

# Scientists root for more cassava research to help meet greater demand for food

October 25 2016

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Global food demand is expected to grow by 110 per cent over the next 30 to 35 years, and for many of the poorest people on the planet, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, cassava is the most important source of calories. Cassava is also important as a crop that is resistant to climate change, but it has not received the same amount of attention as other staple food crops.

A new review brings together research on the potential for improving cassava yields, such as by boosting the efficiency with which the plant captures sunlight and converts it into sugars.

"Here we have summarized and integrated [scientific knowledge](#) of the crop as a basis for understanding how sustainable yield improvement might be achieved and to identify critical gaps in knowledge," said Dr. Steve Long, senior author of the *New Phytologist* article.

**More information:** Amanda P. De Souza et al, Rooting for cassava: insights into photosynthesis and associated physiology as a route to improve yield potential, *New Phytologist* (2016). [DOI: 10.1111/nph.14250](#)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Scientists root for more cassava research to help meet greater demand for food (2016,

October 25) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-10-scientists-root-cassava-greater-demand.html>

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