

Systemic approach to overcoming constraints of production and marketing of indigenous vegetables in Western Kenya

Consortium members

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MAIN INNOVATION/ OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

To develop sustainable agribusinesses, enhance household food and nutrition through through production and marketing of indigenous vegetables at the local, national and international levels



Indigenous vegetables targeted by the Project

Expected impact

- 1000 households incorporate indigenous vegetables (IV) in their production plans
- Incomes from IV increase by 100% for adopters of seed and ISFM technologies targeting markets of IVs
- Reduction in postharvest vegetable losses to less than 10%
- Increase access to fertilizers by households for IV production
- Development of IV production systems as agribusinesses at household levels
- Development of economically viable and sustainable farmer associations
- Improved household welfare and gender equity

IMPACT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Developing germplasm for improved production and marketing of indigenous vegetables

Date	Activity	Comments
September 2014	Development of seed multiplication sites. Farmers were involved in seed selection	Crops were established ,students collected data and carried out general farm management.
	Application, vetting for as seed merchant	Field visits and evaluation suitability as a seed merchant.
October 2014	Inspection by KEPHIS of multiplication plots	Inspection recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Internal Seed Quality Assurance system. • Have written agreements with Project groups (AIC Cheptebo) • Farmer training on chili production.
October 2014	Authority as seed merchant approved	Approved
Jan 2014 – July 2015	Chili crop evaluation and bulking	Crop establishment was poor and seed production was low.

Developing organic-based Intergrated soil fertility management technologies for improved production and enhance product standardization for improved market access

Indigenous vegetable	Composition of important micro nutrients in IV					
	Mn	Fe	Cu	Al	Zn	Na
Gynandropis gynandra (Spider plant; Saga)	9.06± 0.21	10.94± 1.27	1.06± 0.04	6.02± 0.54	5.89± 0.09	290.12± 17.8
Solanum nigrum (Black nightshade; Managu)	9.59± 0.02	30.14± 1.28	0.97± 0.01	24.82± 0.85	3.51± 0.04	119.18± 1.51
Amaranthus retroflexus	8.10± 0.05	43.28± 1.28	1.26± 0.18	16.5± 0.93	4.14± 0.03	110.64± 0.90

A high correlation (0.81; p<0.1) between the amount of nutrients in the basal fertilizer and the elements in the vegetables. Results indicate the potential of targeting the vegetables to different market segments and using the micro nutrient composition to develop the 'core' product.

Information flow and sharing on improved IV production and marketing in the IV subsector

Various channels were used to disseminate project information



Community initial sensitization about the project in Bungoma, Kenya

Project inception meeting

Developing efficient markets for indigenous vegetables

Followed three steps where prototype products were developed and promoted in local supermarkets



a) Dried IV in sachets b) direct sales of IV c) promotion of IV in supermarkets

Challenges – Drought in early 2015 slowed project progress

Result – A slight focus on Chilli production and marketing

Opportunity – Investing in water use efficient and irrigation technologies



Involving institutions in information flow Farmers participate in field day

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