

POTENTIAL SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR CASSAVA IN THE '70's AND '80's

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SUMMARY

Three markets for cassava can be identified: the human food, the industrial starch, and the animal feed markets. The first and third are the most important and receive consideration. Supply of and demand for cassava are projected to 1980. The resulting figures are compared. If all residual production in producing countries was directed towards Europe, supply might well exceed demand. Nevertheless, there is scope for cassava as a diversification crop. Its import-saving ability has important implications for freeing LDC resources for other uses.

RESUME

Les marchés du manioc peuvent être répartis en trois secteurs: l'alimentation de la population, l'amidon industriel et l'alimentation de bétail. Le premier et le troisième secteur sont les plus importants et dignes d'intérêt. Une estimation de l'offre et de la demande en manioc pour l'an 1980 a été présentée, et les chiffres qui en ont résulté ont été comparés. Si toute la production en reste dans les pays producteurs était dirigée vers l'Europe, l'offre pourrait dépasser la demande. Toutefois, le manioc est une culture dont les produits peuvent être diversifiés. Le fait qu'on peut en produire suffisamment pour ne pas avoir à en importer a des implications importantes dans les pays moins développés puisque cela permet de dégager des ressources en faveur d'autres secteurs.

RESUMEN

Se pueden identificar tres mercados para yuca: el de la alimentación humana, el de almidón industrial y el de alimentos para ganado. El primero y el tercero son los más importantes y reciben consideración. Se proyectan la oferta y la demanda de yuca hasta 1980. Se comparan los cálculos resultantes. Si toda la producción residual en los países productores, se dirigiera hacia Europa, la oferta bien podría superar a la demanda. No obstante, existe un panorama para yuca como un cultivo para la diversificación. Su habilidad para evitar importaciones tiene importantes implicaciones para liberar recursos LDC para otros usos.

INTRODUCTION

Cassava, manioc, tapioca, manidoca and yuca are common regional names of the shrubby perennial tropical root crop *Manihot esculenta* Crantz. Cassava is thought to have originated in tropical Brazil, from where it spread to other parts of Latin America (archeologists have found traces of cassava dating as early as 800 BC on the Colombia-Venezuela border¹²) and in post-Columbian times, to other regions of the tropics.

Today cassava is successfully grown between latitudes 30° north and south and at elevations of up to 2,000 metres (6,500 ft); it is tolerant of temperatures of 18°C (65° F) to 35°C (85° F), precipitation of 50 to 500 millimetres (20–200 ins)⁸ and soils with pH from 5–9¹¹.

This ecological zone or 'cassava belt' coincides roughly with FAO Economic Class 2, or less developed countries (LDCs). This belt accounts for 46% of world arable land, 47% of world population, but provides only 13% of world Gross Domestic Product^{2,6}.

Cassava production amounts to 57% of tropical root and tuber production while utilizing only 54% of tropical root and tuber acreage⁶. The crop's pre-eminence in less developed tropical countries is explained by its ecological adaptability and its appropriateness to the agricultural conditions of the Cassava Belt. The main attributes which favour the production of cassava are:

1. It is easily propagated — seeds or roots are not required, propagation being a simple matter of planting stalk cuttings.
2. It is relatively high yielding.
3. It is relatively inexpensive to produce since it is easily planted and harvested and requires little or no weeding because of its leafy canopy; it does not have a critical planting or harvesting time, and hence, is r. + season bound.

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