

Background for the Launch of the ACU Working Group on Cassava Policy Issues

Presentation at the ACU Task Force meeting
on June 17, ACF Conference Room, Lusaka.

Steven Haggblade
Food Security Research Project

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By Steven Haggblade
Food Security Research Project (FSRP)

Research and Outreach Activities Supported By:

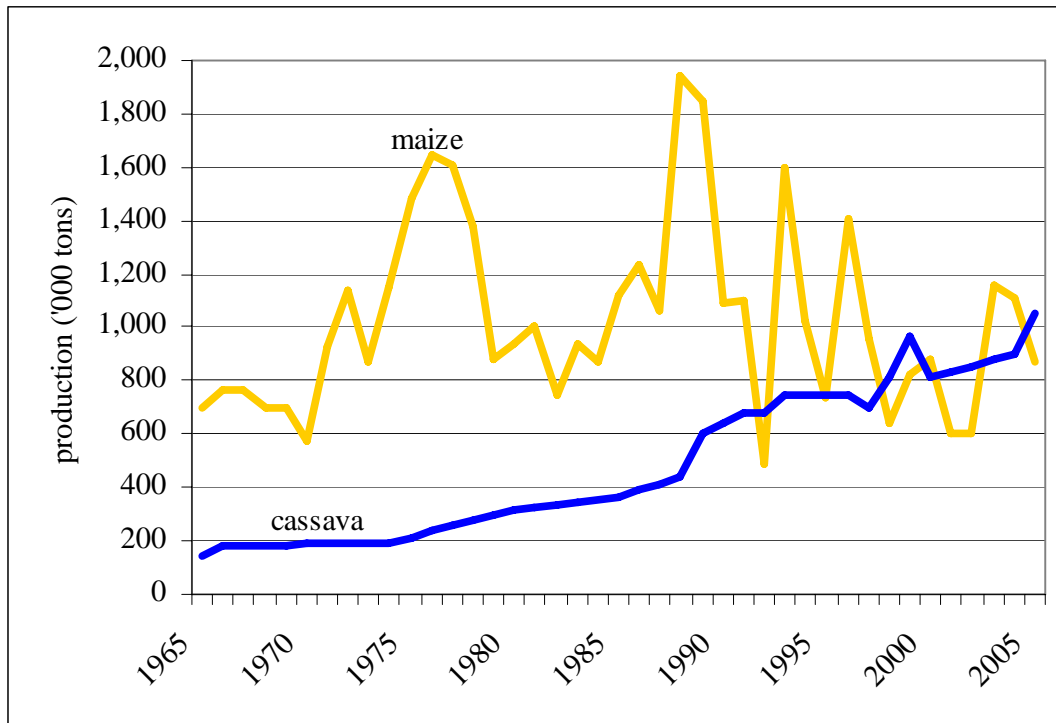
Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives



The Agricultural Consultative Forum

FSRP/MATEP

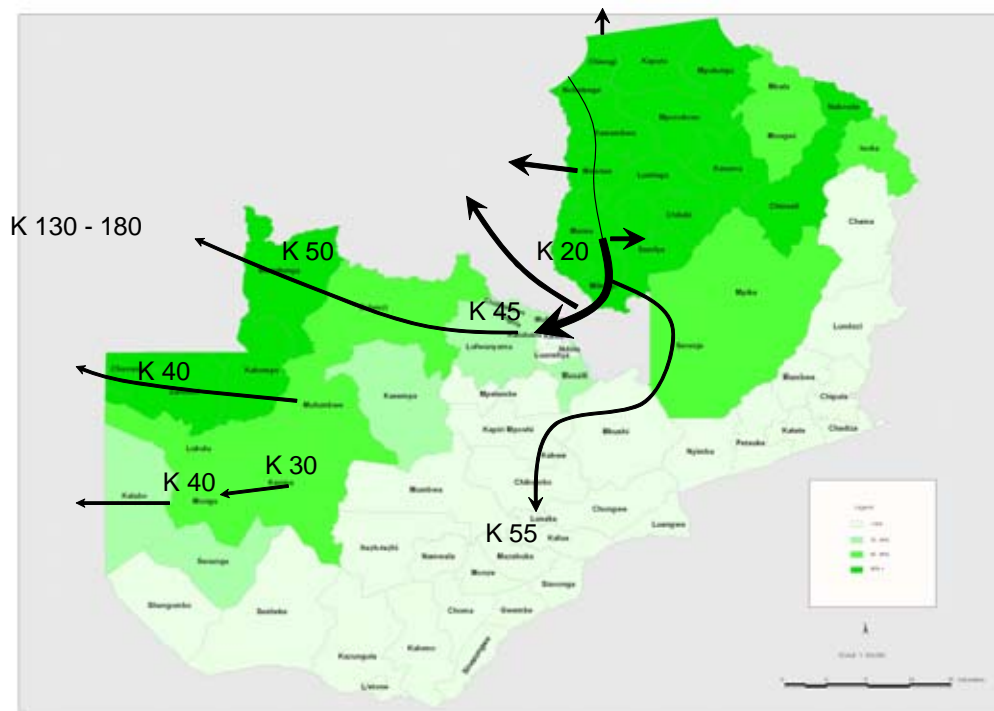
Growth in Zambian cassava production



Marketed volumes of cassava

- Still small, only about 8-10% of total production
- But growing twice as fast as production over the past decade.

Dried Cassava Trade Flows



Cassava price

	Price cassava/ price maize
Cassava belt	0.5
Mixed staple zone	.066
Maize belt	1.2

Productivity (tons/ha)

	Average Yield	Feasible Yield
Cassava	7 tons fresh (2 tons dry)	15-18 tons fresh (5-6 tons dry)
Maize	1-1.5 tons	2.5-3 tons

Cassava Opportunities

- Growing production
- Regular surplus
- High on-farm productivity
- → Low cost of cassava carbohydrates
- → Profitable commercial opportunities in foods, feeds and industrial processing

ACU Task Force

- Voluntary grouping of private and public sector stakeholders interested in cassava commercialization
- Formed August 2005
- Goals: a) realize the commercial potential of cassava; b) consolidate its contribution to household food security in Zambia.

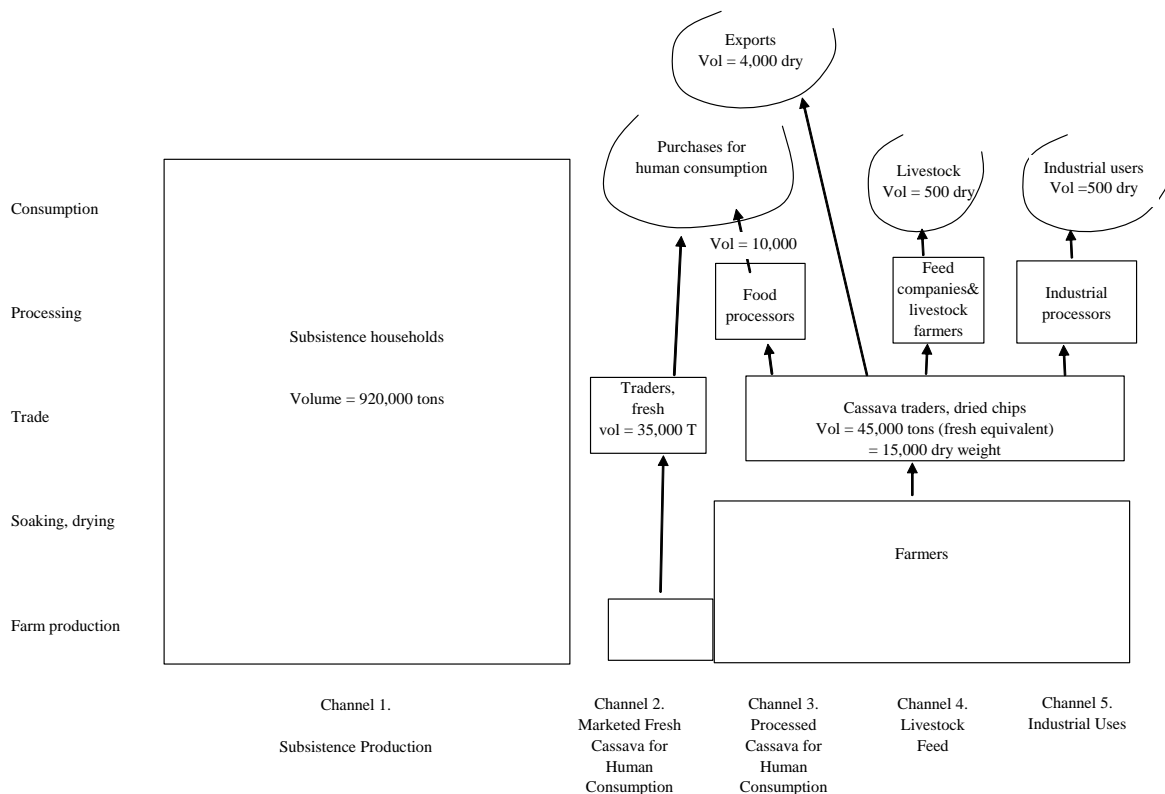
ACU Task Force principles

- Open membership
- All information → public domain
- Value chain perspective
- Facilitate private sector
- Zero budget
- evolving strategic road map

ACU first-round activities (8/05 to 1/07)

- Value chain review
- Assessment of past promotional efforts
- Identification of first-round opportunities and constraints

Zambia's cassava value chain



Round 1. Working Groups

- Cassava standards → ZABS issues standards, Nov. 2007
- Livestock feeds : LDT feeding trials → cassava-based feeds viable when cassava 60% to 70% cost of maize
- Composite foods: nshima, fritters, baked goods: → consumer taste trials; technical feasibility of composite flour products

Round 2. Activities (2/07 on)

- Cassava Belt Task Force
- Maize Belt Cassava Task Force
- Value chain review (FAO)
- Economics of cassava processing (FSRP)
- *New request by MACO*

Goal of this meeting

- launch an ACU working to support MACO's development of a government policy on cassava

Proposed Agenda

- Objectives of the new working group:
- Tasks:
- Outputs:
- Composition:
- Chair (Co-chairs):
- Timeline: