

# **Tailored fertilizer recommendations for cassava**

First and foremost being a high value crop rich in carbohydrates, cassava production is being affected by the poor managerial and agronomic skills. Cassava requires nutrients to grow taking 10-15 months to be harvested and increasing of more nutrients to it, increases the yield. This is achievable by not using local varieties which are vulnerable to pests and diseases.

## **Agronomic practices**

For high production, use high yielding resistant cassava varieties which can be obtained from accredited suppliers and producers.

Prepare the land properly before planting. Cassava requires 3 important nutrients which include NPK for proper growth and high yielding. This is needed to growth of stems and bulking respectively.

To continue with, use fertilizers that have all required nutrients and for more information, consult from trusted agro dealers. Correct fertilizer application depends on fertility of soil, period of application and cost of fertilizer.

To continue with, low fertile soils need more fertilizer compared to fertile soils with more nutrients. Application also depend on value of produce and cost of fertilizer.

## **Application methods**

Make a cost benefit analysis before fertilizer use and delay harvesting to wait for prices to increase. Apply when soils are moist in the first 3-4 months at different intervals which include immediately after planting for DAP and 3-4 months after

NPK.

Not only the above, but also make a 5cm deep trench which is 15cm away from plant surrounding it, apply fertilizer and cover it with soil.

Finally divide fertilizer into equal amounts for equal distribution in the field.