

FOOD & BUSINESS APPLIED RESEARCH FUND

IMPROVING AND PROMOTING THE USE OF MORINGA LEAVES FOR A BETTER MATERNAL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD NUTRITION– BENIN

Consortium Members

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Project description

The main objective of this project is to valorize moringa leaves for a better nutrition of vulnerable groups in Benin. Specifically we aim to: (i) improve the production of moringa leaves; (ii) improve the MLP processing value chain; (iii) formulate novel MLP-based complementary food for young children; (iv) conduct efficacy study of MLP-based food; (v) certify the quality of the MLP-based products; (vi) promote the use of the MLP-based products. The main expected outcome is the improvement of the uses of MLP as a valuable local food resource for reducing maternal and child malnutrition, and as income source for enhancing food security.

Impact activities and preliminary results

- Traditional moringa production systems documented
- Current MLP processing practices documented with 15 processors
- Nutritional and sanitary profile of 36 samples of MLP samples
- One launching workshops with participants from private and public sectors
- Two internal meetings with project members on activities, results, and challenges sharing
- Four BSc students trained in plant production and four MSc students trained in food technology and nutrition communication
- Ongoing trials on (i) optimal conditions for seed storage for high seed viability and nutritional and taste properties conservation (ii) developing best agronomic practices for moringa introduction into urban and urban agricultural systems
- Ongoing study on optimal drying conditions
- Ongoing study on appropriate behavior change and communication model for nutrition education focused on moringa leaves uses

Opportunities and challenges

Opportunities

- updated database on moringa producers previously established by THP-Benin NGO
- Success of THP-Benin NGO in promotion of moringa leaves processing and consumption

Challenges

- Non-availability / Poor quality of moringa seeds



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