Recognize the problem
Eight out of ten households cultivate cassava. It is a very important food crop in Africa and, unfortunately, it is affected by many diseases and pests. Vascular bacterial blight considerably reduces the yield, as well as the quality of the leaves. In the field, we see yellow to brown, dried, squarish spots, generally delineated by the veins. Between the leaf and the stem, there is usually a white gummy and sticky liquid that signifies the presence of bacteria. The tip of the plant rots away and the whole plant dies after the leaves fall.

Do not confuse this disease with bacterial necrosis, which has round spots, does not cause the leaves to fall off prematurely, and does not produce white liquid between leaves and stems.

Background
This disease is caused by a bacteria that lives inside the plant, but cannot cross the vein boundaries. This disease is more active in the rainy season. It is possible to stop this disease from entering the field or spreading, by using resistant or tolerant varieties. These varieties will have the capacity to block the bacteria from entering, or even kill the disease if it enters the plant

Management
Before planting seeds, seedlings or cuttings, make sure they are of one of the following varieties:

- Tshilogo
- Kamanamabanza
- Lueni
- Lac Lomba

You should be able to get these seeds from your local certified seed dealer, or an approved nursery with:

SENASEM, INERA, IITA or SEPROSEM

Monitor the field once a week to check for disease. If there is an attack, contact your local agronomist, and go see the nursery to check that the seeds are the right ones for you to use.

Scientific name(s) > Xanthomonas campestris pv. manihotis

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Democratic Republic of the Congo

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