

**Building an Economically Sustainable,  
Integrated Seed System for Cassava in Nigeria**  
**BASICS**  
**Project Overview**



Research  
Program on  
Roots, Tubers  
and Bananas

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# Content

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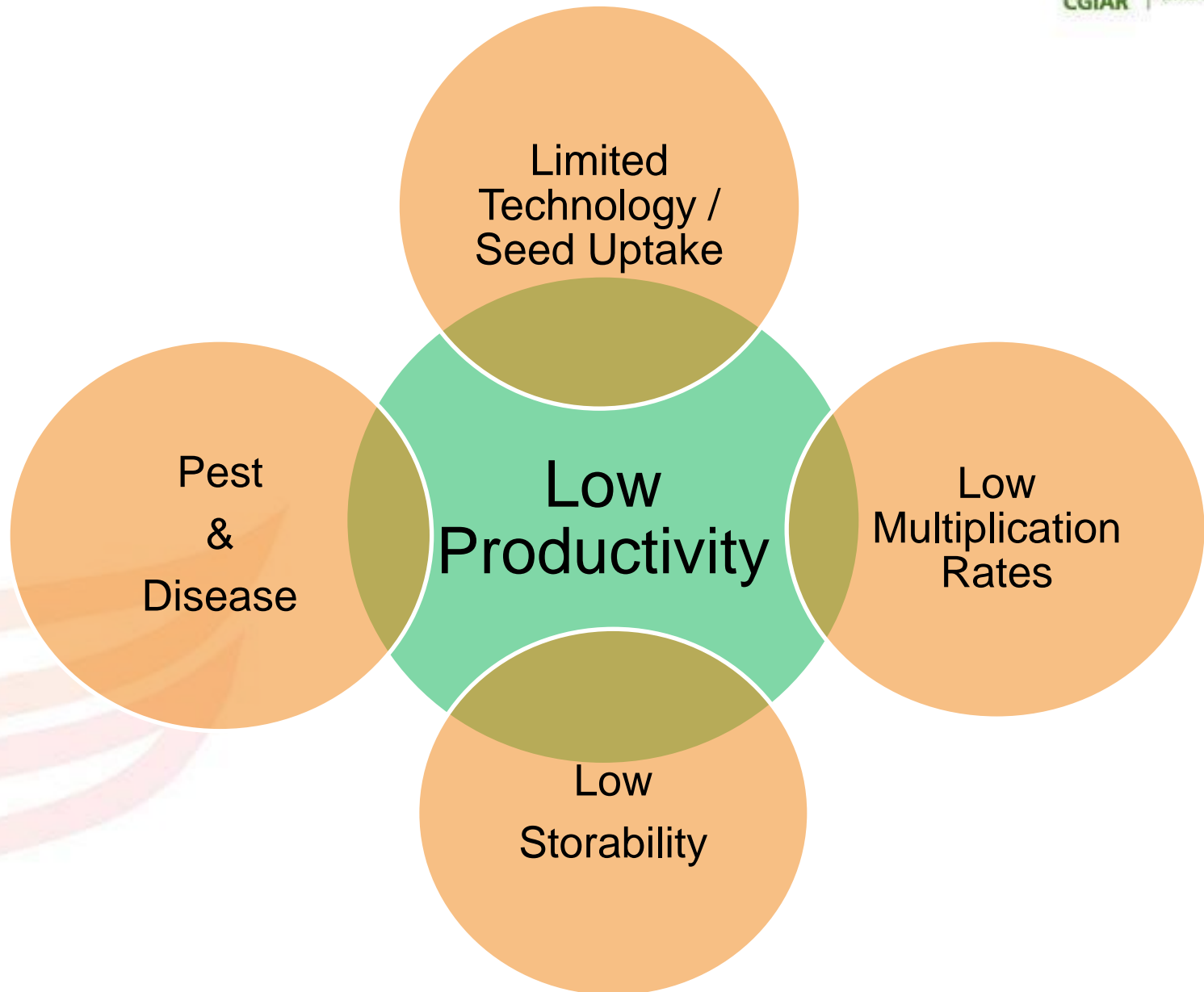
- **Diagnosis: low productivity seed**
- **What are we going to do?**
- **Seed value chain & outcomes**
- **Project components**



# Diagnosis: Low Productivity of seed



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# Diagnosis: Common Supply Side Issues



## Pre-basic seed producers

- Virtual Monopoly
- Variable quality control
- Limited capacity to maintain varieties
- No centralized Information systems

## Basic seed producers

- No / low self-selection
- Low use of diagnostics / use of protocols
- Variable quality Low varietal access
- Limited information
- Project dependent

## Commercial growers

- Limited voice
- Low quality control
- Few varieties on offer
- Low Demos and awareness creation
- Missing business skills
- Women underrepresented or "invisible"

# Diagnosis: Demand Side Challenges

## Projects

Allocate subsidies  
w/short term  
mindset

Limited knowledge  
on varieties

Willingness to  
overpay

Low / no effort for  
farmers to pay

## Processors /Industry

Limited knowledge  
on varieties

Cost passed on to  
farmers

## Farmers

Low varietal  
knowledge and  
access

Limited aggregation  
of demand

Willingness to pay  
not well understood

Seed management  
practices poor

# Diagnosis: Lack of Value Chain Integration

Supply

- Pre-basic seed producers
- Basic seed producers
- Commercial seed growers

Demand

- Farmers
- Processors / Industry
- Projects

# What are we going to do?

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**Develop a sustainable cassava seed value chain, characterized by the commercialization of production and dissemination of cassava planting material**

# Seed Value Chain & project components



Research Program on  
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Seed Quality &  
Protocols

Pre-  
basic  
seed

Basic seed  
producers

Commer-  
cial seed  
growers

Farmers /  
Seed  
Users

Consumer Demand & Money

Seed & Information



# Outcomes:



Pre  
basic  
seed

- **Improved capacity to avail virus-free pre-basic seed of improved and popular cultivars**
- **Sufficient quantities, reasonable price for basic seed producers/companies**

# Outcomes



Basic seed  
producers

- **3+ basic seed companies selling high quality basic seed:**
  - Processor led multiplication
  - NRCRI
- **Quantities adequate for processors and village nurseries**
- **Application of innovative and profitable rapid propagation technologies (eg SAH)**

# Outcomes: processor led multiplication



Seed  
Out-  
Growers

- ✓ Innovative and commercially viable commercial stem businesses to serve high quality cassava value chains
- ✓ Integrate a system to improve supply assurance and tracking of high starch content roots
- ✓ Yield gains to improve return on investment (ROI) for commercial & small-holder farmers

# Outcomes: village seed entrepreneurs



Seed  
Out-  
Growers

- **200+ village level seed out-growers**
- **Increased income**
- **Equality opportunity women and men**
- **Sale of quality seed of new, farmer, and market preferred varieties**
- **Technically competent stem production**
- **Adept at marketing and extension**

# Outcomes



Farmers /  
Seed  
Users

- **Improved productivity and food security**
- **Improved adoption, and ability to pay: high quality planting materials of improved and popular cultivars**

# Outcomes

## Seed Quality & Protocols

- **Appropriate regulatory/certification framework steps on seed value chain**
- **Quality control and assurance, cost-effective disease diagnostics**
- **Seed purchasers protected**
- **Enabling environment for commercial cassava stem producers**

# Outcomes



Consumer Demand & Money



Seed & Information

- **Viable interconnected seed businesses along value chain**
- **Increased coordination among regulators, stem producers, stem buyers and cassava processing businesses**
- **Improved understanding of market opportunities for stem sales through operational seed research**
- **Evidence base of what works**

# Project components

<b>Component</b>	<b>Leads</b>
<b>Processor led multiplication</b>	<b>Context Network &amp; Sahel</b>
<b>Village seed multipliers</b>	<b>CRS &amp; NRCRI</b>
<b>Breeders seed</b>	<b>NRCRI &amp; IITA</b>
<b>Seed quality and protocols</b>	<b>NASC, FERA, NRCRI &amp; IITA</b>
<b>Project Management and M&amp;E</b>	<b>RTB</b>



# Summary: five unique features!

- **Driven by linked businesses along seed value chain**
- **Novel rapid multiplication technology (SAH) to overcome seed bottlenecks**
- **Private sector processor led multiplication**
- **Quality control by NASC in early generations**
- **Strong emphasis on learning about what works**