Title: Commercialization of cassava production for improved livelihoods in dry lands of Eastern Kenya

Project Description

Different approaches to increase farm productivity, household incomes and reduce poverty have been used in research and extension efforts. Mainly the efforts have been limited to subsistence crops. The emphasis has been on maize and legumes production. The products of these crops are consumed at the household level with minimal flow to the industry based markets.

Cassava has high potential in farm level production and industrial raw materials. It is drought tolerant, disease resistant and has multi-products for utilization in animal feed and human food industries. However, farmers in dry lands of Eastern Kenya grow local cassava varieties which mature in twenty four months and yield 8 to 12 tons per hectare.

KARI has developed early bulking cassava varieties, maturing at 8 to 10 months. The yield potential is 56 tons per hectare. However, these varieties are not with farmers.

The purpose of this project is to get the new cassava varieties to production and markets.