# Organic production of cassava

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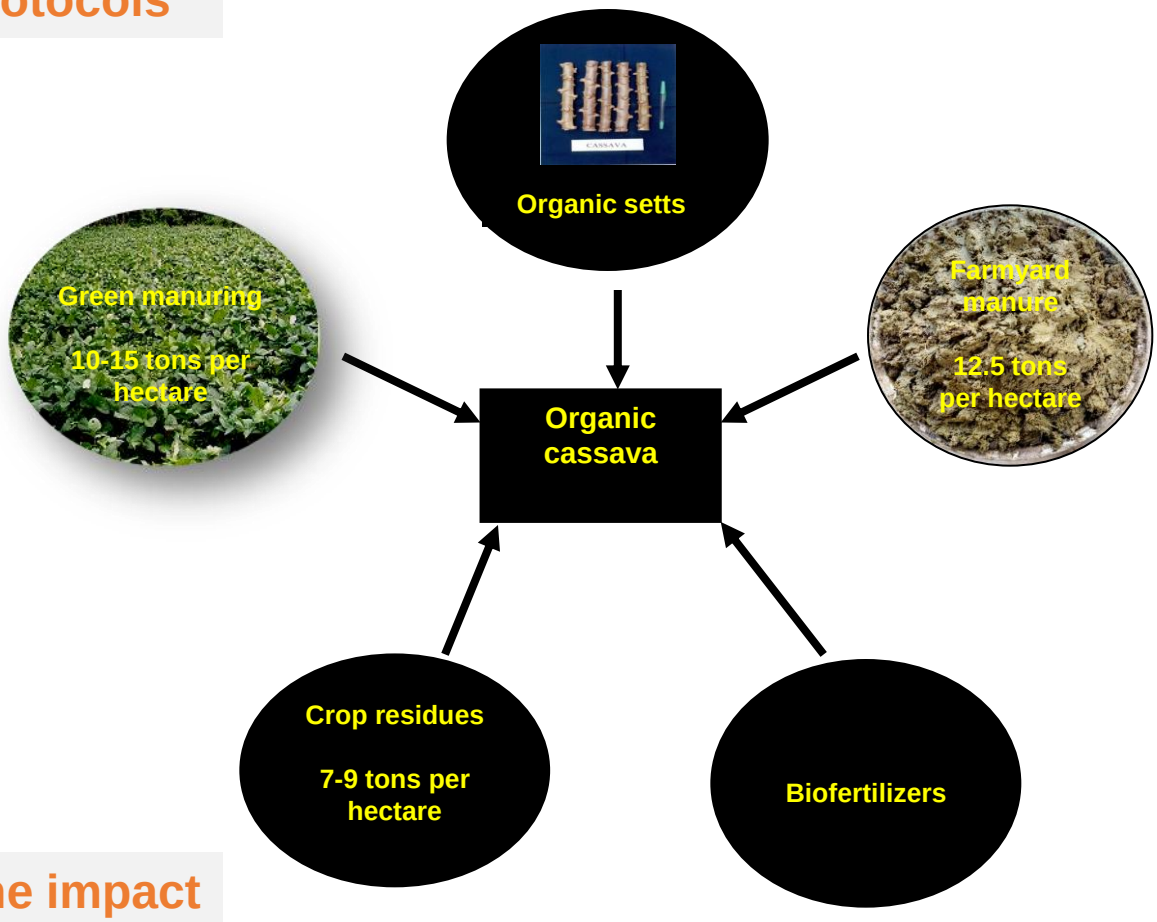
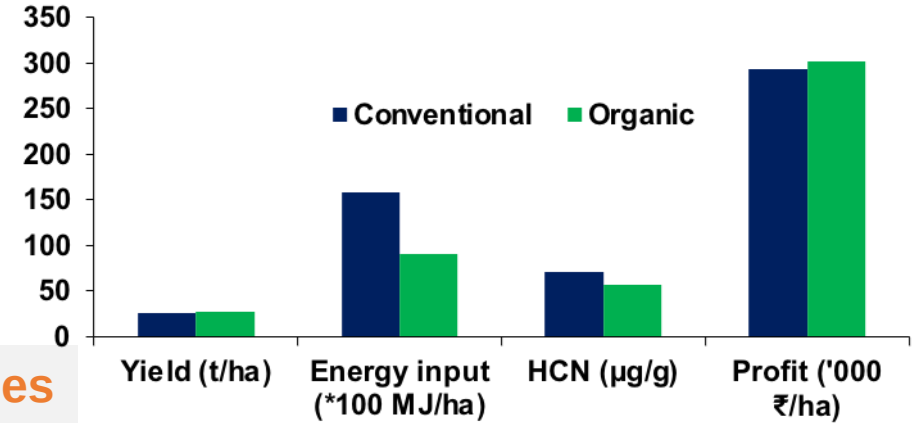
**CASSAVA,** an important tropical tuber crop with high biological efficiency, plays a significant role in the food and nutrition security in rural livelihoods. It serves as a raw material for starch, sago, alcohol and animal feed. The cassava starch has wide applications in textile, pharmaceutical, paper and food industries. A climate-ready crop, cassava is adapted to marginal environments, low input management, adverse soil and climatic conditions, particularly drought and acidic soil conditions and thus exhibits a great flexibility to thrive under different systems. There is a great demand for organically-produced foods due to the considerable concern regarding food safety and security, environmental protection, biodiversity and human well-being. The protocols for organic production of cassava are briefed in this leaflet.

Incorporate fresh cassava crop residue at the rate of 7-9 tons per hectare (generates dry biomass at the rate of 2-3 tons per hectare ) at the time of harvest of the previous season crop. Plant cassava mosaic disease resistant (CMD) varieties viz., Sree Reksha, Sree Sakthi and Sree Suvarna. Use of pest- and disease-free healthy planting materials of cassava variety Sree Pavithra is also recommended. Plant setts of 15-20 cm length from organically produced stems of cassava. Apply farmyard manure at the rate of 12.5 tons per hectare (1 kilogram per plant) at the time of planting. Apply biofertilizers, *Azospirillum,* phosphobacteria and K solubilizer at the rate of 3 kilograms per hectare at the time of planting. Inter-sow green manure cowpea at the rate of 20 kilograms per hectare between the plants and incorporate green matter at 45-60 days. The green matter addition from the green manure will be 10-15 tons per hectare.


## Protocols




## The impact




## Advantages

- Sustainable yield (26.19 tons per hectare)
- Safe and quality tubers (+ 2.72% dry matter, + 8.60% starch, + 7.72% crude protein, -19.60% HCN, + P, +K, +Ca, +Mg, +Fe, +Mn and +Zn over conventional)
- Higher soil quality index (0.94)
- Higher energy use efficiency (+ 72.61% over conventional)
- Better net income (Rupees 286,664 per hectare)

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