



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	American Journal of Experimental Agriculture
Manuscript Number:	2013_AJEA_7556
Title of the Manuscript:	Genetic Diversity of Cassava Mutants, Hybrids and Landraces Using Simple Sequence Repeat Markers
Type of the Article	

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments		
Minor REVISION comments	- The authors must check the keywords. Try to avoid the same words as in the title (e.g. cassava) - Please check the grammatical aspects of the manuscript. Some mistakes, although small, must be corrected. Introduction Line 18 – “It has...”??? Line 19 and 20- Use a more recent reference. Values may have significantly changes since 2006. Line 25 – “Agro ecologies...” “Agro ecosystems”???? Line 29- “use cultivars as part of...” Methods The authors stated that the genotypes came from KARI. However, a few more information about where the experiment was carried out (Institute/University, lab) would be included in the text. Results The UPGMA clustering shows a good distinction of different cassava groups. However, the PCoA shows genotypes from the groups I and V (KMA1 and WP and KME1) in the same coordinate. Isn't it contradictory? Discussion Maybe the discussion could be a bit more detailed. Not all	-Germplasm—Thanks we have corrected this and we have changed. - - The crop has significant source -In 2012, FAO estimates the world annual production of cassava starchy roots at 280 million tons -“Agro ecologies...” and “Agro ecosystems” are somehow related but agroecology narrows down to the study of the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment within agricultural systems Several agro ecosystems makes up an agro ecologies -line 29 cassava Methodology - DNA extraction was carried in University of Eldoret, Department of Biotechnology laboratory. -Results UPGMA and PCoA should not always be



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	data presented in the results are sufficiently approached in this section. For example, data from the PCoA is not explored in the discussion. What is the relevance of having presented these results? How do they complement/disagree data from other figures ?	the same because under NTSYS (UPGMA) there are different coefficients which bring differences and usually not the same because it can take different errors to plot out the differences. -It is not contradictory but it shows that these genotypes are still grouped separately, if related morphologically could be in terms of a certain trait which cannot be highlighted genotypically. Line 164 -The UPGMA and the PCoA clustering analysis have the same clustering for genotypes 990072, KMA4 and CHEPS, KMA3 and KMA5 while KMA1, WP and KME1, KMA2 and MH95/0183 were found clustering together in the PCoA and not in the UPGMA clustering. Discussion Line 190 -The clustering of the some varieties in the dendrogram and PCoA analysis were the same hence complements each other. Line 193 -and PCoA analysis
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	The manuscript unravels genetic diversity in some cassava genotypes, which is an important step in defining strategies for crop breeding programmes. In general, the language used and the information presented are straightforward, which is a positive aspect in the manuscript. The methodology was carefully described and the results are important, especially if used for subsequent steps of breeding and selection process in cassava. Some minor comments are detailed above.	Thank you for the comments we have tried answering them and hope we have answered the way you have asked. Thank you for the comments,