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## Developing Cassava as an Industrial Crop in Australia

Author: N.V. Harris and L.M. Doggrell, Australian Cassava Products Pty Ltd, Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia.

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### ABSTRACT

The current status of cassava as an industrial crop for starch and ethanol production in Australia is described.

Over the last nine years, Australian Cassava Products Pty Ltd has undertaken a research program on cassava agronomy, cultivar selection, and commercial production techniques suitable for the Australian economic environment where labor costs are high. Modern agricultural systems involving a high degree of mechanization, including planting and harvesting operations, are being developed and used to evaluate the commercial potential of cassava on a 4,000 hectare estate in southeastern Queensland. Production costs and the yields needed for cassava to be a profitable crop, competitive with alternatives are reported. Discussion includes methods of land management, production problems in a subtropical climate, and pest and diseases.

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## Fuel Ethanol from Cassava: The Baiyer River Experience

Author: E.B. Holmes and K. Newcombe, Energy Planning Unit, Dept. of Minerals and Energy, Konedobu, Papua New Guinea.

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### ABSTRACT

The objectives, strategy, and progress of the Papua New Guinea program for evaluation and production of ethanol from biomass as a transport fuel are outlined.

The Baiyer River Alcohol Company was established to develop the first pilot demonstration industry in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. This industry was to produce 2.5 million liters of fuel ethanol per year from cassava. The agricultural strategy, early development, industrial plans, and projected costs of production are discussed in detail. This project has now been cancelled following considerable development work. The major problems encountered by this project are outlined as an example of the difficulties of agroindustrial development in Third World countries.