



Amarelinha do Amapá: a carotenoid-rich cassava cultivar

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ABSTRACT. Eight cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) cultivars, of which four are indigenous to the Amazon region, along with an interspecific hybrid, were assessed for their carotenoid content. They were propagated and are maintained in the living *Manihot* collection at the University of Brasília. The cultivar “Amarelinha do Amapá”, which was collected from the State of Amapá, was found to have a very high content of β -carotene: 27 mg per 100 g, which is more than 50-fold higher than in other cassava cultivars. This cultivar, which also has excellent palatability, could be an important source of β -carotene for cassava breeding.

Key words: β -carotene; Domestication; Genetic diversity; Indigenous cultivars; Palatability; Vitamin A