



## Cassava delivers prosperity and confidence in Aten Commercial Village

There was a time not too long ago when life seemed uncertain for Rose Ekisa, 33. The young widow and mother of two was staring destitution in face as she struggled to make ends meet. Although she farmed her late husband's land, there was little to show for all the hard work she put in. But lately, lady fortune has been smiling on her, thanks to her membership in Aten Commercial Village located in Teso South District, Busia County where she encountered the field

staff from Farm Concern International (FCI) who are actively promoting the MH 95/0183 improved cassava variety.

"I have never seen anything like it before," she testifies. "It takes just eight months to mature and fetches a very good price, compared to the traditional variety that I used to grow." She is thankful for the market linkages facilitated by FCI enabling her to receive a premium price for her labours.

Pointing to three goats tethered next to her neat

kitchen, Rose says, "I sold cassava chips worth Ksh 10,000 and I went and bought a goat. The other two are its first offspring and it is pregnant again." She has set a goal to buy a cow and increase her livestock and build a permanent

house.

Other than buying herself a new set of clothes, she has also invested her earnings to increase her cassava acreage from  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre to 1 acre on leased land because she expects to make even more money in the new season.



The Cassava Village Processing Programme (CVPP) is supported by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and implemented by Farm Concern International (FCI) in Eastern Africa. The programme is designed to turnaround the cassava socio-economic landscape based on Cassava Commercialization through Village Value Addition for Food Security and Graduation into Industrial Use. The programme has 54,075 smallholder farmers participating from 214 Commercial Villages in Eastern Africa.