

Cassava mosaic is more noticeable in plants that are not growing strongly. At the time of planting they may have strong growth and not be so noticeable. So a farmer who is serious about selecting cuttings should observe the crop throughout the season to identify the best source of clean cuttings. If the best cuttings are planted together in one area, the farmer can over the years get cleaner and cleaner cuttings.

CASSAVA MOSAIC VIRUS (CMV)

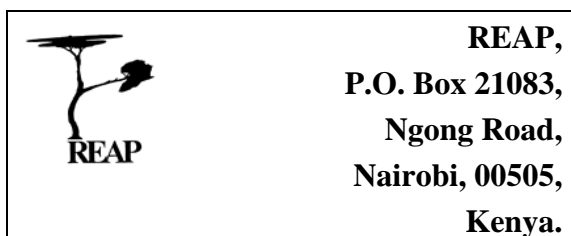
Cassava Mosaic Virus is a very widespread disease of cassava in Africa. It is a disease caused by a virus. In many areas all cassava plants suffer from it. However not all cassava plants are affected as much as others. Cassava leaves on healthier plants are dark green, have an even shape and are smoother. Those affected by CMV are different shapes and are often withered and small, and have patches that are lighter green or yellow. When cassava has CMV badly therefore it does not photosynthesise well so the yield of carbohydrate from the roots is greatly reduced



HEALTHY LEAF



DISEASED LEAF



It is possible to get cassava completely without CMV, but this needs careful control and for the cassava to be away from infected plants (The virus can be spread from a diseased plant to a healthy one by white flies, so virus free plots can easily be infected from those of neighbours). Small farmers do not expect to grow cassava that is completely virus free, but there are

simple things we can do to reduce the effect of the disease.

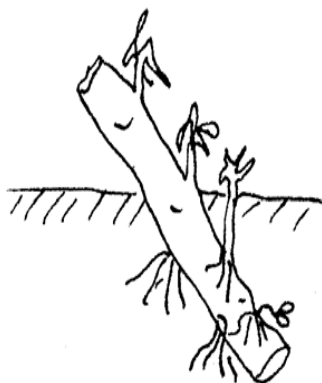
White Flies.

Bemisia tabaci.

These small white flies are often found on cassava. They are a vector that can help to spread CMV, but can also do damage on their own. They attack at the early stages when new shoots are 20-45 cm high. These small white insects can be shaken off the plants.

The white flies are particularly important as they can spread CMV from one plant to another and one farmer's field to another. If only one farmer practices good planting methods, infection can easily come from others. Teaching should therefore concentrate on communities so that all farmers in an area seek to reduce the disease in their cassava.

HOW TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF VIRUS IN CASSAVA CUTTINGS.

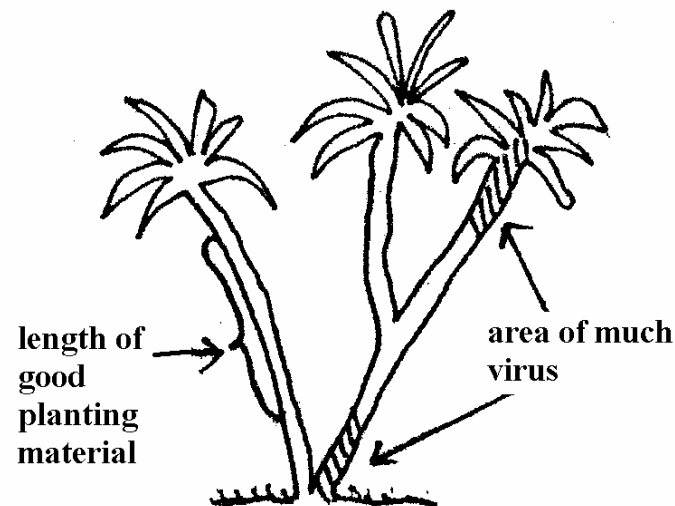


1. Chose cuttings from plants that have dark green smooth leaves, and not from those with curled yellow leaves.

2. Cut off the soft green part of the stem near the leaves, and the

bottom part of the stem as these may have more virus. These must be thrown away in the old field.

3. Plant lengths of stem cut from the middle part.



4. Chose the cuttings in the old cassava field and cut the good ones ready there so that you do not have to carry the bad parts to the new fields.

5. When the cuttings start to grow pull out those that have yellow, deformed leaves and replant with new cuttings. Plants with severe CMV will never give much yield if left and will spread the virus infection to others.