

INNOVATION IN THE VENEZUELAN PROGRAM OF CASSAVA IMPROVEMENT

M.A. Santana^{1,2}; J. Matehus²; G. Romay²; A. Gerstl³; B. Yepes⁴

1 Universidad Simón Bolívar (USB), Carretera Nacional Hoyo de la Puerta, División de Ciencias Biológicas, Departamento de Biología Celular, Caracas, Venezuela
2 Instituto de Estudios Avanzados (IDEA), Centro de Biotecnología, Apartado 17606, Parque Central, Caracas, Venezuela.
3 Agropecuaria Mandioca, Edo Monagas, Venezuela.
4 Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología (MCT), Caracas, Venezuela.

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Science and Technology of Venezuela with the aim of contributing with a reduction in the food dependence in our country, it has been promoting the development of cassava crop through the definition of a working agenda of research and training, as well as promoting the integration process of the different people related to cassava crop at national and international levels. In this sense, the Ministry has supported the integration of Venezuela to Latin American and Caribbean Consortium to Support Cassava Research and Development (CLAYUCA) and to the National Program for establishing the Networks for Innovation of Cassava Production.

PROJECT AIMS

- To evaluate cassava cultivars from different venezuelan regions and countries in order to select the ones with better performance, higher quality and better yield in each production region.
- To establish cassava germoplasm banks, *in vitro* and in the field.
- To start with the establishment of regional centres of management and multiplication of high quality planting material (CEMMY).
- To establish the technological transference through cassava productive innovation cluster in order to make them more competitive.

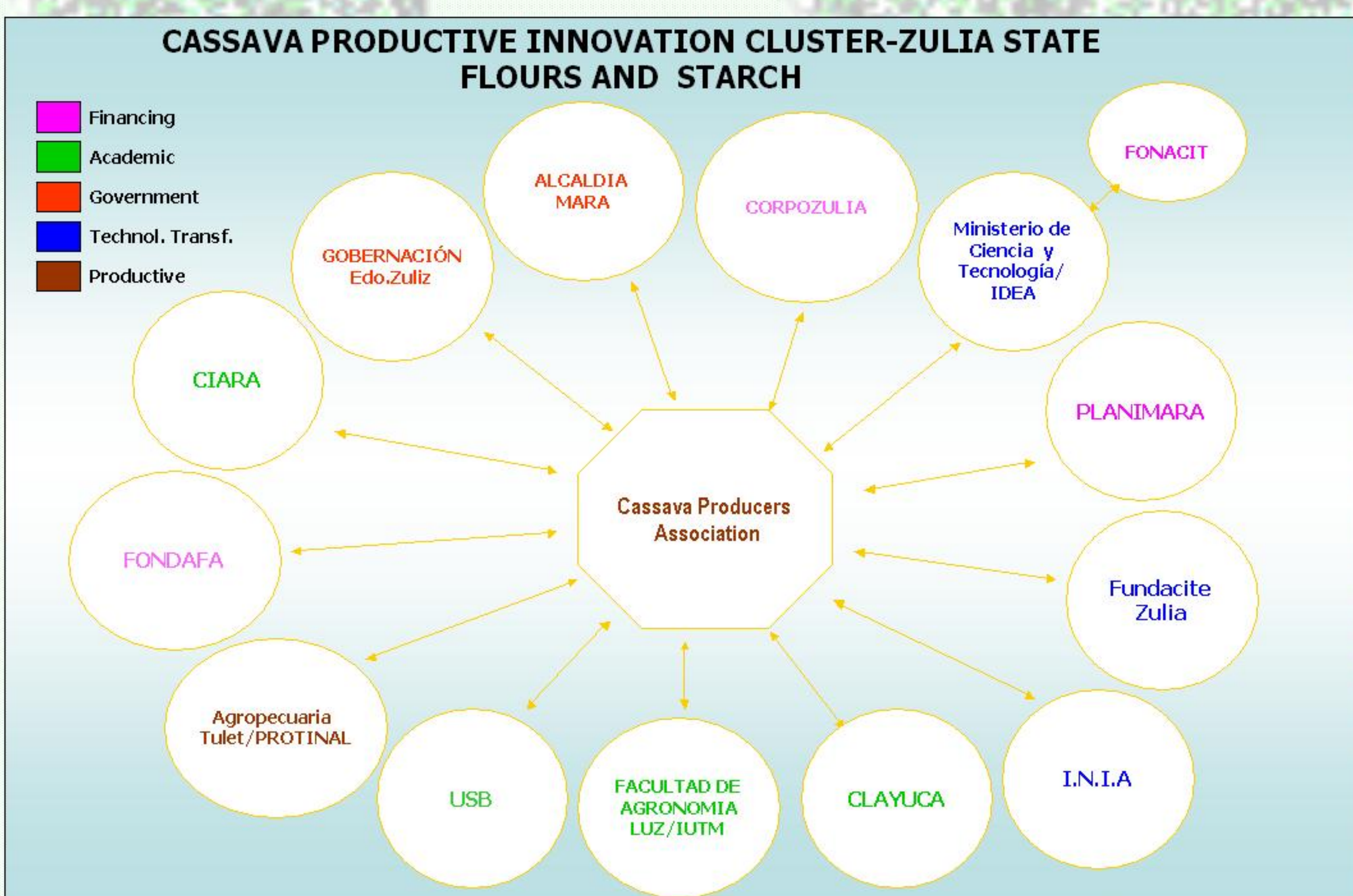
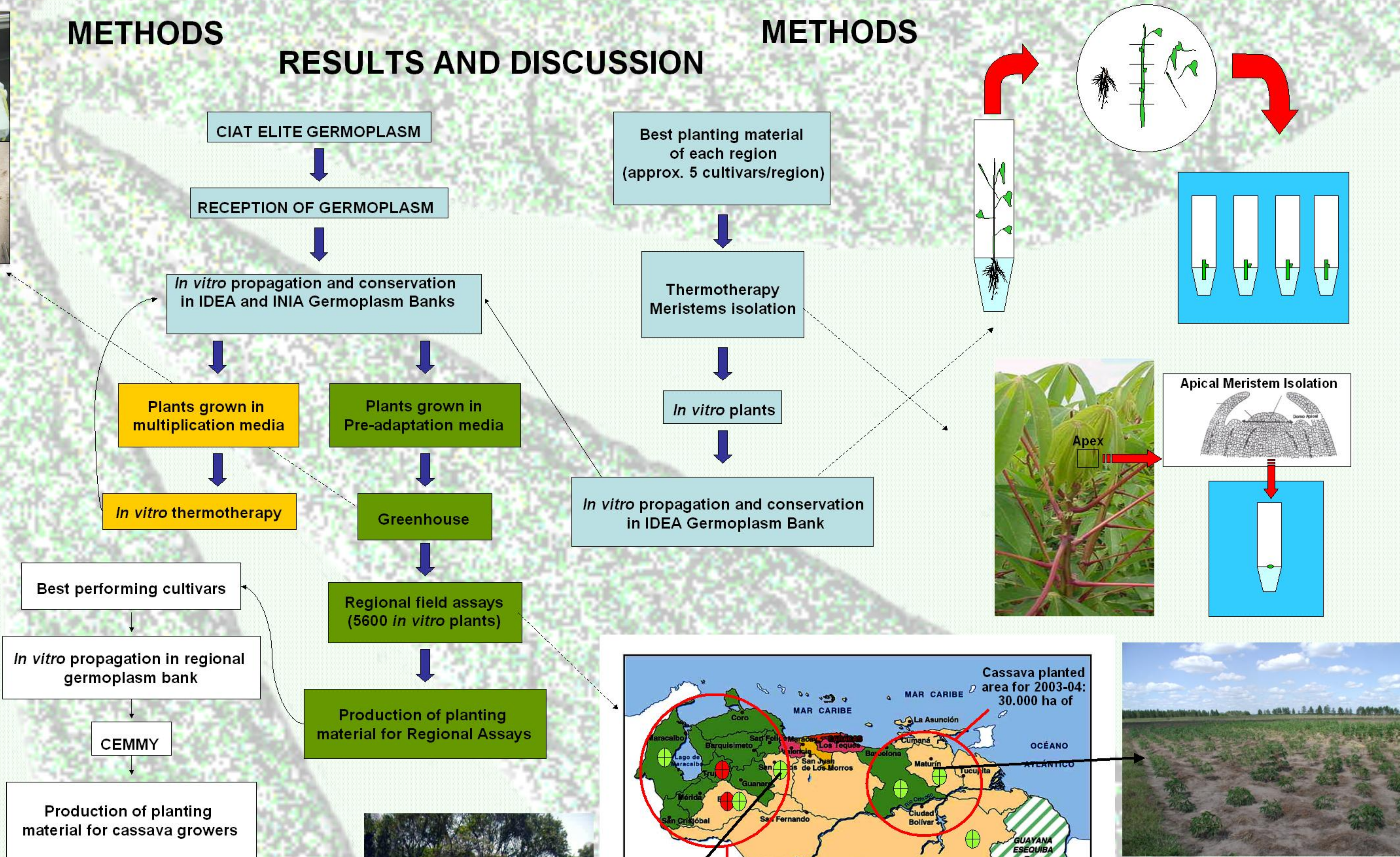


METHODS

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

METHODS

One of the most important results expected from the Project it is the transference of the agro technologies direct to the cassava growers, to set the minimum bases to produce high quality planting material, and to start establishing the national germoplasm bank with the selection and improvement of local cassava cultivars through a National Program of Cassava Improvement. The main result of the project will be the identification of genotypes with superior characteristics that can be used as parents in cassava breeding programs; identification of high yield cultivars showing resistance to pests and diseases, and a good adaptation to different regions with specific environmental conditions and the production of selected planting material for cassava growers.



CONCLUSIONS

The program proposed expect to set the bases for an important development of cassava crop. This will be reach through the improvements of capabilities of productive innovation clusters, the related small farmers, medium cassava semi-industrial growers and all the cassava industry of our country; and will allow an important endogenous development.