

FOOD & BUSINESS APPLIED RESEARCH FUND

ENHANCING KERSTING'S GROUNDNUT (*Macrotyloma geocarpum*) PRODUCTION AND MARKETABILITY TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY IN BENIN (Project DOYIWE)-BENIN

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Project description

Kersting's groundnut (KG) is a well appreciated food crop in Benin. However, its cultivation is challenged by the lack of quality seeds and poor agronomic practices leading to low yield, and poor quality products. The overall objective of this project is to improve the production and the availability of kersting's groundnut grains in rural and urban markets in Benin. The project is being implemented using participatory approach including farmers, traders and consumers in knowledge creation and application. Through germplasm collection and participatory evaluation, consumers' preferences analysis, the consortium will deliver improved KG cultivars and design marketing strategies to increase production and market value of KG. In addition, three MSc. students are being trained within the project. The project activities and results are being disseminated through workshops, publications, technical manuals, and leaflets.

Impact activities and preliminary results

- Inception workshop;
- Information leaflets on the project activities
- Collection of germplasm from Benin and other West African countries;
- Setting up qualitative method to understand farmers and consumers preferences for KG;
- Developing a framework of market creation for KG;
- Designing packaging for KG grains;
- Data collection on current production and seed systems

Opportunities and challenges

Opportunities

- High demand of kersting's groundnut products on the local markets
- Acceptability of pre-treated, packaged and demand of canned KG grain by consumers is creating niche markets with added value

Challenges

- Genetic bottleneck owed to the extreme self-pollinated nature of the species may limit genetic gain in terms of yield and other traits;
- Develop technologies to alleviate tediousness of harvest and post-harvest operations which currently limits the production of the crop;
- Develop a functional seed system in a prevailing context of self-saved seed

Contribution of each consortium member

