5th ANNUAL

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

Tuesday 1 - Thursday 3
DECEMBER
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 & INTROSDUCTIONS**
- Video on loop with pictures showing key achievements of ACAI in 2020
- Welcome and introductions
- Welcome remarks by IITA Director
- Welcome remarks by BMGF Program Officer
- Welcome remarks by the guest of honour
- What’s in store for the next 3 days?
- Has ACAI achieved its goals?

**AKILIMO IN ACTION**
- Overview of AKILIMO
- What is AKILIMO & How does it work
- What are our dissemination targets
- Key results on reach, use and uptake and underlying drivers
- Q&A and plenary discussion
- Scaling approaches by primary partners
- AKILIMO as part of digital partners’ services for smallholders
- Scaling to next users through secondary partnerships
- AKILIMO integration in national extension systems
- Testimonies from farmers extension agents and partners
- Plenary discussion around specific questions
- Wrap-up and end (plus refresher on tomorrow’s agenda)

**DAY 02**

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

**TECHNICAL VALIDATION**
- Introduction to the session
- Validating the performance based on yield and net returns
- Breakout sessions: detailed discussions by use case
- Preassigned breakout groups on different use cases
- Plenary presentation on learnings from the validation approach
- Plenary Q&A and discussion
- Wrap-up and end (including refresher on tomorrow’s agenda)
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**DAY 03**

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Introduction to the session
- Presentation by the students
- Quiztime: Who knows cassava?

**13.00**

**13.05**

**13.25**

**REFLECTION ON ACHIEVEMENTS, LESSONS LEARNT AND THE FUTURE**

- Major learnings and achievements of ACAI
- Brainstorming Breakouts
- What is next? Interactions with other initiatives and the EiA

**13.55**

**14.00**

**14.45**

**15.00**

**CLOSING CEREMONY**

- Did we achieve our goals?
- Closing remarks by NARS partners
- Closing remarks by primary partners
- Closing remarks by IITA Director
- Closing remarks by BMGF Program Officer

**15:15**

**15.25**

**15.30**

**15.35**

**15.40**

**15.50**

**16.00**

Wrap-up and end
Virtual cocktail