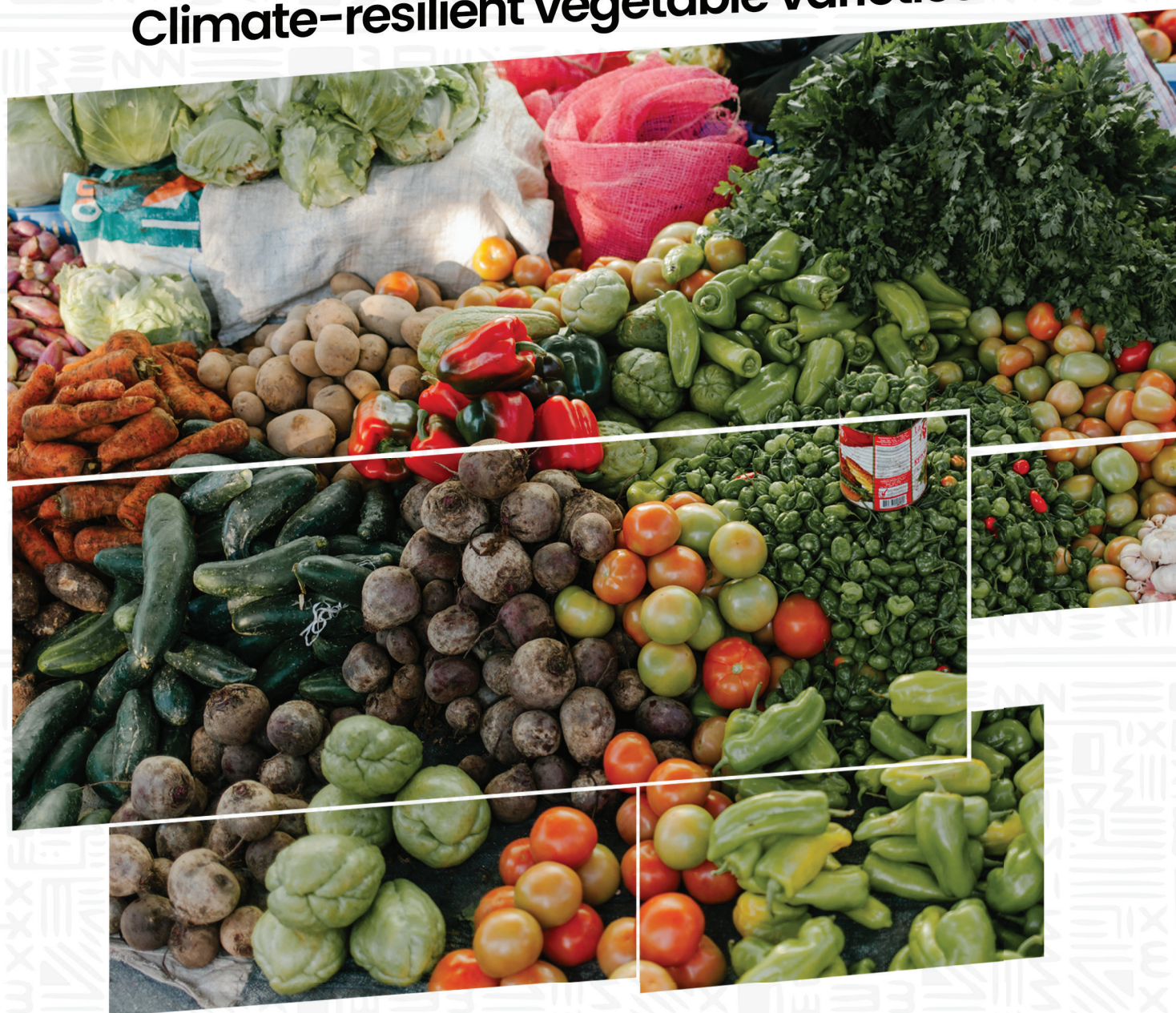


work package 4

Climate-resilient vegetable varieties



Work package 4: Climate resilient vegetable varieties.

Led by World Vegetable Center, Component 4 aims to:

- Strengthen the capacity of private seed companies in plant production and breeding.

Partnerships will be established with local seed companies to support the supply of seeds of traditional and exotic open-pollinated vegetable varieties. Within this framework, agreements will be made with seed companies in the three countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali) to produce and market good quality vegetable seeds, including project seed kits.

The capacity of local seed companies will be strengthened to enable them to produce and market traditional and exotic open-pollinated varieties. At least one training course covering all varietal testing protocols will be held in all 3 countries during project implementation.

- Scaling up the use of existing locally adapted varieties with good performance

The selection of varieties for eventual scaling up is underway and most will be nominated in the lists of the «Official Catalogue of Species and Varieties» of Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali or other ECOWAS countries. Sufficient breeder seed of selected open-pollinated varieties will be obtained from existing WorldVeg seed stocks or other local sources. Fresh breeder seed will be multiplied and provided to seed company scale-up partners for further multiplication and inclusion in mini seed packs.

- Testing new varieties in multi-site trials

On-station varietal trials of new varieties based on farmers' preferred varieties will be conducted in Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali. The trials will be conducted in two sites per country representing the main vegetable production areas. The expected outcome is the identification of high-yielding and widely adapted varieties that could be promoted in future on-farm trials. Stakeholders' opinions on the new varieties and management practices will be assessed and gender preferences will be documented to obtain information on the likelihood of future adoption of the varieties and management practices by farmers.

- Promote selected varieties through on-farm trials

3-5 elite / commercialized vegetable varieties per crop will be selected for scale-up in the on-farm trial, along with improved management practices. Farmers will plant at least 3 improved varieties per crop and a variety currently preferred by farmers as a control. The expected outcome is the identification of improved varieties and management practices that can increase productivity and profitability, and farmers' recognition of the importance of good varieties.