V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

A. Conclusion

In the processing of the tuber to produce Aci, the attributes and factors in determining its importance and processing factors include procurement of raw material and marketing Aci in local food industries to be used for quality assurance development. The importance of attributes regarding the tuber can be determined by QFD including HOQ while SWOT can be applied to develop the strategy of SSTA.

FGD ensure the importance of quality assurance and the identification of factors related to the quality assurance is concluded by the requirement of raw material quality and the technical importance in processing steps of producing Aci.

1. Attribute of cassava quality required

To produce better quality of Aci, the attributes are identified in the following priority order. It means that the freshness of cassava after harvest is the most important concerned subject. The second important attribute is discoloration of Aci. This is related to the time when cassava is harvested, and longer time after harvest makes more deterioration of cassava quality. The following is an importance of attribute which are in order 1) freshness, 2) discoloration, 3) contaminant, 4) variety of cassava, and 5) size of tuber.

In the target rating of attribute importance, discoloration and contaminant should be treated appropriate in the processing, and also variety of cassava and size of tuber are still needed to address the current varieties to be improved while freshness is satisfied in the requirement.

2. Technical importance

In the identification of tuber processing steps, the top three factors of importance are 1) marketing, 2) sun drying, and 3) cassava procurement, followed by pulverizing and packing, washing and smashing, sieving and sedimentation, and waste handling.

3. Strategy Development
SSTA needs some support or program by local government and institutions to recognize the current situation and also importance of quality assurance, and wants to play their some roles toward better production quality of Aci. From SWOT analysis, several specific strategies are presented as follows.

1) Quality standard is to be established for Aci production or standard operation procedure (SOP) is also helpful for consistent quality of Aci.
2) While processing skill is needed to improve for getting much better quality of Aci.
3) SSTA shall be developed more in term of production capacity.
4) Access to market is critically important and marketing should be deployed more in local food industries.
5) Partnership and linkage or some cluster should be established for both cassava and Aci producers.
6) Institution shall extend R&D support for better production of Aci.
7) Local government shall provide supporting policy and programs.
8) Master plan should be formulated for future deployment of SSTA.

B. Recommendation

1. Regarding quality standard of Aci, it is highly recommendable to establish some standard of quality because it motivates Aci producer to produce better quality Aci.

2. Problem of less whiteness and moldy smell caused by mold (or fungus) is difficult to find the solution. But, it would be better to implement research on 1) generation mechanism of happening less whiteness and moldy smell in Aci processing, and 2) method and treatment to remove moldy smell and to increase brightness of Aci affected by mold. At stage sedimentation to produce a wet Aci, some treatment is one of solutions to keep a good Aci from getting moldy.

3. Regarding R&D by institution, it is recommended to initiate from very simple problem or issue. For example, a new sieving device (“Gobegan” or “Ayakan”) has been using in this process. It was found that some of Aci producer wanted to induce such “Ayakan” to improve the quality of Aci and
efficiency of processing. Thus, sieving device and smashing device are seemed to be a good research subject.

4. There is a need for market access and information even though SSTA is still remained in a closed type of Aci market. To improve this situation, a massive information dissemination system is seemed to be very effective led by the local government and/or the local leaders.

5. The government support is very effective and important for SSTA. But, prior to provide support or program, it is recommended to study in details and prepare a baseline and/or some kind of master plan focusing SSTA including cassava producer in long range.