



World Vegetable Center



IKEA Foundation



# VEGGIES 4 PLANET & PEOPLE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Veggies 4 Planet  
& People

Bridging the vegetable gap through  
sustainable vegetable business networks

28 - 29 May 2024

Radisson Blu Hotel  
Nairobi, Kenya

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## Overview

In 2019, the IKEA Foundation and the World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) agreed to develop a 5-year initiative with a budget of € 6 million called “Veggies4Planet&People” (V4P&P), implemented by the WorldVeg and SNV (Netherlands Development Organization), with the aim to create jobs and income, particularly for youth and women, in the vegetable sector in Ethiopia and Kenya. At the same time, the objective was to improve environmental and human health through safe production of vegetables, cutting out chemical pesticides as much as possible, and replacing them with safe biopesticides. At farm level, V4P&P has been promoting regenerative agricultural practices with the aim to increase biodiversity, enrich soils, improve water utilization, enhance natural resources, and farm communities.

As the project is approaching its final implementation year (2024-2025), we want to share learnings about our research and development activities and approaches which have been contributing to the uptake of regenerative agricultural practices, improved vegetable seed and input supply systems, development of vegetable business networks (VBNs), improved incomes, and creation of jobs. We want to share and reflect on the project outcomes and lessons with the many partners in Kenya and Ethiopia who have been crucial in the implementation and success of the project. We also want to share our research and development outcomes with other development projects and research initiatives that promote regenerative agriculture and the creation of jobs in the vegetable sub-sector for women and youth. The conference will also provide opportunity for other initiatives to present their findings and lessons.

## Objectives

1. To share learnings about our research and development activities and approaches which have been contributing to project outcomes (regenerative agriculture, vegetable business networks, input systems, and policy) and indicators (adoption of regen ag, vegetable sales, and job creation).
2. To provide a forum for implementing partners and other development and research initiatives to share and reflect on these project outcomes and lessons.
3. To generate recommendations for research, development, and policy, as well as a V4P&P phase 2 project.

# A. Agenda outline

Day 1: Tuesday, May 28, 2024		
WHEN	WHAT	WHO
0730h	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	<i>WorldVeg/SNV</i>
0820h	<b>Session 1: Welcome, Opening, and Scene-Setting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Welcome Remarks (2 mins)</li>   <li>➤ Remarks by project Partners               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WorldVeg (3 mins)</li> <li>○ SNV (3 mins)</li> <li>○ IKEA Foundation (3 mins)</li> </ul> </li>   <li>➤ Opening Statement (10 mins)</li>   <li>➤ Introductions, agenda, and process (30 mins)</li>   <li>➤ Background &amp; Context of Veggies 4 Planet &amp; People Project (10 mins)</li> </ul>	<i>Ralph Roothaert (WorldVeg)</i>  <i>Gabriel Rugalema (Associate DG for Africa, WorldVeg)</i> <i>Andre de Jager (MD, Agriculture, SNV)</i> <i>Nico Janssen (Programme Manager, Agricultural Livelihoods, IKEA Foundation)</i>  <i>Severino Manene (Director Horticulture Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya)</i>  <i>Ed Rege, Facilitator</i>  <i>Ralph Roothaert (WorldVeg)</i>
0930h	<b>Session 2: Benefits and challenges for smallholder farmers in the long-term adoption of regenerative agricultural (RA) practices (Theme 1)</b> <p>2.0 Theme 1 introduction (5 mins)</p> <b>2.1 Soil Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Evaluation of organic fertilizers on soil health in smallholder vegetable systems and comparison of the impact of regenerative and conventional cultivation on soil health in Kenya and Ethiopia (20 + 3 mins)</li> </ul>	<i>Srini Ramasamy (WorldVeg)</i>  <i>Martin Barare, Amha Besufkad (WorldVeg)</i>
1000h	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>	
1030h	<b>Session 2.1 Soil Health (Cont'd)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Long-term evaluation of organic fertilizers (12 + 3 mins)</li>   <li>➤ Crop-livestock integration to support regenerative agriculture in Kenya and Rwanda (12 + 3 mins)</li>   <li>➤ Plenary Discussion (Soil Health sub-theme) (10 mins)</li> </ul>	<i>Edward Karanja (icipe)</i>  <i>Patience Kikoni (REALMS – SNV)</i>  <i>All</i>

1115h	➤ Key takeaways (3 mins)	<i>Wubetu Legesse (WorldVeg)</i>
	<b>2.2 IPM</b>	
	➤ Evaluation of biopesticides as alternatives to chemical pesticides in Kenya and Ethiopia (12 + 3 mins)	<i>Martin Barare, Amha Besufkad, Wubetu Legesse (WorldVeg) and Melkamu Hinsermu (Melkassa ARI)</i>
	➤ Use of chemical and traditional pesticides by smallholder farmers (and safe alternatives) in Kenya and Ethiopia (12 + 3 mins)	<i>Negussie Efa, Melanie Bateman, Idah Mugambi (CABI)</i>
	➤ Push-pull systems to reduce pests and diseases in vegetable crops (AGROVEG) (12 + 3 mins)	<i>Komivi Akutse (icipe)</i>
	➤ Plenary Discussion (IPM) (10 mins)	<i>All</i>
	➤ Key takeaways (3 mins)	<i>Srini Ramasamy (WorldVeg)</i>
<b>1300h</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>	
1400h	<b>2.3 Social and Economic Impact</b>	
	➤ Facilitating adoption of regenerative practices: processes and outcomes (12 + 3 mins)	<i>Leah Mwaura, Gemechis Jaleta, Augustine Wafula, Yidnekachew (SNV &amp; WorldVeg) and farmers</i>
	➤ Impact of V4P&P on adoption of regenerative agricultural practices, income and employment (RCT and KPI studies) (12 + 3 mins)	<i>Mercy Mwambi, Augustine Wafula, Yidnekachew Zewde (WorldVeg)</i>
	➤ Plenary Discussion (Social and Economic Impact) (10 mins)	<i>All</i>
	➤ Key takeaways	<i>Kevin Yongo (SNV)</i>
1445h	<b>2.4 Water Use</b>	
	➤ Increasing efficiency of water use for vegetable production (PANEL DISCUSSION) (20 + 10 mins)	<i>Fitsum Biruk, Doris Anjawa, Clifton Opala (SNV, ROA, &amp; ACE)</i>
	➤ <b>Buzz Group</b> Discussions (20 mins)	<i>All</i>
<b>1530h</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>	
1600h	➤ Buzz Group Report Back and Plenary discussion	<i>All</i>
	➤ Session Summary	<i>Srini Ramasamy (WorldVeg) and Facilitator</i>
<b>1730h</b>	<b>POSTER SESSION FOLLOWED BY A NETWORKING COCKTAIL (ALL)</b>	

## Day 2: Wednesday May 29, 2024

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
0830h	<p><b>Recap of day 1 and Intro of day 2 (10 mins)</b></p>	<i>Facilitator</i>
	<p><b>Session 3: Supporting the scaling up of agribusiness within RA market systems (Theme 2)</b></p> <p>3.0 Theme introduction (5 mins)</p> <p><b>3.1 Value Chains</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Successes and challenges of vegetable business networks (12 + 3 mins)</li> <li>➤ Multistakeholder approaches to establish vegetable aggregation centres (12 + 3 mins)</li> <li>➤ Spin-off businesses in regenerative agricultural value chains (FARMER PANEL DISCUSSION) (15 + 15 mins)</li> <li>➤ Plenary Discussion (Value Chains) (10 mins)</li> <li>➤ Key takeaways (3 mins)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Leah Mwaura (SNV)</i></p> <p><i>Ralph Roothaert &amp; Leah Mwaura (WorldVeg &amp; SNV)</i></p> <p><i>Simon Theuri (WorldVeg)</i></p> <p><i>Oliver Sissy, Urbanus Kamuti, Wondesen Alemu (VBN Members)</i></p> <p><i>All</i></p> <p><i>Gemechis Jaleta (SNV)</i></p>
1000h	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>	
1030h	<p><b>3.2 Demand</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Perceptions of Kenyan youth towards consumption of traditional vegetables (12 + 3 mins)</li> <li>➤ Consumer demand for vegetables in Kisumu (Kenya) and Adama (Ethiopia) (12 + 3 mins)</li> <li>➤ Price differentiation, traceability and PGS for vegetables (PANEL DISCUSSION) (15 + 5 mins)</li> <li>➤ Plenary Discussion (Demand) (15 mins)</li> <li>➤ Key takeaways (3 mins)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Joy Mwaniki (SHUJAAZ)</i></p> <p><i>Maryam Rezaei &amp; Mercy Mwambi (ODI &amp; WorldVeg)</i></p> <p><i>Cherotich Ruto (TAWI), Marc Dehunca (Farm to Feed), Lisa Fuchs (Biovision-CIAT)</i></p> <p><i>All</i></p> <p><i>Augustine Wafula</i></p>
1145h	<p><b>3.3 Input Systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Evolving seed systems for kale and onion in Ethiopia (12 + 3 mins)</li> <li>➤ Evolving <b>seed systems</b> and conducive <b>seed policies</b> for diverse food crops in Kenya (PANEL DISCUSSION) (20 + 5 mins)</li> <li>➤ Case study of agroecological input systems in Ethiopia and Kenya' (12 + 3 mins)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Yidnekachew Zewde, Tesfa Binalfew (WorldVeg) &amp; Fitsum Biruk (SNV)</i></p> <p><i>Doris Anjawa (ROA), Eileen Nchanji (Alliance BC), Dominic Kimani (Seed Savers), Mary Abukutsa (JKUAT)</i></p> <p><i>Leah and Gemechis (SNV)</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Plenary Discussion (Input Systems) (20 mins)</li> <li>➤ Key takeaways (3 mins)</li> <li>➤ Session Summary</li> </ul>	<p><i>All</i>  <i>Fekadu Dinssa (WorldVeg)</i>  <i>Gabriel Rugalema (WorldVeg)</i>  <i>and Facilitator</i></p>
<b>1315h</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>	
<b>1415h</b>	<p><b>Session 4: Creating an enabling environment for RA by influencing financing, delivery systems and policy agendas (Theme 3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theme introduction (Enabling env: policies, financing, and delivery institutions &amp; systems) (5 mins)</li> <li>➤ Biopesticide rules and regulations in Ethiopia and generating evidence (12 + 3 mins)</li> <li>➤ Agroecology policy development in Murang’a County – lessons learned (PANEL DISCUSSION) (10 + 5 mins)</li> <li>➤ Enhancing the enabling environment to speed up agroecological transition of food systems (PANEL DISCUSSION) (20 + 5 mins)</li> <li>➤ Plenary Discussion (10 mins)</li> <li>➤ Key takeaways (3 mins)</li> <li>➤ Session Summary</li> </ul>	<p><i>Yidnekachew Zewde (WorldVeg)</i></p> <p><i>Abaya Alemu (Ethiopian Agricultural Authority) and Wubetu Legesse (WorldVeg)</i></p> <p><i>Daniel Gitahi, Martin Muriuki (Murang’a County Govt, ICE)</i></p> <p><i>Diriba Geleti (EIAR), Abdella Negash (Min Ag Ethiopia), Kiringai Kamau (CEC Murang’a County), Riaz Nathu (Aga Khan Foundation)</i></p> <p><i>All</i></p> <p><i>Yidnekachew Zewde (WorldVeg)</i></p> <p><i>Alex Awiti (CIFOR-ICRAF) and Facilitator</i></p>
<b>1545h</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>	
<b>1615h</b>	<p><b>Session 5: Summary and Close</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conference Key takeaways and Next Steps</li> <li>➤ Evaluation</li> <li>➤ Vote of thanks</li> <li>➤ Closing Remarks</li> </ul>	<p><i>Ralph Roothaert (WorldVeg)</i>  <i>All</i>  <i>Ralph Roothaert (WorldVeg)</i>  <i>Direba Geleti (EIAR)</i></p>
<b>1730h</b>		