

Cassava Diversity Among the Amuesha

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Cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) is a dietary staple and major carbohydrate source for millions of people in the tropical world. In 1999 we collected cassava varieties from the same Amuesha households that Salick et al. (1997) collected from in 1986. Morphological features for the collections were compared with t-tests and ordination and the results indicate significant difference. The varieties of cassava have changed but are equally diverse and most of the diversity is managed by elders and an ancient shaman. Crop diversity is a foundation of sustainable agriculture and understanding its generation, maintenance, and change is indispensable for continued agricultural stability and resilience.