

Cassava growers face several challenges that can impact their productivity and profitability. Some of the key challenges include:

1. Pest and Disease Infestation:

- **Cassava mosaic disease (CMD)** and **cassava brown streak disease (CBSD)** are significant threats.
- Pests such as cassava mealybug and cassava green mite can cause considerable damage.

2. Climate Variability:

- Irregular rainfall patterns and drought can affect cassava growth and yield.
- Extreme weather events can lead to crop loss.

3. Poor Access to Quality Planting Materials:

- Limited availability of disease-resistant and high-yielding cassava varieties.
- High cost of quality planting materials can be prohibitive for small-scale farmers.

4. Inadequate Infrastructure:

- Poor rural road networks hinder the transportation of cassava from farms to markets.
- Limited access to storage facilities can lead to post-harvest losses.

5. Limited Access to Credit and Financing:

- Farmers often face difficulties in accessing credit facilities for purchasing inputs and expanding their operations.

6. Low Market Prices and Market Access:

- Price fluctuations and lack of stable markets can affect income.
- Limited market access and information can lead to exploitation by middlemen.

7. Labor Shortages:

- Labor-intensive nature of cassava farming can lead to labor shortages, especially during peak planting and harvesting seasons.

8. Lack of Extension Services:

- Insufficient access to agricultural extension services and technical advice on best farming practices.

9. Soil Fertility Issues:

- Depleted soil fertility and lack of access to fertilizers can reduce crop yields.

10. Processing and Value Addition:

- Limited access to modern processing technologies and facilities for value addition.

- Challenges in maintaining quality standards for processed products.

Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from government agencies, research institutions, private sector, and farmers' cooperatives to improve cassava production and sustainability.