


Community Action Research Programme Plus (CARP+)

 <p>University of Nairobi</p>	<p>Capacity building for micro propagation and certification of cassava planting materials to enhance productivity, incomes and food security and nutrition for small holder farmers in Coastal Kenya.</p>
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Partners	Institutions	Contacts
Lead partner	University of Nairobi: Coordinating Institution	<p>Prof. Agnes W. Mwang'ombe, EBS Professor of Plant Pathology, Department Of Plant Science and Crop Protection, University Of Nairobi, P.O.Box 30197-00100 Nairobi, Kenya Mobile numbers: +254-722788995 Or: +254-732689330 Email: wakesho123@gmail.com mwangombe@uonbi.ac.ke Skype: mkakishamana http://cavs.uonbi.ac.ke</p>
Partner 1	Makerere University	
Partner 2	Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS)	
Partner 3	KALRO	
Partner 4	TVETs (Kilifi and Taita /Taveta)	
Partner 5	Private sector-AMIRAN KENYA LTD, KIARA AGRO LTD	
Partner 6	Ministry of Agriculture (Extension agents at ward level)	
Partner 7	Farmer groups (Kilifi and Taita/Taveta)	
Partner 8	Ruforum	
Contract number:	RU/2018/CARP+/04	
RUFORUM Grant	US\$350,000	
Sector	Cassava value chain	
Location	Coastal Kenya (Kilifi and Taita-Taveta Counties)	
Duration	42 Months	
Start Date	1 st April 2018	

Cassava Project Summary-RU/2018/CARP+/04:

Cassava is drought tolerant, thrives well in low fertility soils, is versatile and able to convert the otherwise difficult environments into productive lands making available a more stable food system. Africa produces about 55% world cassava and contributes immensely to food security in Africa as a staple crop. Kenya is still lagging behind in terms of production, marketing and utilization of cassava and processing into cassava based products despite the enormous potential of such products. Whereas Nigeria is producing over 47 million tons and Uganda 4 million tons, Kenya is producing a paltry 800, 000 tons annually. The current media reports (24th February 2018) have just declared the two counties to be amongst the ones suffering food insecurity as mapped by the Kenya government with the intention to supply them with food rations to

temporarily avert the hunger crisis. This is coupled with high level of poverty among the inhabitants in these counties. Up to 62% of Kenyan Coast population where the two counties are based is poor. This has a direct negative impact on childbearing women as well as children under five who are most affected by malnutrition. This situation is compounded further by the negative effect of HIV/AIDS in a province ranked third in Kenya in terms of HIV/AIDS prevalence.

The capacity building program is intended to enhance the sustainable production and utilization of cassava in coastal Kenya. This cassava programme will go a long way in partly addressing the food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation challenges in these areas. The goal of the project is to increase cassava productivity and reduce the effect of major cassava diseases caused by viruses and bacteria. **The capacity building will take place at two levels; infrastructure to set up a micropropagation centre and Business incubation Center at SEMIs in CAVS and human resource development.** A sustainable functional micro-propagation facility and incubation centre in SEMIs will ensure continuous supply of cassava plant materials to the established greenhouses in the villages which in turn will supply farmers with healthy certified cassava planting materials. The human resource development is at two levels namely long and short term training. The long term training will entail training six postgraduate students, one at PhD level and the rest at MSc levels. Extension agents and TVET Lectures (4) will be equipped with skills and serve as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) while student interns (4), TVET students (46), 20 seed actors (entrepreneurs) and farmers (1000) will be trained in seed business and marketing skills, nursery management and quality control of plant materials, cassava production and associated different cassava value chains.

The project will be delivered through partnership where UoN will serve as the lead Institution supported by Makerere University, KALRO, KEPHIS, Extension agents, TVET institutions and private sector who will come in to deliver specific technologies. It will be carried out in three main steps which are i) step 1: to establish a micro propagation facility and production of clean cassava planting materials, ii) step 2: to build capacity (Long and short term training) for maintaining disease free planting material in the field and for processing and preservation of cassava and cassava products. **The program has registered 9 MSc students where so far 8MSc students are in the University of Nairobi and one MSc student is at Makerere University. The only PhD student is registered at the University of Nairobi.**

iii) step 3: to establish an incubation centre SEMIs -UoN and TVETs outreach centre. The model used will embed trainers of trainers, and FFS in the programmes and curricula developed for both TVET and FFS which will ensure continued training even after the projects is ended.