


# Latin Comfort Foods: Yuca and the Cooking of Brazil

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**Brazil: manioc,  
beans, jerked  
beef**





**BRASIL - Político**

# Family Agricultural Production in Brazil

(in descending order)

1. Manioc
2. Beans
3. Corn
4. Wheat
5. Rice



# MANIOC

MANIOC - CASSAVA - YUCA - TAPIOCA

**more than 1,200 varieties**

# Columbus' Second Voyage to the Americas 1493

"When sea biscuits became too spoiled, a flour made of cassava roots of the manioc or yuca plant, leached out of their poison (hydrocyanic acid – the Indians dipped their arrow tips into this poison), was used to make into thin pancakes."

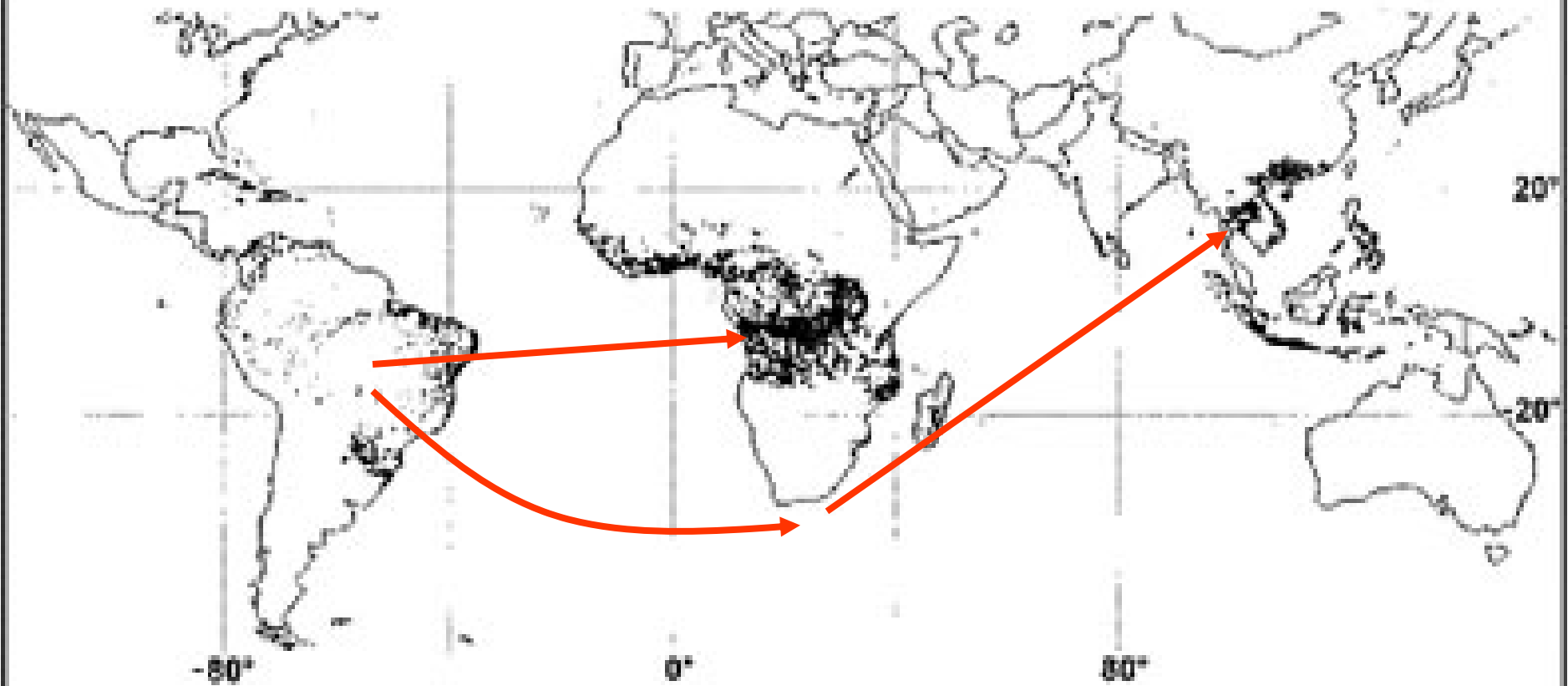
# **“The Roots” of Manioc**

Manioc was native only in **America, probably originating in the southwest of the Amazon, Brazil.**

After Brazil’s discovery, the portuguese colonizers took the roots to their other colonies in **Africa** and **Asia**.



Native Brazilian girls  
making "beiju",  
the manioc bread



**Distribution of Manioc to Portuguese Colonies**

Miller Projection



April 1994

**Nigeria** is the world's largest  
producer of **manioc roots**  
(34 million tons)

**Thailand** is the largest producer of **manioc starch**  
(3 million tons)

**Brazil** is the second largest producer of  
**manioc roots** (25 million tons)  
and **manioc starch** (620 thousand tons)