

## **Discovering Characteristics and Photosynthesis Rates of African Cassava Cultivars**

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### **Abstract**

An estimated 795 million people around the world are food insecure. The majority of these people are in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and South America where cassava is a major food crop. Cassava, grown mainly by poor family farmers, can be grown in poor soils, is drought tolerant, and has a high yield potential. There is a direct correlation between increased photosynthetic rate and an increase in yield. Our goal is to determine the photosynthetic rate of African cassava cultivars for further improvement. If successful, we hope to increase cassava yield to decrease global food insecurity.