

**NAME**; LEGHEMO SOLOMON

**MATRIC NUMBER** ; 18/ENG08/010

**DEPARTMENT** ; BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

**COURSE TITLE** ; FOOD PRODUCTION AND HEALTH  
AWARENESS

**COURSE CODE** ; AFE 202

**QUESTION**

PREPARE A BUSINESS PLAN ON A CHOSEN  
AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE FOLLOWING THE  
GUIDELINE IN THE NOTE.

# **CASSAVA FARMING BUSINESS PLAN**

Cassava is the third most essential crop to Nigerians after rice and maize. It's the basis of a lot of Nigerian's daily diet. So, starting up a cassava farming business can easily make one a wealthy person quickly.

## **PRE-PLANTING OPERATIONS**

This entails land preparation which includes clearing, ploughing (optional) and then stumping. Burning is not advisable in agriculture, though local farmers indulge in it. Herbicide application is next.

## **PLANTING OPERATIONS**

Firstly, heaps or mounds are made (this is also optional. reason being that at the difference between the yield of zero heaps or mounds is not much compared to the money spent making it) before planting. The stem is cut and then planted slightly at about 45 degree angle.

## **POST-PLANTING OPERATIONS**

This include procedures such as weeding, fertilizer application, mulching. Weeding is done as soon as weeds are just emerging. Next is organic fertilizer application (most preferable fertilizer and it is applied just after weeding). Second weeding is also done before maturity.

## **CHOOSE A GOOD SITE FOR PLANTING;**

Choose a land plot;

- Deep well drained soil with clay and sand content;
- Enough precipitation
- Humid climate

## **ENHANCE THE SOIL QUALITY**

This is how you can the soil ready for successful cultivation;

- Use fertilizers
- Make proper seedbeds
- Grow cassava with other crops, etc.

## **CHOOSE THE BEST CASSAVA BREED TO GROW;**

- It should have decent food quality
- It should be good for cooking
- It should bulk early
- It should have good ground storability
- It must be pest, disease, and weed tolerant

## **WHAT FERTILIZER IS THE BEST?**

- NPK 15:15:15-12 (50KG) PACK
- NPK 20:10:10-9 (50KG) PACK

- NPK 12:12:17-15 (50KG) PACK

### **PICK HEALTHY CASSAVA STEM CUTTINGS;**

Cassava stem cuttings are used to grow cassava crops. Selecting healthy stems is crucial to growing rich cassava crops that your market would quickly purchase. You can buy cassava stem cuttings in town markets and villages. After your initial purchase of the cassava stem cuttings, the best place to keep getting healthy cassava stem cuttings are on your own farm. Planting healthy stem cuttings is important because they'd help you to greatly reduce the spread of cassava pests and diseases. When getting cassava stem cuttings, this is the best guide to follow:

- Find healthy cassava plants.
- Stay away from cassava plants that have or have had a history of pest and diseases.

### **HOW TO APPLY;**

Apply farm fertilizers about 8 weeks after you plant your cassavas;

- Apply the fertilizer in a circular mode, 6cm wide and 10cm from the plant trying to prevent the fertilizer getting in touch with the cassava stem or leaves.

### **CHOOSE THE BEST SEASON TO PLANT**

- Cassava is normally planted from the end of March to mid September when there's plenty of rain. It takes about 4-6months for the crops to ripen, for example: if you plant them in April, then you can harvest in October.

## **PLANT THE CASSAVA PROPERLY**

Cultivating tips:

- Woody cuttings should be planted upright in the upper part of the sloping soil
- Cut the tops of the cuttings at an angle in order to prevent the water staying there and subsequent rotting of the plants
- The best cuttings are taken from plants that are minimum 10 months old, they should be 2.5 to 4cm thick and 20-30 cm long, and they should have at least 3-6 buds each.
- The cuttings should be buried up to half of their length so that some of the buds get under the soil.
- The cuttings have the roots and start growing confidently in 2months.
- The distance between plants should be 80 to 140cm.

## **SETUP & PRODUCTION COST, PROFITABILITY**

Just as any other startup businesses, a great execution of your cassava farming business can make you a millionaire. You need to understand the perfect costing needs to ensure you're not going to generate a negative cash flow. Here is a sample costing for setting up a cassava farm in Nigeria:

Consider this sample expenses list for starting up a cassava farm in Nigeria.

**N/B:** ( the figures may vary from region to region) :

- Farmland cost :**NGN 75,000**
- Getting the land ready :**NGN 25,000**

- Cassava stem cuttings : **NGN 50,000** (for 100 pieces)
- Fertilizer : **NGN 25,000**
- Fermentation tank : **NGN 220,000**
- Hydraulic press : **NGN 280,000**
- Hammer mill : **NGN 700,000.**

**N/B:** other expenses for cassava farming:

-bags

-chemical against pests

-general farm keeping

-manpower fees for harvesting

-other labour fees, and so on

- You will also need some additional equipment-but it's type depends on what final product you intend to get.

## **HARVESTING**

## **AND**

## **STORAGE**

Most cassava species mature at about 12 months after planting. Cassava can be processed into so many by-products.

Cassava is used to make highly popular products;

- Garri
- Fufu

- Starch
- Wheat flour or
- Cassava flour
- Animal food
- Commercial caramel
- Chips
- Ethanol and glucose syrup, bread and so on...

## **MARKETING YOUR CASSAVA PRODUCTS**

After growing and harvesting your crops, you'd need to ensure maximum returns by selling your harvests to the right buyer and at the right price.