

## Developing-world universities miss out on cassava research funding

I would like to thank SciDev.Net for the coverage it frequently gives to cassava research (see [Global partnership to boost cassava research](#)). However, our concern is where funding for such research is channelled. Normally, investment is directed towards the International Centres created by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which are not short of money or provisions, rather than towards those programmes run by universities in developing countries.

To put some figures on this, the budget of the cassava programmes in CGIAR centres is not less than US\$2 or 3 million every year. Other programmes — very productive programmes by all criteria — such as that of the University of Brasilia, have funding of no more than a few hundred dollars a year (see several articles on the subject in my site [www.geneconserve.pro.br](http://www.geneconserve.pro.br)).

I hope that those policymakers who manage these investments pay attention to this matter. For example, I have to buy imported chemicals and molecular reagents for my research from my own pocket.

Not only this, but the only living collection of wild cassava from all over the world is suffering, and many of its accessions have died simply because of a lack of irrigation systems, fertilisers, and workers to take care of routine propagation.

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