CLAYUCA

Latin American and Caribbean Consortium to Support Cassava Research and Development

Mechanized systems for cassava planting and harvesting

Development of mechanized systems for cassava planting and harvesting is a must for reducing production costs, improve competitiveness of cassava in relation to others crops and increase incomes for farmers. Mechanization of cassava production is one of principal needs of the countries in which the crop is considered an option for agroindustrial development. The adoption of mechanization practices could reduce production costs between 15-20% in relation with manual planting and harvesting.

PLANTING

Roots costs per ton in Valle del Cauca

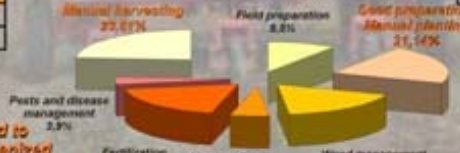
Manual planting			
Yield	20 ton/ha	25 ton/ha	30 ton/ha
Col $	61.680	49.344	41.120
Two rows			
Yield	20 ton/ha	25 ton/ha	30 ton/ha
Col $	52.022	41.618	34.681
Three rows			
Yield	20 ton/ha	25 ton/ha	30 ton/ha
Col $	51.493	41.195	34.329

Recovery of the initial investment in one year requires to plant at least 31,5 ha

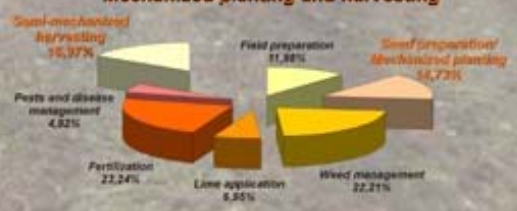
In Colombia 6 min days are needed to plant a hectare per day. Whit mechanized planting this amount is reduced to 0,32 wages.

Percentage of participation in direct costs of production per hectare Valle del Cauca (2000)

Manual planting and harvesting



Mechanized planting and harvesting



HARVESTING

Roots costs per ton in Valle del Cauca

Manual harvesting			
Yield	20 ton/ha	25 ton/ha	30 ton/ha
Col $	66.681	53.344	44.454
Semi-mechanized harvesting			
Yield	20 ton/ha	25 ton/ha	30 ton/ha
Col $	54.318	43.454	36.212

Recovery of the initial investment in one year requires to plant at least 18 ha.