

THE INFORMATION CENTER AT CIAT

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SUMMARY

1500 articles from the widely scattered literature on cassava have been assembled and processed as abstracts and keywords. The summary cards are linked to a retrieval system on the TERMATREX principle. Complete sets of abstract cards can be obtained or a selected set of references to cover particular topics can be ordered.

RESUME

1500 articles d'ouvrages sur le manioc dispersés ca et là ont été rassemblés sous forme de documents classés. Les fiches ont un système de récupération basé sur la méthode TERMATREX. On peut obtenir des collections de ces fiches au complet ou commander des collections couvrant un sujet précis.

RESUMEN

1500 artículos provenientes de literatura sobre yuca ampliamente dispersa se han concatenado y procesado como compendios y palabras clave. Las tarjetas-resumen se eslabonan a un sistema de recuperación sobre el principio TERMATREX. Se pueden obtener juegos completos de tarjetas compendio o se pueden ordenar juegos seleccionados de referencias para cubrir un tema determinado.

INTRODUCTION

The Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical, CIAT, is directed toward the agricultural and economic development of the lowland tropics. CIAT seeks to assist such development through research and training, and the stimulation and strengthening of national capacities in both these areas. The specific action targets of CIAT programmes are:

1. Agricultural Development, as indexed by *increased productivity per person and per unit of area, as well as increased output* of the basic food commodities of the area served.
2. Institutional Development, as evidenced by increased willingness, technical competence, and organizational ability of national institutions to cope with continuing problems related to agricultural and economic development in the lowland tropics.

CIAT concentrates efforts and resources on six agricultural commodities for lowland farming systems — beef, cassava, beans, swine, rice and corn. In addition, CIAT is also concerned with overall agricultural production systems for tropical areas.

CIAT's systems approach to solving problems calls for a specialization in terms of problems rather than disciplines. If a library is to be an effective tool with such an organization, it must also mirror the organizational nature of the institution and its philosophy. Thus the CIAT library and information service is crop oriented.

THE CASSAVA LITERATURE

Since cassava is one of the commodities receiving major emphasis at CIAT, our information activities on this crop are similarly strong. However, the literature on cassava is sparse as traditionally it has been considered a 'backyard crop' and only sporadically has systematic research been done on it. Consequently, cassava literature is scattered through a wide range of publications from many countries.

In 1971, a preliminary analysis of the scope of the cassava literature was performed¹. A sample of 162 articles published in the last four years was obtained from a search done at the National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Maryland. Figure 1 illustrates the results of plotting the number of articles against the cumulative number of journals ordered from those with the greatest to those with the least number of articles on cassava.

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