for preparing disease samples and information needed to assist in identification of specimens.

- Appendix B: Conversion factors for:
 - B-1 English and metric units
 - B-2 Calendar date and day number
 - B-3 Root density and starch content

(A -1 -1)

	Appe	endix	A-1
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Form for planning the experiment

	Experimental nun	ıber
	Date	
Title of experimental work:		
Objective or objectives:		
······································		
Factors in experiment A	B C	
Levels for each factor		·····
	·····	······································
		,
·····		
		·····
Experimental design:		
Main plots	Sub-plots	
Other	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Total treatments		
No. of replications (minimum 4		
Total No. of plots (total treatm	nents x reps)	

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(A	-1	-2)
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Treatment		Plot r	umber	
	I	II	III	I
			-	
	<u> </u>			
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	-		¥.#	
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			<u>.</u>	
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(A-1-3)

Experimental Layout



(A -1 -4)

Fertilization plan

Plot size: _____m x ____m = ___m^2

Element needed	Material to be used, analysis and system of application	Nutrient per ha.	Amount needed material per ha. per plot	No. of plots	Total material needed

Appendix A-2

Form for background information to the experiment

Background information:		
Person responsible: Name,	address and organization	on
	<u></u>	
<u></u>	<u> </u>	
Cooperating individuals or gr		······································
••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••		
Location of experiment		
Latitude	Elevat	ion
Brief description of climate:	annual rainfall	mm
Dry months	Rainy mont	hs
Temperature (approx): max.		
Nearest meteorological statio	n, name and address	
Slope		
Soil textural class (sand, silt,	, clay, etc): top soil _	Bu bsoil
Soil depth - topsoil	·	
Official soil classification or		
Drainages surface: good, me	dium, poor. Internal:	good, medium, poor
Water holding capacity: high	medium	low
Is irrigation available if neede	ed?	

.

Laboratory soil test:

Name and address of laborat	ory	
Type of tests used for pH	Phosphorus	Other
Results:		
Organic matter	Available Phospho ru s	Exchangeable Potassium
pH in H ₂ O in KCl	Other tests: exchangeable	A1 Ca
		Mg
Previous Cropping History		
Previous crop	Yield	
	ded: kind and amount	
Weed problem?	, 	
Control measures used	``	
Insect problems		
•		
Control measures		

(A-3-1)

Appendix A-3

Form for diary of experimental procedure

Primary tillage		
Plowing or hand tillage		
Secondary tillage		
Disking,etc.		
Other		
Fertilization: See fertilization pl		,
Planting		
Time of planting: Day No.		
Planting system used:		
flat bed		
ridged		
other		,
Stake: lengthcm, diamete	rcm, number	r of buds,
diameter of buds		
Origin of stake: apical	basal	mixed
Stake position in the ground:		
horizontal	depth	
vertical		
inclined	approx.	• angle
Depth to bottom of vertical or	inclined stake	cm
Location of top of vertical or	inclined stake	

(A -3 -2)

8

Germination and transplanting

	Date of emergence (approx. 50% o	f plants emerged) Day No.	
	Percentage of germination (approx	x. 30 days after planting)	
-	Transplanting completed or excess	s plants removed. Day No.	
		Height of plants	cm
	Results of transplanting:	Percent survival	%
We	ed control		
	Chemical applied		
	Rate of application (Active ingredi		-
	Time of application: Day No.	Indicate application system: p	ore-plant,
	pre-emerge, post-emerge, overal	ll coverage, post emerge directed	t.
Res	sults		
Cul	tivation or hand weed control: syst	em used	
Tir	ne of cultivation(s): Day No.		
Tyj	pe of weeds present and percent gro	und covered by weeds at time of	
cul	tivation or chemical application and	at harvest: dry-weight yield of w	veeds
per	hectare at harvest is a good indica	tion of weed present	
		,	

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Terran and the second second

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Problem encountered	1 <i>s</i> t	Applications 2nd	3rd
			·····
Degree of infestation			
Control used			
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Day No.			4 ,,, 114, _ , 114, _ , 114, _ , 114, _ , 114, _ , 114, _ , 1
Material	······		·
Rate active ingredient			
System of application			
		·····	·····
Results	hun 1944	·	·····
		Nily 5	·····

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(A-4-1)

Appendix A-4

<u> </u>	Economic evaluation	form	
·	Date,	19	
Local monetary Unit	Exchange rate	equ	als \$1.00 U.S.
Interest rate for money lo	aned for agriculture	al purposes	where available
		•	% p/year
Cost-of-living reference, con	nsumer prices for:		
rice per kg; con	nperkg; bro	eadper	gm loaf.
beer per bottle;	cigarette(s)p	er package.	
Cassava market prices 1. Fresh edible root Wholesale or farmers Retail or consumer pri			
2. Roots for processing o Wholesale or farmers		-	lour, chips, etc.
Product produced Approximate yield of p			
Production costs: 1. Labor (time basis) Cost per hour Include insurance, reti	, day,or r irement,and other be	nonth enefits wher	e applicable
2. Labor (job basis)			
JobU	nit of measurement	Price	Yield per worker per day
Ex- Harvesting cassave	per plant	<u>0.25 Col</u>	. 75 plants
ample Weeding cassava	per. sq. m.	0.05 Col	<u>500 m²</u>

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(A-4-2)

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Mechanization Costs:

Machine	Cost	Unit of measurement	Yield per hour or day
Ex- Tractor and plo ample	w <u>\$80.00 C</u> o	1 <u>. per hour</u>	<u>1/2 ha/hour</u>
		. <u> </u>	

Plant protection:

	<u>Material</u>	Cost	Unit of measurement	Quantity used	Price/ha
Ex- ample	Cotoran	198.86	<u>kg 50% A.I</u> .	6 kg/ha	\$1,157.00
		·			
		•••••	·		-
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		······	······································	

Other additional costs:

Seed Material

Watchmen for guarding fields Sacks or other marketing packages Transportation of market products

Appendix A-5

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Harvest data form

Name of experiment										
Person in charge of harvesting	Field conditions at harvest, (wet, dry, etc)									
a. Harvest date Day No b. Planting date	e Day No Total growing period days (a-b if over 1 year + 365 = age).									
	2 Commenter for the second									

Plot size: No. of plants _____. Spacing ____ m x ____ m, Area ___ m² Conversion factor ______

Plot No.				Number of plants	Number of Roots			Fresh field weight				Dry matter determination			Root dry matter	
	sample	seed piece	10 cm above ground level. 4 stem	harvested per plot	Pe Total	able cm long	Average market- able per plant	size	Total	Market- able	and Leaves	Wet wt	Dry wt	% DM		per/day
	kg		ave.			cm dia.		kg	kg	kg	kg	gm	gm	gm	<u>, ",, ", ", ", ", ", ", ", ", ", ", ", "</u>	
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	a,													<u> </u>		
		L	l			<u> </u>	L	<u>L</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	L	ļ	<u> </u>		<u>i</u>

Appendix A-6

Climatic Data Form

Year	Station				Country State					e City								
Month																		
Date	Pree,	Max	. Mín.	Pree.	Max	•mp. <u>. Min.</u>	Prec.	Max.	<u>Min.</u>	Prec.	Max.	np. Min.	Prec.	Max.	Min.	Prec.	Max.	mp. Min.
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			<u> </u>		<u> </u>		 					<u> </u>					<u> </u>	4
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6						ļ	Į		<u></u>									4
7				 	-	<u> </u>		-			-		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
8				L		<u> </u>	 			•			·					
9						<u> </u>	<u> </u>	1				 			ļ			+
10			<u>}</u>		╂	<u> </u>			<u> </u>					<u> </u>		+		
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18			<u> </u>	h	+		_					<u> </u>			 		1	+
19					-	 	1	•	+								1	-
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22	·			[<u> </u>							- 			····		
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21			1	1		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	1		1		1				-	
25			1	<u>†</u>	†		1	t	1			1			<u> </u>			-
26	<u>111211212</u>		1	<u> </u>	ľ	1		1	1	+		1		<u> </u>		1	1	1
27	····	†	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1			1		
28								1					<u>†</u>	1		1	1	
29		1			1	<u>+</u>	[1	1		- N		1		1	1		
30			1	1]			1					
31			1	1	1	1		Î	1					[1	
Total	·····	-		-	•••••					=		- -		 			_	
Monthly .	Ave.	-																
Long tim	e Ave.									_								

(A-7-1)

Appendix A-7

Plant disease identification form

See following page for instructions on how to collect and ship specimens for disease diagnosis.

Please supply the following information:

Sender	Title	Address State Country						
Farm's name	County	State	Country					
Date received		Date collected						
Previous crops	Actua	l crop	Variety					
Plant part injured:	roots	stems or br	Variety					
Leaves	flowers		fruits					
General appearance	of plants: wilted	yello	wedstunted					
Abnormal leaf or st	em growth	leaf spo	t or blight					
Leaf-mottle	other		t or blight p of plants upland areas bichost tompomture					
Distribution of dise	ase: scattered	grou	p of plants					
most of field	on slopes	_low areas	upland areas					
weather conditions	of previous weeks:	raiman	_ mgnest temperature					
lowest te	mperature	wind	others					
When were sympton	ns first noticed?							
Cropping history:								
Chemicals applied a	nd rates during curi	rent growing s	eason and previous year:					
	plied							
Fertilizer								
Fungicide								
Herbicide								
Insecticide								
Nematocide								
When was the last s	oil test taken?	pH o	f soil					
Diagnosis and contr	ol measures:							
	· ·							
		•						
······								

Date:

Instructions for handling plant disease samples for identification

You can help the local plant pathologist by reading these instructions before sending him the samples.

The accurate diagnosis of a plant disease depends upon receiving a fresh sample. All specimens should be fresh when collected and shipped immediately. When specimens arrive unidentified, wilted, crushed, or in advanced stages of decay, diagnosis is often impossible. If the sample is in good condition the disease can be diagnosed more rapidly.

Collecting Specimens

Small Plants

- 1. Collect the whole diseased plant, including roots, if possible, and at least one pint of moist soil. Dig (don't pull) plants with a fork, shovel or trowel.
- 2. Collect more than one plant if various stages of decline are evident. Completely dead or dry plant material is of no value. When possible, include healthy plants or plant parts for comparison.

Large Plants

3. Collect the portion of the stem, root, or other plant part that displays the symptom and pack it so it will remain as fresh and typical as possible.

When distinct spots on the leaves are the only symptoms, include several leaves wrapped between dry strips of cardboard or in a thin magazine. Do not wrap leaves in wet paper towels. However, enclose a wet paper towel in the plastic sack.

Packaging Plant Specimens

- 1. Immediately after digging small plants, place the moist root ball in a plastic bag and tie the top around the stem just above the soil line. This will prevent the soil from drying during transit. Enclose the tops of the plants in a ventilated plastic bag. Do not wet the tops be-fore packaging.
- 2. Specimens should be packed in a sturdy container to prevent damage in transit. Avoid exposure to high temperatures. Whenever possible avoid weekend lay-overs in the post.
- 3. Complete the plant disease identification form, and attach to the outside of the shipping container.

(A -7 -2)

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To convert column 1 into column 2, multiply by	Column 1		To convert column 2 nto column 1, multiply by
	Leo	gth	
0.621	kilometer, km	mile, mi	1.609
1.094	meter, m	yard, yd	0,914
0.328	decimeter, dm	feet, ft	3.048
0.394	centimeter, cm	inch, in	2.540
	Are Are		_
0.386	kilometer ² , km ²	mile ² , mi ²	2,590
247.1	kilometer ² , km ²	acre, acre	0.00405
2,471	hectare, ha(0.01 km ²)	acre, acre	0,405
10.76	meters ² , m ²	feet ² , ft ²	0,0929
36 31	Vol:	feet, ³ ft ³	A AAAA
35.31	meters ³ , m ³		0.0283
0.00973	meter3, m ³	acre-inch $(3,630 \text{ ft}^3)$	102.8
3.532	hectoliter, hl	cubic foot, ft ³	0,2832
2.838	hectoliter, hl	bushel, bu (.8036 ft ³	
1.057	liter	quart, qt	0.946
n 000	1.5.4	(U.S. liquid 946 c	•
0.880	liter	quart, qt	1.1365
		(English liquid 1136	cc)
1 100	Mas		A 4433
1,102	ton (metric)	ton (English)	0,9072
220,5	quintal, q	pound, 1b	0.00454
2,205	kilogram, kg	pound, lb	0,454
0.0353	grams, g	ounces (avdp), oz	28,35
0.446	Yield o		
0.892	ton (metric)/hectare	ton (English)/acre	2,242
0.892	kg/ha	lb/acre	1.121
0.032	quintal/hectare	hundredweight/acre	1.121
14,22	kg/cm ²	ssure	
14.50	bar	1b/inch ² , psi	0.0703
0.9869	bar	1b/in ² , psi	0.06895
0.9678	kg/cm^2	atmosphere, atm*	1.013
14.70		atmosphere, atm*	1.033
	atmosphere, atm*	1b/in ² , psi	0.06805
*An "a	tmosphere" may be specif	fied in metric or English w	units.
	Plant Nutrient		,
2.29	P (element)	D A	
1.20	K (element)	P205	0.437
	R (crement)	к ₂ 0	0.833
	Temperat	ure	
1.80C + 32	Celsius, C	Fahrenheit, F	0.555(F-32)
	Light		
0.0929			
	lux	foot-candle, ft-c	

•

Conversion Factors for English and Metric Units

Appendix B-2

Conversion table for calendar date to day number

Calendar		_											Calendar
Date	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Date
1	1	32	60	91	121	152	132	213	244	274	305	335	1
2	2	33	61	92	122	153	183	214	245	275	306	336	2
3	3	34	62	93	123	154	184	215	246	276	307	337	3
4	4	35	. 63	94	124	155	185	216	247	277	308	338	4
5	5	36	• 64	95	125	156	186	217	248	278	309	339	5
6	6	37	65	96	126	157	187	218	249	279	310	340	6
7	7	38	66	97	127	158	188	219	250	280	311	341	7
8	8	39	67	98	128	159	189	220	251	281	312	342	8
. 9	9	40	68	99	129	160	190	221	252	282	313	343	8 9
10	10	41	69	100	130	161	191	222	253	283	314	344	10
11	11	42	70	101	131	162	192	223	254	284	91 C	.345	* *
12	12	42	71	101	132	163	192	224	255	285	315 316	346	11 12
13	13	43	72	102	133	163	194	225	255	285	317	347	
13	13	45	73	103	134	165	194	225	250	287	318	348	13
15	15	45	74	104	134	165	195	220		287	319	340 349	14
15	16	40 47	75	105	135	167		228	258				15
10	17	47	76	100	130	168	197	220	259	289	320	350	16
18							198		260	290	321	351	17
10	18	49	77 78	108	138	169	199	230	261	291	322	352	18
20	19 20	50		109	139	170	200	231	262	292	323	353	19
20	20	51	79	110	140	171	201	232	263	293	324	354 '	20
21	21	52	80	111	141	172	202	233	264	294	325	355	21
22	22	53	81	112	142	173	203	234	265	295	326	356	22
23	23	54	82	113	143	174	204	235	266	296	327	357	23
24	24	55	83	114	144	175	205	236	267	297	328	358	24
25	25	56	84	115	145	176	206	237	268	298	329	359	25
26	26	57	85	116	146	177	207	238	269	299	330	360	26
27	27	58	86	117	147	178	208	239	270	300	331	361	27
28	28	59	87	118	148	179	209	240	271	301	332	362	28
29	29	**	88	119	149	180	210	241	272	302	333	363	29
30	30		89	120	150	181	211	242	273	303	334	364	30
31	31		90		151		212	243		304	~~	365	31
								• -		-			

To determine the number of days between two dates, subtract the day number of the first from the second. If the second is smaller than the first or the interval is over a year add 365 to the second number. Example: Cassava planted June 24, 1972 determine the age of the crop when various treatments are applied.

Treatment	Date	Day No.	Calculations	Age in Days
Planting date	June 24	175	-	
Fertilizer applied	July 15	196	196-175	21
Insecticide applied	Aug. 10	227	227-175	47
Harvest dates	Apr. 24	104	104 + 365 - 175	294
	Aug. 24	236	236 + 365 - 175	426

Appendix B-3

Conversion factors for root density and starch content (From Cours)

Density	% St	arch	Density	%	Starch	Density	%	Starch
-	T*	I		т	I		т	I
1064	8,8	.0,34	1110	20,5	5 13,63	1156	31,2	25,78
1065	9,1	0,68	1111	20,7	13,85	1157	31,5	26, 12
1066	9,3	0,90	1112	21		1158	31,7	26,35
1067	9,6	1,24	1113	21,2	14,42	1159	31,9	26,58
1068	9,9	1,59	1114	21,5	5 14,76	1160	32,1	26,80
1069	10,1	1,81	1115	21.7		1161	32,4	27,15
1070	10,4	2,15	1116	21,9		1162	32,6	27,37
3071	10,6	2,38	1117	22,2	15,56	1163	32,8	27,60
1072	10,9	2,78	1118	22,4		1161	33	- 27,83
1073	11,2	3,06	1119	22,7	16,13	1165	33,2	28,05 28,40
1074	11,4	3,29	1120	22,8		1166 1167	-33,5 -33,7	28,62
1075	11,7	3,64 3,86	1121	23,1 23,4		1168	33,9	
1076	11,9 12,2	3,c0 4,20	$1122 \dots 1123 \dots$	23,4	10,12 17,15	1169	31,1	29,08
1077	12,2 12,5	4,20	$\begin{array}{ccc}1123\\1124\end{array}$	23,0 23,8		1170	34,3	29,30
1079	12,7	4,77	1125	24,1	17,72	1171	34,6	29,64
1080	.13	5,11	1126	24,3		1172	31,8	
1081	13,2	5,33	1127	24,6		1173	35 -	
1082	13.5	5,68	1128	24,8		1174	35,2	30,33
1083	13,7	5,90		25		1175	35,4	30,55
1084	14	6,24	1130	25,3	3 19,08	1176	35,6	30,78
1085	14,3	6,58	1131	25,5		1177	35,9	31,12
1086	14,5	6,81	1132	25,7		1178	36,1	31,35
1087	14,8	7,15	1133	26		1179	30,3	31,58
1083	15.—	7,38	1134	26,5		1180	36,5	31,80
1089	15,3	7,72	1135	26,4		1181	36,7	32,03
1090	15,5	7,95	1136	26,7		1182	36,9	
1091	15,8	8,29 8,52	1137 1138	26,9 27,1		$\frac{1183}{1184}$	37,2 37,4	
$\begin{array}{ccc}1092&\ldots\\1093&\ldots\end{array}$	16,. 16,3	8,86		27,1 27,4	1 21,12 1 21,47	1185	37,6	
1094	16,5	9,08	1139 1140	27.6	3 21,69	1186	37,8	
1095	16,8	9,42	1141	27,8		1187	38	- 33,51
1096	17	9,65	1142	28,1		1188	38,2	
1097	17,3	9,99	1143	28,3		1189	38,1	
1093	17,5	10.22	1144	28.		1190	38,6	
1099	17,8	10,56	1145	28,7	22,94	1191	38,9	34,53
1100	18.—	10,79	1146	-29	23,28	1192	-39,1	34,76
1101	18,3	11,13	1147	29,2		1193	39,3	
1103	18,5	11,36	1148	29,4		1194	39,5	
1103 .	18,8	11,70	1149	29,7	24,08	1195	39,7	35,44
1104	10,	11,92	1150	29,9		1196	39,9	
1105	19,3	12,26	1151	30,1		1197	40,1	35,89 36,12
1106 1107	19,5 19,7	$12,49 \\ 12,72$	$\begin{array}{c} 1152 \\ 1153 \end{array}$	30,3		1193 1199	40,3 40,5	
1103	20	12,12	1153	30,6 30,8		1200	-40,5 -40,7	
1109	20,2	13,29	1154 1155	31		1200	-11.1×, f	07,01
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* Total starch content indicated by T Industrial starch content indicated by I

The figures listed are for two year old Cassava roots. Younger roots would have higher proportions of foreign material and a lower amount of starch.

