

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

## CARA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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### INTRODUCTION

### CASSAVA INTERVENTION IN THE NIGER DELTA



In this year's annual report, we give an account of how our work in the cassava sector in the Niger Delta improves the livelihood of smallholders' farmers.

Nigeria is the world's largest producer of cassava, however low yield has been the major challenge because of the inadequate application of Good Agronomic practices for cassava cultivation. CARA with the support of PIND through the Cassava value chain is creating an opportunity to address the challenges through the implementation of cassava GAP across the 9 Niger Delta states to increase productivity, income and job within the Niger Delta.

### CASSAVA INTERVENTION IN THE NIGER DELTA

Cassava is a crucial food grown in Nigeria with an increasingly various use for its products. As a result of its multi-purpose utilization, cassava production is becoming profitable and offers several opportunities to prospective stakeholders. Professionals and operators in the cassava farming business have stated that cassava and its derivatives serve as food to about 90 percent of Nigerian households' product.

In 2018, there was a significant extension of all of PIND's interventions in the cassava value chain regarding Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) in cassava production, improving the access of farmers to improved crop safety products and processing technologies through demonstration plots, implementation of the out-grower scheme, market access, and linkages. Demonstration plots have contributed immensely to the growth and expansion of the cassava sector.

CARA with the support of 4 input companies and seven agro-dealers worked together to reach 4,499 farmers with the skill of Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) using demo farms and Nigerian Agricultural Enterprise Curriculum (NAEC) across the 9 states of the Niger Delta (Imo, Abia, Delta, Bayelsa, Edo, Akwa-Ibom, Cross River, Rivers and Ondo). These partnerships and linkages have attracted new investments for example, farm business owners invest adoption of the PIND market system development strategies in their private farms which enhances productivity and income.

With the acquisition of skill through demonstration farms, McThompson Ifeanyi Eke, a leader and other members of the Mezie Umukabia Farmers' Multipurpose Cooperative Society in Ngor Okpala LGA, Imo State started practicing Good Agronomic Practice on their cassava farm which yielded visible results. The members of the cooperative during a monitoring visit reported that they were not getting much because of the use of old/local methods of planting cassava. The PIND intervention with the co-facilitation efforts of CARA team came and established a demonstration plot using Good Agronomic Practices from land preparation to harvest. The yield of cassava tuber from the farm was bountiful which encouraged the members to practice cassava farming as a business. The community and their neighbouring communities have experienced a drastic change in cassava production as they have improved varieties to plant, chemicals to ward off weed and fertilizer to increase productivity.

In the same vein, a demonstration plot established in partnership with Harvest Field Industries Limited and the Association of Graduate Farmers in Ondo State yielded interesting output. According to Ayobami Melord, the leader of the group, "We realized 37.6 tons per hectare, which was not possible since they started cassava production. We want to appreciate PIND"

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### SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CASSAVA SECTOR ACROSS THE 8 STATES OF INTERVENTION

- Engaged 4 input companies and 7 Agro-dealers to reach farmers with GAP skills
- Cara with the support of the service providers empowered 4,699 farmers
- Scale up 8 demonstration plots across the 9 states
- Facilitated access to the market and the sales of 200 tons of fresh cassava root (FCR) through cassava aggregation.
- Incubated an out-grower scheme, leading to the set-up of 5,000 hectares of land for cassava production and cassava processing facility.

#### PHOTOS



PIND with the support of CARA, and the Mezie Umukabia Farmers' Multipurpose Cooperative Society established a Demonstration plot Umukabia, Imo State



Cassava yield of the Association of Graduate Farmers in Ondo State



Demonstration plot established at Ndielu-Ugwueke community, Isiukwuato LGA Abia State on March 15, 2018

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# Suite 12, First Floor, Awibe Plaza No.1 MCC Road, Owerri Imo State Nigeria.



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+2348147297193