



Prosperity for the Poor,
Health for All

Research

AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center conducts research on traditional vegetable crops strategically important in the major regions of Africa, and on global vegetables that are part of the Center’s mandate, such as tomato, pepper, eggplant, onion, shallot, garlic, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, vegetable soybean, and mungbean.

The Center’s research in Africa aims to enhance the genetic potential of the mandate crops, and to develop technology packages to maximize vegetable production and use. We develop resistant varieties and strengthen vegetable seed systems in sub-Saharan Africa. Since 2011 more than 30 new vegetable varieties suited to African conditions have been developed and released.

Protecting the environment and land use in areas where vegetables are grown and improving the incomes of the people who grow them are key aspects of our research work.

Training

AVRDC regularly conducts training courses on vegetable production systems for the benefit of researchers and extension specialists working with NARES, NGOs, progressive farmers and the private sector in sub-Saharan Africa. The courses cover need-based topics mutually identified by African NARES and sponsors.

Opportunities are available for research internships, postgraduate thesis research, and postdoctoral placements in agronomy, production, breeding, crop protection, and other fields. The aim is to enhance the capacity of staff working with NARES, NGOs, and the private sector in Africa to carry out vegetable research and development programs.

Our mission

To alleviate poverty and malnutrition in the developing world through the increased production and consumption of nutritious, health-promoting vegetables.

Our strategy in Africa

The vegetable sector in sub-Saharan Africa is underdeveloped and vegetable consumption is extremely low. In the region’s diverse agroclimatic zones there is enormous potential to produce numerous vegetable crops for domestic and international markets. AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center focuses on developing appropriate vegetable varieties and vegetable seed production systems through its two regional bases in Africa—**AVRDC Eastern and Southern Africa** in Tanzania and **AVRDC West and Central Africa** in Mali, and an office in Cameroon. We also:

- **train** national agricultural research and extension systems (NARES) staff, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), the private seed sector, progressive farmers and community leaders
- **promote** traditional and global vegetables
- strive to **improve** small-scale seed production and supply systems

Technology dissemination

In close collaboration with NARES, NGOs and the private sector, AVRDC– The World Vegetable Center promotes vegetable research and development and seeks out solutions to the problems of vegetable production and use in sub-Saharan Africa. Technology dissemination plays an important role, as do initiatives to build capacity, such as training courses or field days.



Some highlights

Strengthening the African vegetable seed sector

Smallholder farmers need access to high quality supplies of traditional and global vegetable seeds at affordable prices, and the local seed sector is their main source of supply. The Center has established hubs in Tanzania, Mali and Cameroon to train, supply, and strengthen the local seed sectors in neighboring countries. Through training, small African seed companies are gaining the expertise needed to provide a sustainable supply of seed to farmers across the continent.

Developing technologies for West African vegetable production

The Sahel contains some of the poorest countries on Earth, and there is a major need to provide extra sources of income for farmers and improved options for nutrition. Onion is an important crop in the region. Improved lines with better keeping qualities and higher yields are being selected and seed supplies increased. Africa is the world's leading producer of okra, an important ingredient in many traditional dishes. Okra lines are being collected, evaluated, and improved for regional release. African traditional vegetables are important sources of nutrition, especially for the poor; opportunities for improving insect resistance and processing are being investigated. In West Africa we work to integrate vegetables into Sahelian cropping systems.

Disease resistant, nutritious tomatoes

Tomatoes are an important vegetable crop in Africa, providing a good source of income for smallholder farmers and an important source of vitamin A. They are particularly suited to the highlands of Eastern and Southern Africa. New lines developed by the Center in Tanzania have increased national production by 40%, leading to major improvements in the lives of farmers and national self-sufficiency. Crops face many disease problems, particularly when grown in the more humid lowlands. Tomato lines are being screened and tested for resistance to pests and diseases, including thrips, whitefly and fruitworm, bacterial wilt, Phytophthora leaf blight, tospoviruses and geminiviruses. In addition, well-adapted lines of tomato with high levels of beta-carotene and lycopene are being selected to improve the nutritional quality of African tomatoes to help overcome widespread vitamin A deficiency.

About the Center

AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center is the world's leading international, nonprofit institute for vegetable research and development. Founded in 1971, the Center develops vegetable varieties and other technologies to increase vegetable production and consumption in developing countries, leading to more income opportunities and healthier diets for the poor.

AVRDC opened a Regional Center for Africa in 1992 in Tanzania. Activities expanded into West Africa in 2003 through a subregional office in Mali, and in 2007 through an office in Cameroon. To address the diverse needs of the continent, in 2014 the single regional center was transformed into two regional centers—**AVRDC Eastern and Southern Africa** in Arusha, Tanzania and **AVRDC West and Central Africa** in Bamako, Mali. Both locations have facilities for research and on-campus training courses. AVRDC partners with more than 40 national institutions in Africa and many international organizations.



avrdc.org

Africa

AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center
West and Central Africa
Samanko Research Station
BP 320
Bamako, Mali

T +223 20 70 92 00
F +223 20 22 86 83
E info-africa@worldveg.org

AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center
Eastern and Southern Africa
PO Box 10
Duluti,
Arusha, Tanzania

T +255 (27) 255-3102/3093
F +255 (27) 255-3125
E info-africa@worldveg.org

