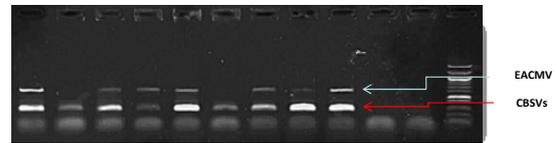


# ANNEX V

## INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

### Year 1 (13 May 2012 to 12 May 2013)



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## 1. Description

<b>1.1. Name of beneficiary of grant contract:</b>	Natural resources Institute, University of Greenwich at Medway
<b>1.2. Name and title of the Contact person:</b>	Professor Andrew Westby
<b>1.3. Name of partners in the Action:</b>	University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Food Research Institute, Ghana Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre, Tanzania Africa Innovations Institute, Uganda University of Malawi, Chancellor College, Malawi Naliendele Agricultural Research Institute, Tanzania
<b>1.4. Title of the Action:</b>	Improving the livelihoods of smallholder cassava farmers through better access to growth markets (CassavaGmarkets)
<b>1.5. Contract number:</b>	DCI-FOOD -2012/290-6
<b>1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period:</b>	13 May 2012 to 12 May 2013
<b>1.7. Target county (ies) or region(s):</b>	Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi.
<b>1.8. Final beneficiaries &amp;/or target groups! (if different) (including numbers of women and men):</b>	Final beneficiaries: Small-holder cassava farmers; Processors; Employees of Small and Medium Scale Cassava Processing Enterprises; implementers of cassava value chain development initiatives  Target Groups: Small-holder cassava farmers; Processors; Employees of Small and Medium Scale Cassava Processing Enterprises; Scientists in beneficiary countries, Institutions, Small and Medium Enterprises; Users of cassava flour and related products.
<b>1.9. Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7):</b>	India

## 2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

### 2.1. Executive summary of the Action

In this reporting period, activities have commenced for all workpackages. The project began in June 2012 and project funds were transferred to all project partners in Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi and Uganda soon after. A kick-off meeting for project partners, attended by 20 participants was held in July 2012 at UoG-NRI, Chatham, UK. At the meeting we established a Project Management Committee and agreed on activities for the first year. A further meeting was held on 30 January 2013.

In workpackage (WP) 1, the outputs are on track, but it's too early to make a full assessment of the results. Climate projections have been identified, together with an indication of agreement between models and SRES scenarios. There are likely to be gaps in the weather data for some project sites. However, it is not anticipated that this will prevent outputs being achieved. In WP2, despite the delay in recruiting the PhD student, project activities are being carried out as planned, since much the work until now has been focused on generating virus-free planting material which is being carried out at NRI. In WP3, the initial results are encouraging and will go a long way in informing processors of the most appropriate drying methods to use to improve the efficiency of household/village and SME level processing. This will help to ensure that cassava enterprises are profitable and sustainable. Areas that encourage functional application of the dryers will be identified and appropriate capacity building activities designed for fabricators, operators and entrepreneurs. Lessons learned in applying these approaches, including approaches to overcoming practical constraints under what are often very basic drying operations, will be documented and form the basis of best practice guidance. In WP4, work has begun to identify critical areas for quality control during processing. This will ensure that high quality and safe products are produced and that end users have confidence in what they will be buying which will eventually empower processors to bargain for better prices for their products. Areas that require improvement will be identified and appropriate capacity building activities designed to correct them, such as using principles of HACCP, Good Agricultural Practice and Good Manufacturing Practice which will be applied systematically along the cassava value chain in Ghana, Tanzania and Malawi as contrasting examples. In WP5, studies of the functional properties of HQCF are underway, and the nutritional qualities, consumer acceptability and safety of the products will be established to ensure that high quality and safe products are produced and that end users have confidence in what they will be buying which will eventually facilitate adoption and empower processors/SMEs to bargain for better prices for their products. A full understanding will come when all the laboratory assessments have been done. In WP6, the results are encouraging, but the process of reviewing the documents and literature to update previous value chain mapping activities has been slow, as there are numerous documents relevant to the review. Some examples of findings from the document review are presented below in terms of gendered outcomes from the C:AVA intervention. We plan to compare some of these findings with the findings in Uganda. In WP7, a review of value chain has been completed along with the development of the website and the dissemination strategy document which is of key importance for effective communication, both internal and external.