Cassava Value Chain Investment Opportunity

Formalising regional trade and scaling production, high-quality cassava flour, starch, collection and logistics.



Government priority | FAO pre-screened | Regional export

INVESTMENT PROPOSITION

A compact investment case with strong value-addition potential. The platform links production clusters to processing for garri, high-quality cassava flour and starch, supported by collection networks, transport packages and dedicated finance. It converts active informal regional trade into traceable, higher-value channels.

US$41.5m	US$22.1m	23.1%	9,700
INDICATIVE INVESTMENT	NET PRESENT VALUE	INDICATIVE IRR	DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

INVESTMENT PACKAGE

Cassava production clusters	Private	US$24.0m
HQCF and starch processing	Private	US$6.2m
Collection and logistics network	PPP	US$5.7m
Finance and capacity building	PPP	US$5.6m

MARKET AND BANKABILITY

- Cassava is Sierra Leone's second staple. The 2026 case estimates production at about 2.6 million tonnes across 155,706 hectares.
- Average yields are about 15 tonnes per hectare against potential of around 60 tonnes per hectare, leaving substantial productivity upside.
- Formal garri exports increased from about 1.6 tonnes in 2021 to 42 tonnes in 2025. Informal cross-border trade is estimated at about 600 tonnes a week.
- The investment targets 15 production clusters over 25,000 hectares, six processing units and 15 collection and aggregation networks.

INVESTMENT ASK

Seeking commercial growers, processors, logistics operators, regional offtakers, lenders and PPP partners to formalise trade and scale higher-value cassava products.

Target: establish formal regional export channels for garri and launch scalable high-quality cassava flour and industrial starch supply.

Sources: FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative 2026, FAO Sierra Leone agrifood systems work. Indicative portfolio case. Processing economics depend on reliable fresh-root supply, plant utilisation, logistics and contracted market demand.