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# BITTER CASSAVA FOR A SWEET MILK

(COLOMBIA)

## OVERVIEW

Bitter Cassava for a Sweet Milk strengthens licit economies by improving the competitiveness of small and medium-sized farms in conflict-affected regions in Antioquia, Cesar, Bolivar, Córdoba and Sucre. Bitter Cassava is implemented through a public-private partnership between USAID, Colanta, the Colanta Savings and Loan Cooperative, Clayuca Corporation, the Nudo de Paramillo, and the Northern Catholic University Foundation. Together these organizations are contributing USD \$48.1 million, USD \$5.9 million of which was contributed by USAID directly and USD \$42.2 million of which was contributed by the private sector. This activity runs from February 2019 - May 2025.

## GOALS

### PLANT CASSAVA CROPS

Bitter Cassava for a Sweet Milk encourages the planting of cassava crops, as known as yuca, as a new licit activity for small-scale farmers in conflict-affected areas. The activity also increases the likelihood of cassava crop success by helping farmers improve their seed quality, infrastructure, and equipment repositories. Cassava produced is used as nutritious feed for dairy cattle.

### REDUCE PRODUCTION COSTS AND IMPROVING STANDARDS

Bitter Cassava for a Sweet Milk reduces milk production costs and improves milk quality through trainings and technical assistance to small and medium-sized dairy producers. It also supports best farm management practices, including a young farmers program, to increase the volume and quality of the milk produced.

## ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- Help farmers produce over 9,000 tons of dry cassava;
- Improve land management practices on over 2,200 hectares of farmland;
- Strengthen the capacities of 3,600 cassava farmers and 23,680 milk farmers;
- Provide technical assistance to 2,400 cassava farmers and 35,520 milk farmers;
- Engage 7,000 rural milk farmers and 500 rural cassava farmers through activity interventions; and
- Provide 1,000 units of productive infrastructure, like cooling tanks, silos, and milking equipment, to farmers to improve their milk and cassava production.

