CSAM: Organized support networks for cassava seed entrepreneurs

Building stronger cassava seed businesses for African seed entrepreneurs and farmers.

CSAM formalizes cassava seed production by forming structured associations of seed entrepreneurs. These associations enable access to certification, finance, training, and policy advocacy, improving seed quality and market access.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
Regina Kapinga

Commodities
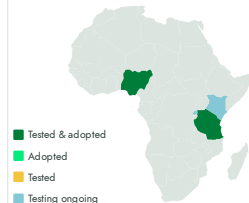
Cassava

Sustainable Development Goals

1 NO POVERTY | 2 ZERO HUNGER | 5 GENDER EQUALITY
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

This technology is **pre-validated**.

9·3 Scaling readiness: idea maturity 9/9; level of use 3/9

Gender assessment 👍 3

Climate impact 👍 6

Categories

Prevention & storage, Practices, Yield improvement, Seed system

Problem

- Fragmented seed production leads to high costs, poor quality, and limited access to certification and finance.
- Free seed distribution undermines the development of a sustainable, commercial seed market.
- Weak advocacy and policy influence due to lack of formal structures.

Solution

- Establishes formal associations, providing joint certification and collective marketing.
- Improves access to financing and market opportunities.
- Strengthens advocacy for favorable policies and long-term investment.

Best used with

- Digital tool for Strengthening Seed Governance and Certification Systems ›

Tested/adopted in

- Tested & adopted
- Adopted
- Tested
- Testing ongoing

Key points to design your project

- **The Cassava Seed Association Model (CSAM)** transforms fragmented cassava seed production into an inclusive, sustainable, and market-driven system by legally organizing seed producers into empowered associations.
- It facilitates access to certification, finance, training, and policy platforms—advancing gender equity, youth participation, and resilience in line with SDGs.
- A complete implementation toolkit and technical support are available to scale impact through partnerships with NARS, regulators, and the TAAT network.

Where it can be used

This technology can be used in the colored agro-ecological zones.

💡 **IP**

Open source / open access
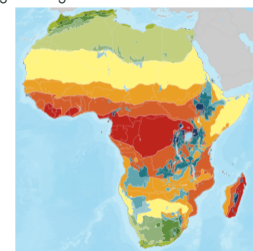
Target groups

Farmers, Seed companies, Researcher center,