

Planting time of cassava trials in NW Cambodia (ACIAR Project ASEM/2013/003)

Phan Sophanara¹, Stephanie Montgomery², and Eric Wilson²

¹Provincial Department of Agriculture, Wat Village, Pailin Commune, Pailin City/Province, Kingdom of Cambodia

²Northern Ag Focus Pty Ltd, #169 Group 8, Prek Taton Village, Prek Preah Sdach Commune, Battambang City/Province, Kingdom of Cambodia

Planting time for cassava varies considerably between East and Northwest Cambodia, with the majority of farmers in Southeast Cambodia planting cassava in May-June which is later than the Northwest where planting is usually in March-April. The research was conducted for two years in Battambang (Samlout district) and Pailin provinces which have the largest cassava production area in the country. The research objective of this study was to determine if there are viable alternative months for planting in the Northwest, and also to compare no tillage versus conventional planting on hills. Over two years of research trial in both sites, with three planting times (April, May, and June) combined with land preparation of plough and hill up (farmer practice), was compared with no till planting. At Samlout in 2017-18, both hill and no till practices planted in June, and hill practice planted in May produced higher yields (35-38 t/ha) than either practice in April (18-24 t/ha). At the same site in 2018-19, results showed that both conventional hill and no till planting in May/June produced significantly higher yield (28-34 t/ha) than planting in April (14-23 t/ha). The site at Pailin in 2017-18, resulted in no significant difference in yields between any of the treatments. In 2018-19 at Pailin, both hill and no till planting in April/May yielded significantly yield (22-27 t/ha) than planting in June (7-9 t/ha). At Samlout site in 2017-18, hill up and no till planting in May/June provided the higher gross margin returns than planting in April. In 2018-19, all treatments resulted in negative returns due to low yield, poor quality planting material and the high cost of weed control. At Pailin site in 2017-18, hill up and no till planting in May/June provided the higher gross margin returns than planting in April. In 2018-19, all treatments resulted in negative returns due to low yield, and the high cost of weed control. To improve cassava yield and sustain its production, appropriate management of soil nutrients, implementation of alternative months for planting, good planting materials and weed control measures should be applied.