

History

Cassava is a standard crop in many regions of Timor-Leste with more than 85% of households growing some cassava. It grows on a range of soils and slopes mainly as inter-cropped (or mixed cropped) with maize, pumpkins, sweet potato and vegetables. Cassava crops are generally cultivated with little or no fertiliser in the uplands and average yields are low.

Originating from International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and Kasetsart University, Thailand, the Ai-luka 1 variety (known in Thailand as KU50) was initially distributed to farmers by Cooperativa Cafe Timor (CCT) in 2007.



Ai-luka 1 (KU50) is the most important cassava cultivar in Thailand, and, most likely, the most important cultivar in the world. In 2006, this cultivar was planted covering 57 percent of cassava growing area in Thailand (about 633,700 ha). This cultivar also is grown extensively in Indonesia and Vietnam (under the name of KM 94).

Yield and Quality

Name	Ca109	Lokál
Production Results (t/ha)*	23.4	16.3
Yield advantage over local variety (%)*	43	-
Starch content (%)*	26.7	24.1
HCN content (PPM)	107	51

* Averaging from 20 replicated trials on 5 sites, 2008 - 2012



Do you want more information?
Contact your local MAF district office!

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CASSAVA VARIETY

Ai-luka 1



Ai-luka 1 is a cassava variety that is:

- High yielding, 23.4 t/ha
- Yielding 43% more than local varieties
- Bitter
- White-fleshed, large tubers

AI-LUKA 1 — INDUSTRIAL CASSAVA TIMOR-LESTE

Variety Information

Released variety	Ai-luka 1
Year of Release	2014
Trial name	Ca109 (KU50)
Botanical name	<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz
Breeder	CIAT and Kasetsart University, Thailand



Description

Name	Ca109
Plant type	Non branching
Height	Medium (190cm)
Stalk diameter	Medium
Internode length	Medium
Colour of mature stem	Silver-green
Colour of young stem	Green
Shape of lobe	Obovate/lanceolate
Number of lobes	7 lobes per leaf
Shoot colour	Red-brown
Vein colour on upper part	Green
Leaf shape	Deeply lobed
Leaf colour	Green
Colour of petiole	Red on upper surface near leaf
Tuber shape	Large
Colour of periderm	Light brown
Tuber colour	White-fleshed
Taste of cooked tuber	Bitter

Impact

Economic Benefits

Ai-luka 1 has the potential to have a significant positive impact on farming households. By planting Ai-luka 1, farmers may choose to sell the tubers as dried chips, or store the tubers as a flour as a reserve food store.

The release of Ai-luka 1 will contribute to the development of a cassava chip industry in Timor-Leste. Dried chips of Ai-luka 1 are currently being purchased for starch production. The release of Ai-luka 1 as a dual purpose variety will promote the dry chip industry, giving economic benefits to the farmers as well as providing downstream benefits.



Social Benefits

Cultivation of Ai-luka 1 will provide an alternative planting option for cassava growers in Timor-Leste. Its ability to store, and its existing market, allows direct benefits to flow to farming families.

Environmental Impacts

Ai-luka 1 is grown from cuttings, but can flower and produce viable seeds. It is not a genetically modified organism (GMO), or bred using recombinant DNA technology. Ai-luka 1 will increase the diversity of the current genetic pool in Timor-Leste.