

5th ANNUAL

REVIEW & PLANNING MEETING 2020
FOR THE
AFRICAN CASSAVA AGRONOMY INITIATIVE (ACAI)

Tuesday 1 - Thursday 3
DECEMBER

DECISION
SUPPORT TOOLS
PLATFORM

AKILIMO
IN ACTION

REFLECTIONS
ON ACAI
ACHIEVEMENTS



Welcome! Karibu!

It is my pleasure to invite you to the fifth and final annual meeting of the African Cassava Agronomy Initiative. This year's meeting will be virtual, obviously because of the corona pandemic, but regardless, we will once again make this an event to remember. We have a chockfull and exciting program prepared for you!

We will start by giving you an overview of the most memorable events and greatest achievements of 2020. We started the year optimistically, moving AKILIMO forward with the momentum we had built in 2019. When corona spread, scaling activities slowed down, but thanks to the creativity and spirited efforts of our partners, we quickly picked up pace again. Our partnership has grown tremendously in 2020, and with it, our end user base as well. Today, we reach an impressive number of cassava growers in Nigeria and Tanzania. And, this has enabled us to do some very innovative research to understand the drivers of use and uptake of our tools. All this will be on the menu for the first day of our meeting.

The second day will be all about the AKILIMO tools. We will look back at the road travelled and how AKILIMO came to be, but also look forward to how we think AKILIMO can continue to evolve.

We will show the results of the second round of validation exercises, and I can already tell you we have surpassed our targets. Much effort was also invested in further improving the user experience, because we learned that this is as important as the technical performance. I am also happy to share that AKILIMO

has been recognized as the example for agronomy at scale and the Excellence in Agronomy 2030 Initiative.

During the final day, we will listen to the students and how they contributed to advancing the state-of-the-art of cassava agronomy. Most of the students have defended their thesis, or are in the last stretch to do so. And this year, they will quiz your knowledge of cassava! Lastly, we will take some time to reflect on some of the major achievements of ACAI, and formulate some lessons learnt for future initiatives. We want to call on all of you to contribute to this exercise.

Every year, we look forward to this meeting, to see each other faces, chat and catch up, and celebrate our successes as a team. And, we usually set time aside to go out to the field and see some cassava in action... This year, this will be difficult. But still, we have something very special prepared for you, and we will travel to the birthplace of cassava... I will not say more, only that I look forward to our annual meeting.

*You are all welcome!
Karibuni!
Gbogbo yin ni e kaabo!
Anyi niile nabata! Dukkanku Maraba ne!*

Dr Pieter Pypers
Senior Agronomist & ACAI Project Coordinator
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

The time indicated in this agenda is based on GMT +1 Standard West African Time (WAT) and Central European Time (CET)

DAY 01

OPENING & INTRODUCTIONS

Video on loop with pictures showing key achievements of ACAI in 2020	12.30
Welcome and introductions	13.00
Welcome remarks by IITA Director	13.10
Welcome remarks by BMGF Program Officer	13.15
Welcome remarks by the guest of honour	13.20
What's in store for the next 3 days?	13.25
Has ACAI achieved its goals?	13.35

AKILIMO IN ACTION

Overview of AKILIMO	13.45
What is AKILIMO & How does it work	
What are our dissemination targets	13:50
Key results on reach, use and uptake and underlying drivers	13:55
Q&A and plenary discussion	14:15
Scaling approaches by primary partners	14.30
AKILIMO as part of digital partners' services for smallholders	14.45
Scaling to next users through secondary partnerships	15.00
AKILIMO integration in national extension systems	15.10
Testimonies from farmers extension agents and partners	15.20
Plenary discussion around specific questions	15.30
Wrap-up and end (plus refresher on tomorrow's agenda)	15.50

DAY 02

AKILIMO DECISION SUPPORT PLATFORM

Video on loop showing the different AKILIMO formats: printable guides, AKILIMO app, VIAMO 321 service and Arifu chatbot	12.30
Introduction to the session	13.00
AKILIMO on a timeline - from concept to a platform	13.05
Plenary discussion on take-aways and the future of AKILIMO	13.30
Breakout sessions: writing history	13.40
Preassigned breakout groups each focusing on a specific development stage of AKILIMO	13.45
Feedback and way forward	14.15

TECHNICAL VALIDATION

Introduction to the session	14.25
Validating the performance based on yield and net returns	14.30
Breakout sessions: detailed discussions by use case	14:40
Preassigned breakout groups on different use cases	14:45
Plenary presentation on learnings from the validation approach	15.15
Plenary Q&A and discussion	15.30
Wrap-up and end (including refresher on tomorrow's agenda)	15.50

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DAY 03

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Introduction to the session **13.00**
- Presentation by the students **13.05**
- Quiztime: Who knows cassava? **13.25**

REFLECTION ON ACHIEVEMENTS LESSONS LEARNT AND THE FUTURE

- Major learnings and achievements of ACAI **13.55**
- Brainstorming Breakouts **14:00**
- What is next? Interactions with other initiatives and the EIA **14:45**
- Plenary Q&A and discussion **15.00**

CLOSING CEREMONY

- Did we achieve our goals? **15:15**
- Closing remarks by NARS partners **15.25**
- Closing remarks by primary partners **15.30**
- Closing remarks by IITA Director **15.35**
- Closing remarks by BMGF Program Officer **15.40**
- Wrap-up and end **15.50**
- Virtual cocktail **16.00**