



FARA 4th General Assembly Side Event Report June 10-11, 2007

Name of side event:	NEPAD Pan African Cassava Initiative
Sponsoring organization(s):	Kellogg Foundation and IITA
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Background/rationale of the side event *(maximum one paragraph)*

NEPAD has initiated a cassava initiative referred to as NEPAD Pan African Cassava Initiative (NPACI) as a means to tap the enormous potential of cassava in Africa for food security and income generation. The initiative was established in 2004 and is in line with the NEPAD Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) which outlines the main agricultural development pillars. The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is providing technical backstop to NPACI and co-funding the Coordination with Kellogg Foundation.

The Initiative is based on a transformation strategy that focuses on developing three interrelated components: (i) Market research and development (ii) Technology generation for development and, (iii) Competitive and sustainable production.

This strategy will enhance the following key cross cutting processes: Organized commodity chain institutions/collective action, Institutional capacity building, Human capital development, Policy engagement and reforms, Knowledge development and management and access to finance. The IAR4D on commodity chain approach will focus on food, feed and raw industrial materials.

Principle agreements/actions/recommendations *(include who is responsible for implementation & when)*

It was agreed that the initiative should:

- ✓ Promote sustainable and competitive supply of cassava through promoting farmers collective action so as to tap on the emerging and potential markets on cassava flour, starch and ethanol production.
- ✓ Address issues of resilience of cassava to Climate change
- ✓ Establish and harmonize cassava seed system
- ✓ Address issues of use of biotechnology tools to advance cassava R4D

Side event linked to which FARA networking support function? (check one)

- Advocacy and resource mobilization**
- Access to knowledge and technologies**
- Regional policies and markets**
- Capacity strengthening**
- Partnerships and strategic alliances**

Where relevant, note who has success stories, &/or useful resource people or institutions related to side-event theme