According to the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM, 2008) organic agriculture is "a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved."

Many diseases in cassava are stem-borne and can be controlled by proper selection of planting material.

**Planting**
- Plant at the beginning of the rainy season.
- Plant cuttings upright in sandy soil, angled in loamy soil and flat in dry climates.
Enhancement of soil fertility to improve yields

- Cassava can be grown in poor soils, but has better yields in soils with improved fertility.
- Good nutrient availability in early growth stages particularly increases yields.
- The Brazilian ‘Parcagem’ approach recommends leaving a high number of cattle during 60 consecutive nights on the field before planting cassava.
- At harvest leave cassava residues in the fields.

Increasing plant persistence against pests, diseases and weeds

- Planting hedges encourages natural enemies of pests.
- Crop rotation, timely planting and use of healthy cuttings prevent diseases.
- Enhance rapid initial development of cassava plants during the first 3 to 4 months escape weed competition.
- Cleaning seedbeds, mulching and complex intercropping help to reduce weed pressure.

Harvest and proper storage

- Harvest cassava when it reaches maturity.
- Freshly harvested cassava is highly perishable. Bruising and dehydration cause quality losses. Tubers damaged during harvest are prone to fungal attacks.
- Storing mature roots in the soil is possible, but makes them woody and exposes them to pest attacks.
- Under proper storage conditions roots can be kept several months.