

CASSAVA VALUE CHAIN RESEARCH TEAM CONTINUES TO COLLECT DATA IN KWAZULU NATAL



By: Keolebogile Digoamaje

Between 31st October and 3rd November 2022, the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) collected data from Cassava farmers based in uMhlabuyalingana and Jozini Local Municipality in Kwa-Zulu Natal Province. The team was assisted by agricultural extension officers from the KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

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This is the second phase of data collection after the first phase was conducted in uMhlathuze local municipality in August 2022. The purpose of the data collection is to gain a better understanding of the Cassava sub-sector value chain in South Africa.

Based on the farmer engagements, it was evident that most of them were passionate about the crop. There are farmers who sell cassava in order to make a living, while there are farmers who plant the crop to ensure

food security at the household level. Furthermore, farmers said the cassava crop offered economic hope for reducing unemployment levels in the region.

The majority of farmers said that they sold fresh cassava tubers for any price that the buyer could afford, indicating that farmgate prices for cassava tubers were not well established within the area. The above farmers' perceptions will be backed up by the study's findings once it is completed.



NAMC and ARC team collecting data from the farmers (Pictures by: Keolebogile Digoamaje)

