STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE CASSAVA POSTHARVEST SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

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Introduction

Cassava is presently described as an "orphaned commodity" without institutional, organizational and policy support (Phillips et al., 2004). IITA has joined forces with other stakeholders in Nigeria to fight against the Uganda strain of the Cassava Mosaic Virus Disease threatening the cassava industry along its path of spread. This alliance will propel the capacity to expand cassava utilization in Nigeria and as well as SSA.

Methodology

A nation-wide cassava industry analysis was commissioned to dTp Studies Inc of Canada, to collect the required information to understand the cassava industry and Nigeria's position as a leading cassava producing country. This covers Oyo, Ogun, Lagos, Ondo, Ekiti, Imo, Anambra, Enugu, Abia, Ebonyi, Edo, Delta, Rivers, and Cross River States.

Results and Discussion

The survey indicates that much has been done in the area of traditional processing of cassava *gari* in these states of Nigeria (Figure 1). Starch and *fufu* are localized across zones with few innovations at the pilot level. There was little presence of industrial products like chips, pellets, ethanol etc. An effective postharvest system that will provide a better implementation of simple postharvest practices is proposed (Figure 2). Cluster approach is also prerequisite for an effective supply chain system. This will reduce the cost of cassava transportation, processing and promote the adoption of modern processing and handling technology. This will encourage mass production and adoption of simple and efficient machineries for cassava industry in Nigeria. A well-coordinated supply chain system is also necessary for an effective postharvest system for cassava in Nigeria (Figures 3 & 4).

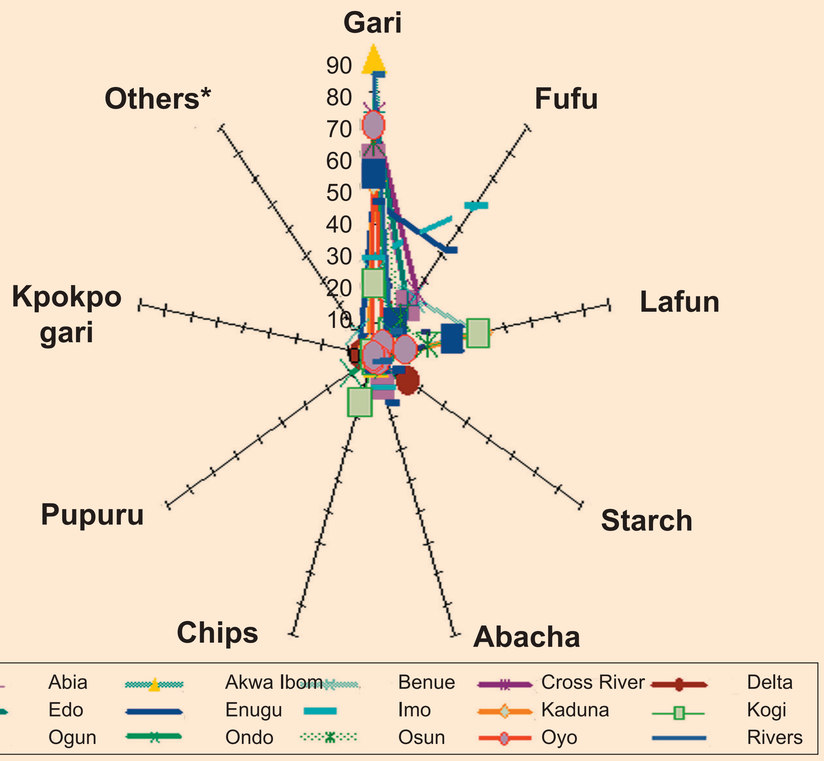


Figure 1. Spider-chart showing percentage use of cassava in Nigeria.

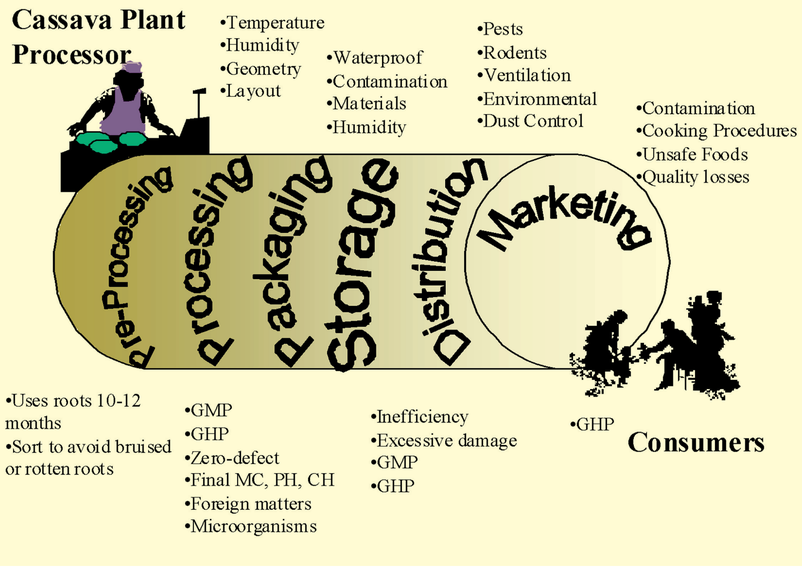
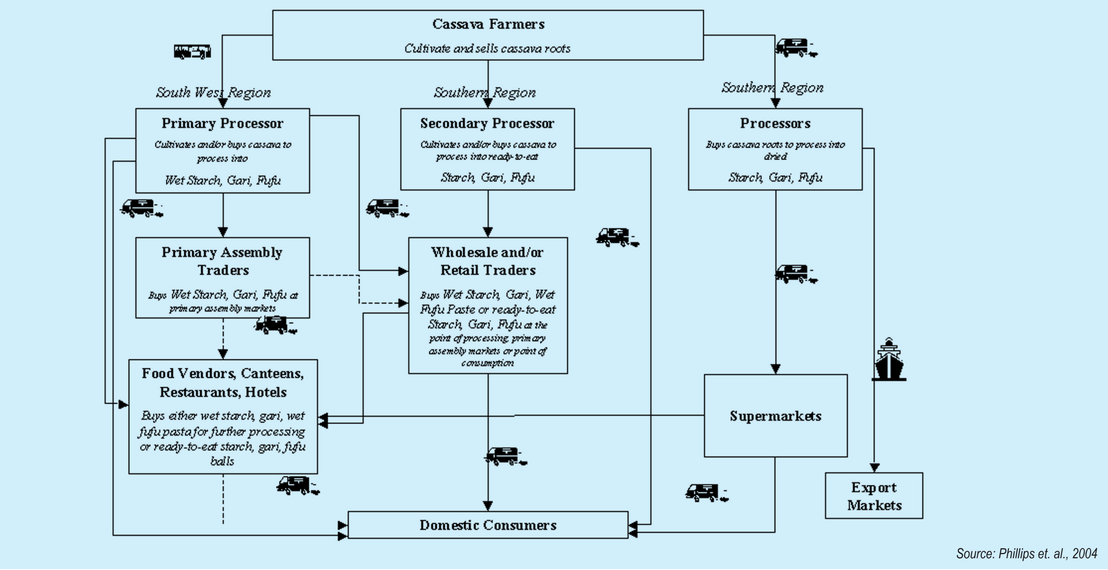
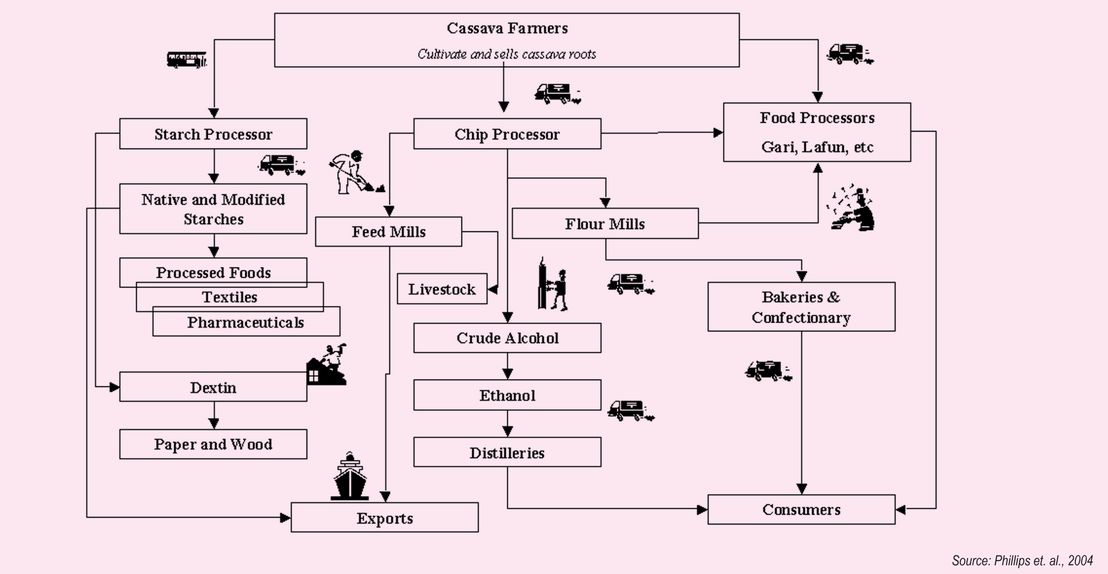


Figure 2. Proposed enhanced post harvest system of cassava for Nigeria.



Source: Phillips et. al., 2004

Figure 3. Proposed cassava supply chain schematic for food use in Nigeria.



Source: Phillips et. al., 2004

Figure 4. Proposed cassava supply chain schematic for industrial use in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Effective cassava postharvest system in Nigeria require a coalition of private-public partnerships, with the private sector investing in market development and procuring needed machinery, while the public sector provides the needed policy environment, improve competitive technology and particularly physical infrastructure. The market diversification will also require strengthening the presently weak link between industrial processors, fabricators and producers of cassava products.

Reference

1. Phillips, T., D. Taylor, L.O. Sanni and M.O. Akoroda (2004) A Cassava Industrial Revolution in Nigeria-The potential for a new crop. ITTA, Ibadan (Under review). 48pps.