

# Assessing the Impact of Cassava (*Manihot Esculenta* Crantz), in Nigeria, [A Case Study of 4,000 Farmers Sampled at Different Locations]

Prince Awojoodu Soji

Department of Computer Science and Mathematics, Oduduwa University, Ile-Ife Kingdom, Nigeria

**Email address:**

awojoodusoji@yahoo.com

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**Abstract:** This research work was carried out, to assess the impact of cassava in Nigeria. 4 Local governments, namely: (Ife East, Ife South, Ife Central and Ife North), local government areas were sampled. 4,000 open questionnaires were distributed to the 4 Local Governments, out of which 1000 was used for the farmers in each local government. A total of 40 different locations were visited in all the four Local Governments, out of which 100 questionnaires were used in each location. It was gathered that above 75% of the farmers from the four local governments, supported, assessing the impact of cassava in Nigeria. while below 25% of the farmers, could not even understand whether or not there was any need, to assess the impact of cassava in Nigeria. The results from the questionnaires when using Pearson two-tailed correlation coefficient revealed that there was a significant difference from the summary data collected from the farmers within the four local government areas visited and sampled, ( $p > 0.05$ ) table 5. This shows a strong positive correlation, which implying that, to assess the impact of cassava in Nigeria, is strongly influenced and enhanced the farmer's support in our society, and therefore has made the research work to become a reality, ( $p > 0.05$ ) table 5. The reasons may be due to the fact that, cassava farming is not mainly done, to produce items, solvents, alcohol, glucose, animal feed, energy, fertilizers, and some extra by-products, but many industries in Nigeria also used cassava tubers, as major raw materials for: cassava flour factories, noodles production industries, alcohol and liquor production industries, garri factories, fufu producers etc. Pie chart was used to depict the summary data of each of the local government areas sampled in Ile-Ife Kingdom, of Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Cassava, (*Manihot Esculenta* Crantz), 4 Local Governments, Different Locations, Pearson Correlation

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## 1. Introduction

Cassava (*Manihot Esculenta* Crantz), of the family Euphorbiaceae, is one type of starchy tuberous; a perennial tree grows in tropical and subtropical areas, which are consumed by the people as a food [1]. Commercial cassava farming has been very profitable farming venture for Nigerian's farmers. Cassava tubers, which is very highly demanded, as the raw material for producing "GARRI", which is a staple food for Nigerians.

Cassava farming venture is known for its low input and output nature. Many industries in Nigeria used cassava tubers as major raw materials for: cassava flour factories, noodles production industries, alcohol and liquor production

industries, garri factories, fufu producers. Cassava farming is mainly done, to produce items, solvents, alcohol, glucose, animal feed, energy, fertilizers, and some extra by-products. Nigeria tops the list of cassava production list, all over the world while Thailand tops the list of cassava production in the Asian continent. Mainly, from cassava plant, leaves and tubers are the important part, which is used most, by the people for cooking or in other forms. Roots of these commercial crops are mainly consumed because of these, the roots are the excellent source of minerals and vitamins such as manganese, calcium, phosphorus, potassium and iron. All these are responsible for the healthy development of our body. Cassava is among the popular foods grown in Nigeria and has an increasingly diverse use for its product. As a

result of its uses, cassava farming is becoming lucrative and offers numerous opportunities to would-be investors. Now growing through tropical world, cassava is second only to the sweet potatoes, as the most important starchy root crop of the tropics. Because it grows easily, it has large yields and it is little affected by diseases and pest. The area under cassava cultivation is increasing rapidly. The plant is grown for its edible tubers, which serve as a staple food in many tropical countries and are also the source of an important starch. Its value as a famine relief crop has long been recognized. Cassava is now grown widely as a food crop or for industrial purposes. In many regions of the tropics, cassava occupies much the same position as sweet potatoes do in some parts of the temperate zone as the principal carbohydrate of the daily diet. The industrial utilization of cassava is expanding every year. The plant is popularly known under a great variety of names: In Yoruba speaking people of Nigeria, It is called EGE or GBAGUDA. In Indonesia, it is called UBI KETTELA or KASPE. In Latin America, it is called MANIOCA, RUMU or YUCCA. In Brazil, it is called MANDOCA or AIPIM. In Madagasca and French Speaking Africa, it is called MANIOC. In India and Malaysia, it is called TAPIOCA. In English speaking regions in Africa, Thailand, Srilanka. It is called CASSAVA and sometimes CASSADA

**HARVEST:** For high quality of cassava, for both short term and long term spoilage before harvest and storage, cassava should be protected from healthy stem cutting that helps to reduce the spread of cassava pests, and diseases. There are some risks connected, in growing cassava. This is because, in Nigeria and other African countries, cassava plant is not normally affected by diseases or pests. However, in others, it may be attracted by VIRUS DISEASES, like: (a). mosaic. (b). the brown streak and leaf curl of tobacco may attack leaves, stems and branches. Many parts of Africa harbour these diseases and attempts are being made to select resistant varieties. BACTERIA DISEASES, like: *Phytomonas manihotis* (in Brazil), *Bacterium cassava* (in Africa), and *Bacterium solanacearum* (in Indonesia), may attack roots, stems or leaves of cassava plants. MYCOSES: There kinds which attack roots, stem or leaves of cassava plants and cause various diseases. INSECTS: Some insects affect the plant directly (locusts, beetles, and ants). Others affect the plant indirectly by the transfer of virus (aphids). ANIMALS, like rats, goats, and wild pigs are probably the most troublesome, they feed on the roots, especially in areas adjacent to forests. TOXICITY: The toxicity principle in cassava is hydrocyanic acid, found in the roots, branches and leaves of the plant in both free and chemically bound forms. The plant contains a cyanogenetic glucose called phaseolunatin. This begins to break down upon cassava harvest into hydrocyanic acid, acetone and glucose by the action of the enzyme linase. The presence of hydrocyanic acid is easily recognized by a bitter taste, [2]. At the harvest of cassava roots, the amount of the acid in the plant varies from harmless to lethal; from a few milligrams to 250 milligrams or more per kilogram of fresh root. Hydrolysis of the glucose by the enzyme can be accelerated by soaking the

root in water, by crushing or cutting them or by heating. The distribution of the acid in roots varied in different varieties. In sweet varieties, the major of the acid is located in the skin and in the exterior cortical layer, while in bitter varieties; the acid is uniformly distributed in all parts of the roots, [3].

**PREPARATION METHODS:** The selected stem cutting should be planted the right way by ensuring that the land was appropriate tilled. The planting season, the type of seed bed, preparation methods, handling and planting of the stem cutting, should be done with precision. Cassava tubers attached to the main stem can remain safely in the ground for several months. However, after harvest, the roots start deteriorating within 2-3 days, and rapidly become of little value for consumption or industrial use. When storing, cassava roots as earlier said, start deteriorating, soon after harvesting, but internally discoloration and loss of marketing value occur if they are not cooked or processed within 24-48 hours of harvesting. Secondary fungi, and bacteria infection may cause rot in untreated roots. It was however noted from the traditional methods of storage that, cassava roots are heaped under shade and watered every day; the roots may be coated with clay and mud; freshly harvested or peeled roots are stored for 1-2 days by completely submerging in water. The roots are simultaneously detoxified but may ferment or spoil after 3 days; cassava roots are left underground after maturity and harvest in piecemeal when needed, etc.



Figure 1. Cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz), of the family Euphorbiaceae.



Figure 2. Cassava History/Origin.

ORIGIN: The centre of its origin was believed to be traced to the old World War before the discovery of America. There is archaeological evidence of two major centers of origin for this crop; one in Mexico and central America and the other in north eastern Brazil. The first Portuguese settlers found the native Indian in Brazil, growing the cassava plant. And that the “poisonous root” of a yucca was used in the preparation of bread, [4]. It is believed that cassava was introduced to the western coast of Africa in about the sixteen century by slave merchants. The Portuguese bought it later to their stations around the mouth of the Congo River, and it then spread to other area. The preparation of cassava flour in Angola and subsequently its uses in the Congo. The cassava cultivation increased after 1850 in the east African territories as a result of the efforts of Europeans and Arabs who were pushing into the interior and who recognized its value as a safeguard against the frequent period of time [5]. In the Far East, cassava was not known as a food plant until 1835. In about 1850, it was transported directly from Brazil to Java, Singapore and Malaya. When the more profitable rubber plantation were started on the Malaya Peninsula, cassava as the most important growing, moved to other parts of Indonesia where it flourished, [6].



Figure 3. Cassava years of maturity.

MONTHS AND PERIODS OF MATURITY OF CASSAVA (MANIHOT ESCULENTA CRANTZ), IN NIGERIA: The plant produces best when rainfall is fairly abundant, but it can be grown where annual rainfall is low as

500mm or where it is as high as 5000mm. The plant can stand prolonged periods of drought in which most other food crops would perish. This makes it valuable in regions where annual rainfall is low or where seasonal distribution is irregular. In tropical climate, the dry season has about the same effect on cassava as low temperature has on deciduous perennials in other parts of the world. The period of dormancy lasts two to three months and growth resumes when the rain begins again.



Figure 4. Study Area Map of Ife (Known as Ile-Ife).

## 2. Study Area

The study area is Ife. Ife (popularly known as Ile-Ife) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Osun State and has been selected for the proposed research work. Ife is an ancient Yoruba city in South Western Nigeria. The city is located in present day of Osun State. Ile – Ife is famous Worldwide for its ancient and naturalistic bronze, stone and terracotta sculptures dating back to between 1200 and 1400. It has a population of 262,000 (1991 population estimate). The city is the oldest Yoruba city in South Western Nigeria and evidence of habitation at the site has been discovered to date-back to as early as 600 BCE. The city was the most powerful Yoruba Kingdom until the late 17<sup>th</sup> century when Oyo surpassed it. (Encyclopedia Britannica).

## 3. Material and Methods

The responses of the people in different locations of the four local government areas can be seen from the decision table as below:

Table 1. The Decision Table.

Sub	Above 75%	Below 25%	Open headed Questionnaires
Assessing the impact of cassava in Osun State, Nigeria.	X		
I do not know		X	
State open questionnaires			X

The below are the points ticked by the majority of the people (above 75% table 1) from the questionnaires who understood, assessing the impact of cassava in Osun State, Nigeria. [a]. Cassava is helpful in boosting the immune system and lowering the blood pressure. [b]. Consuming cassava frequently is also beneficial for good nerve and brain health. [c]. Cassava is also rich in fibers and dietary. Fibers are helpful in preventing constipation. [d]. Consuming cassava is also beneficiary for good eye health, hair health and skin health. [e]. cassava also contains a high amount of carbohydrates content in them, so, consuming cassava can provide lots of energy to our body. [f]. Consuming cassava is helpful in weight management. [g]. Eating cassava regularly prevents you from many types of cancer and also enhance the good digestive system. [h]. Cassava also helps in treating diarrhea, and the rheumatic diseases. [i]. cassava is also used as home remedy for curing headaches and fever. It also heals the wound faster. [j]. Cassava regulates blood pressure: the potassium,

magnesium, and calcium contents help in regulating human body pressure. [k]. Lack of potassium can lead to a depletion of calcium in bones. [l]. Potassium found in cassava help not only to lower pressure, but thereby protecting the human body against stroke. [m]. Cassava prevent cold: vitamin c, that is antioxidant and anti-inflammatory, helps to relieve cold symptoms. [n]. Cassava fight health diseases and diabetes.

### 4. Results and Discussion

Questionnaires were distributed to 4 Local government areas that is, (Ife East, Ife South, Ife Central and Ife North). The results from the questionnaires however revealed that, assessing the impact of cassava in Nigeria are manifold: There was a significant difference on the farmers, in all the local government areas visited, (p>0.05).

Table2. People's respondent.

Wards	Ife East		Ife South		Ife Central		Ife North	
	Assessing the impact of cassava in Osun State, Nigeria.	I do not Know	Assessing the impact of cassava in Osun State, Nigeria.	I do not Know	Assessing the impact of cassava in Osun State, Nigeria.	I do not Know	Assessing the impact of cassava in Osun State, Nigeria.	I do not Know
People's Response	701 70.1%	299 29.9%	697 69.7%	303 30.3%	665 66.5%	335 33.5%	668 66.8%	332 33.2%

From the above table 2, in Ife East, there are 701 people's response with 70.1%, Ife South, 697 with 69.7%, Ife Central, 665 with 66.5%, and Ife North, 668 with 66.8%, were those people who supported, assessing the impact of cassava in Osun State, Nigeria, while in Ife East, 299 with 29.9%, Ife

South, 303 with 30.3%, Ife Central, 335 with 33.5%, and Ife North, 332 with 33.2% respectively, could not even know whether or not, there was any assessment on the impact of cassava in Osun State, Nigeria.

Table 3. The summary data collected, from the 4 Local Governments sampled, out of which 900 were used in each local government.

Local government	Location	Ife East	Ife South	Ife Central	Ife North
Peoples Respondent	A	72	28	68	42
	B	70	30	62	31
	C	62	38	74	35
	D	64	36	65	34
	E	76	24	66	38
	F	75	25	68	26
	G	63	37	78	24
	H	67	33	72	37
	I	74	26	74	36
	J	78	22	70	29
Total=	10	701	299	697	332
Grand Total=	10	1000	1000	1000	1000

Table 4. The descriptive statistics.

Descriptive Statistics	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
IFEEAST	70.1000	5.80134	10
IFESOUTH	69.7000	4.85455	10
IFECENTRAL	66.5000	8.72098	10
IFENORTH	66.8000	5.63323	10

Table 5. Pearson Correlation.

Correlations		IfeEast	IfeSouth	IfeCentral	IfeNorth
IFEEAST	Pearson Correlation	1	-338	223	-074
	Sig. (2-tailed)		339	536	839
	N	10	10	10	10
IFESOUTH	Pearson Correlation	-338	1	198	229
	Sig. (2-tailed)	339		583	524
	N	10	10	10	10
IFECENTRAL	Pearson Correlation	223	198	1	706*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	536	583		023
	N	10	10	10	10
IFENORTH	Pearson Correlation	074	229	706*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	839	524	023	
	N	10	10	10	10

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=IFEEAST IFESOUTH IFECENTRAL IFENORTH

/NTILES=4

/NTILES=10

/STATISTICS=STDDEV VARIANCE RANGE MINIMUM MAXIMUM SEMEAN MEAN MEDIAN MODE SUM SKEWNESS SESKEW KURTOSIS SEKURT

/GROUPED=IFEEAST IFESOUTH IFECENTRAL IFENORTH

/PIECHART PERCENT

/ORDER=ANALYSIS.

#### Frequencies

Table 6. The mode, median, mean, std. Deviation etc., of the 4 local governments.

Statistics		IFEEAST	IFESOUTH	IFECENTRAL	IFENORTH
N	Valid	10	10	10	10
	Missing	0	0	0	0
Mean		70.1000	69.7000	66.5000	66.8000
Std. Error of Mean		1.83455	1.53514	2.75782	1.78139
Median		71.0000 <sup>a</sup>	69.3333 <sup>a</sup>	66.5000 <sup>a</sup>	65.5000 <sup>a</sup>
Mode		62.00 <sup>b</sup>	68.00 <sup>b</sup>	52.00 <sup>b</sup>	58.00 <sup>b</sup>
Std. Deviation		5.80134	4.85455	8.72098	5.63323
Variance		33.656	23.567	76.056	31.733
Skewness		-188	148	-231	281
Std. Error of Skewness		687	687	687	687
Kurtosis		-1.593	-541	-1.185	-656
Std. Error of Kurtosis		1.334	1.334	1.334	1.334
Range		16.00	16.00	26.00	18.00
Minimum		62.00	62.00	52.00	58.00
Maximum		78.00	78.00	78.00	76.00
Sum		701.00	697.00	665.00	668.00
Percentiles	10	62.5000 <sup>c</sup>	63.5000 <sup>c</sup>	55.0000 <sup>c</sup>	60.0000 <sup>c</sup>
	20	63.5000	65.5000	58.5000	62.5000
	25	64.0000	66.0000	59.0000	63.0000
	30	65.5000	66.6667	60.5000	63.5000
	40	68.5000	68.0000	63.5000	64.5000
	50	71.0000	69.3333	66.5000	65.5000
	60	73.0000	71.0000	70.5000	67.5000
	70	74.5000	72.6667	73.5000	70.0000
	75	75.0000	73.3333	74.0000	71.0000
	80	75.5000	74.0000	75.0000	72.5000
90	77.0000	76.6667	77.0000	75.0000	

a. Calculated from grouped data.

b. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown.

c. Percentiles are calculated from grouped data.

## Frequency Table

Tables (7, 8, 9, 10) showing the frequency Tables of all the 4 (four) Local Government Areas sampled.

*Table 7. The valid and cumulative % of Ife East.*

<b>IfeEast</b>					
		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
	62.00	1	10.0	10.0	10.0
	63.00	1	10.0	10.0	20.0
	64.00	1	10.0	10.0	30.0
	67.00	1	10.0	10.0	40.0
	70.00	1	10.0	10.0	50.0
Valid	72.00	1	10.0	10.0	60.0
	74.00	1	10.0	10.0	70.0
	75.00	1	10.0	10.0	80.0
	76.00	1	10.0	10.0	90.0
	78.00	1	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	10	100.0	100.0	

*Table 8. The valid and cumulative % of Ife South.*

<b>Ife South</b>					
		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
	62.00	1	10.0	10.0	10.0
	63.00	1	10.0	10.0	20.0
	64.00	1	10.0	10.0	30.0
	67.00	1	10.0	10.0	40.0
	70.00	1	10.0	10.0	50.0
Valid	72.00	1	10.0	10.0	60.0
	74.00	1	10.0	10.0	70.0
	75.00	1	10.0	10.0	80.0
	76.00	1	10.0	10.0	90.0
	78.00	1	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	10	100.0	100.0	

*Table 9. The valid and cumulative % of Ife Central.*

<b>IfeCentral</b>					
		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
	52.00	1	10.0	10.0	10.0
	58.00	1	10.0	10.0	20.0
	59.00	1	10.0	10.0	30.0
	62.00	1	10.0	10.0	40.0
	65.00	1	10.0	10.0	50.0
Valid	68.00	1	10.0	10.0	60.0
	73.00	1	10.0	10.0	70.0
	74.00	1	10.0	10.0	80.0
	76.00	1	10.0	10.0	90.0
	78.00	1	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	10	100.0	100.0	

*Table 10. The valid and cumulative % of Ife North.*

<b>IfeNorth</b>					
		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
	58.00	1	10.0	10.0	10.0
	62.00	1	10.0	10.0	20.0
	63.00	1	10.0	10.0	30.0
	64.00	1	10.0	10.0	40.0
	65.00	1	10.0	10.0	50.0
Valid	66.00	1	10.0	10.0	60.0
	69.00	1	10.0	10.0	70.0
	71.00	1	10.0	10.0	80.0
	74.00	1	10.0	10.0	90.0
	76.00	1	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	10	100.0	100.0	

Figures (5, 6, 7 and 8). The Pie Chart, of all the (4) four Local Government sampled.

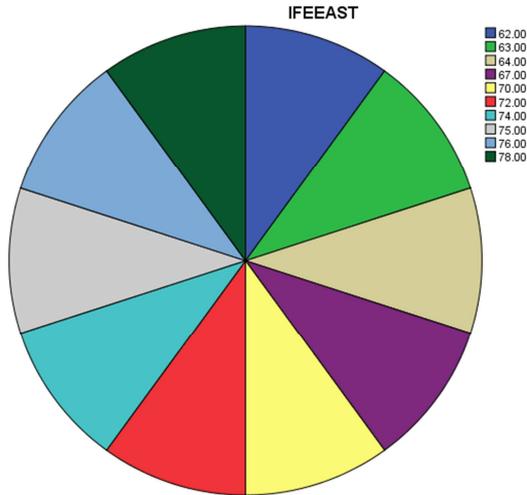


Figure 5. The Piechart of Ife East.

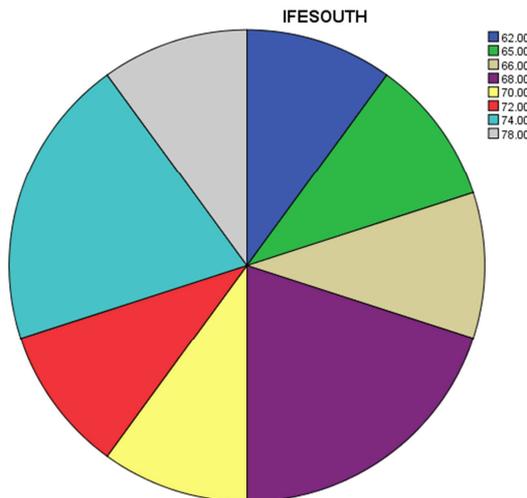


Figure 6. The Pie chart of Ife South.

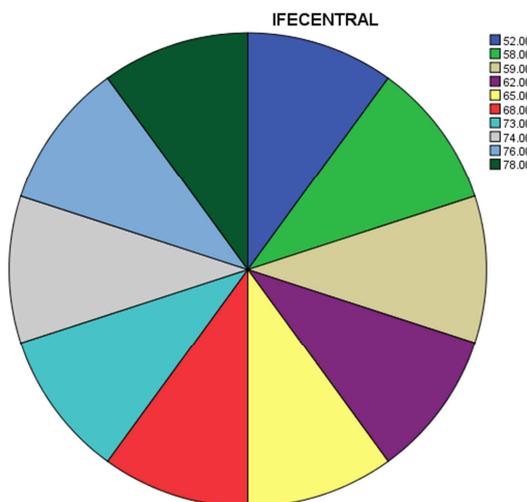


Figure 7. The Pie chart of Ife Central.

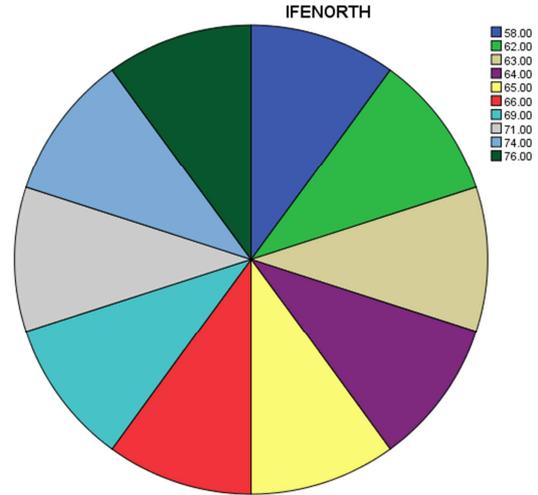


Figure 8. The Pie chart of Ife North.

### 5. Recommendations

1. For high Productivity and ultimate high investment, the Federal Government of Nigeria should encouraged cassava farmers to make research and seek expert opinion and advice for the latest productivity techniques to maximize profit.
2. Workshop at different intervals should be organized to farmers, so as to educate them in the uses of current farmer’s equipments, to increase their cassava output production and eradicate cassava spoilage.
3. Some of the rural areas roads in, Nigeria are bad. Government should provide good motor-able roads to farmers in plantation areas with high concentration of cassava farm.
4. Nigerian Government should encourage cassava plantation, by given funds/loans to prospective investors.
5. Federal government should support the farmers by given enough assistance in terms of cassava roots subsidy, so as to booth their production.
6. Government should organized Agricultural extension services to farmers by providing and bringing agricultural equipments closer to them, so as to reduce the cost of cassava harvest to the buyers.
7. Government should provide electricity in rural areas for Farmers to enable them to stay longer in their farm for maximum increase in their cassava harvest Production.
8. Government should erect large storage facilities at intervals for cassava farmers, to avoid losses and spoilage.

### 6. Conclusion

The following conclusions are made based on the findings of this study. Since, many industries in Nigeria

used cassava tubers as their major raw materials for: cassava flour factories, noodles production industries, alcohol and liquor production industries, garri factories, fufu producers, and also, roots of these commercial crops are mainly consumed because, these roots are the excellent source of minerals and vitamins such as manganese, calcium, phosphorus, potassium and iron, also, all these are responsible for the healthy development of our body, the results of this study provide the empirical evidence that, assessing the impact of cassava in Nigeria, had enhanced people's achievement in our society. The society, therefore should use, assessing the impact of cassava in Nigeria, to argument peoples' maximal output in their businesses, in order to attain minimum goal needed for everybody in the society.

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