

DATES & INFORMATION

International Symposium on INDIGENOUS VEGETABLES
18-20 August 2014
Brisbane, Australia

Deadline for abstract submission

1 November 2013

Link for abstract submission

http://www.ihc2014.org/call_for_abstracts.html

IHC2014 website

<http://www.ihc2014.org/>

Symposium updates

http://www.ihc2014.org/symposium_13.html

Symposium Conveners



Dr. J.D.H. (Dyno) Keatinge is currently Director General of AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center, based in Taiwan. He is Visiting Professor of Tropical Agriculture at the University of Reading, UK. He has global expertise in crop agronomy and he has worked at several international agricultural research centers—ICARDA (Syria), IITA (Nigeria) and ICRISAT (India). He serves as Vice-Chair of the Global Horticultural Initiative and on the Advisory Committee to USAID HortCRSP.



Dr. Jaw-Fen Wang is Global Theme Leader for Production at AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center. She was appointed as a Plant Pathologist by the Center in 1992. She studies vegetable diseases caused by plant pathogenic bacteria and fungi with global importance in collaboration with scientists in developing countries and advanced laboratories. She leads research emphasizing safer and sustainable vegetable production systems.

International Scientific Committee

Ms. Amanda Crump, Horticulture Innovation Lab, University of California, Davis, USA
Dr. Jacqueline Hughes, AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center, Taiwan
Dr. Danny Hunter, Bioversity International, Italy and Charles Sturt University, Australia
Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, WorldFish, Bangladesh



International Horticulture Congress (IHC 2014)



International Symposium on INDIGENOUS VEGETABLES

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Dr. Mereseini Seniloli of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community with a "rarely" flowering slippery cabbage (*Abelmoschus manihot*), known regionally as *aibika*, *bele*, or *pele*. It is a relative of okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*).



Sponsored by:

**ISHS Vegetables Section
Working Group on Underutilized Plants
Commission on Plant Genetic Resources**

Organized by:

AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center



There is an urgent global need

to diversify agricultural systems to improve human nutrition through better balanced diets and to achieve more resilient, profitable and sustainable livelihoods for small-holder producers and marketers. Indigenous vegetables are in many cases highly nutrient-dense in vitamins and minerals. Thus they are powerful tools in the battle against malnutrition and noncommunicable diseases worldwide, particularly in the Pacific Islands, Africa and Asia, where poor dietary choices have led to critically high human health costs to society. Due to the comparative lack of research on the improvement of indigenous vegetables throughout all aspects of the value chain from field to fork, investment in this area can bring much higher rates of return than in conventional staples.



The **International Symposium on Indigenous Vegetables** will cover three days, with one day coinciding with the symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Climate Change. Other sessions will be dedicated to agronomy, plant protection, postharvest market chains, processing and nutrition.

We are expecting many professional germplasm specialists, breeders, agronomists, postharvest specialists, agricultural economists, home economists and specialists in human nutrition to attend this symposium. These participants will be drawn globally where indigenous vegetables are presently a focus of agricultural research and development, particularly from Oceania, Australasia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Americas. They will include representatives of organizations such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the institutions affiliated with the Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture (AIRCA), the Diversity for Development Alliance, the CGIAR Centers, the Global Horticultural Initiative, the Horticultural CRSP universities and AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center. All other organizations are welcome to contribute, particularly those based in the Pacific.

Symposium Sessions

The symposium will begin with a keynote speech to highlight the role of indigenous vegetables for nutritional security and to make the case for greater investment in research and development. Four presentation sessions are planned: germplasm and seed systems, sustainable production, postharvest and marketing, and nutrition and consumption. The symposium will conclude with a roundtable discussion, during which experts from different disciplines and sectors will discuss and plan the best way forward to bring indigenous vegetables into the mainstream, focus on which crops might best be promoted at regional and global levels, and identify the key research gaps to address in the next decade.

ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are invited on the following topics:

- **Germplasm and seed systems**



Contributions on indigenous vegetable germplasm conservation, either ex situ or in situ, and characterization for further utilization are welcome. Papers highlighting selection from accessions that have resulted in lines with good yield and other desirable traits are much encouraged for presentation. Studies detailing where seed quality, availability and lack of planting materials are issues, and examples of how these problems have been overcome, would be of interest.

- **Sustainable production for more resilient systems**



Many indigenous vegetables are said to be tolerant to biotic and abiotic stresses, and therefore are good species to be included in various production systems to increase resilience against climate change. Studies of this type would be of considerable value. To promote the production of indigenous vegetables, cultural practices for crop, pest and soil management suitable for different agroecosystems need to be determined; papers on such topics would be desirable.

- **Postharvest and commercialization**



Indigenous vegetables can provide important cash income for smallholders. But from farm gate to market, what are the problems in postharvest, processing and marketing? How can we link smallholders to markets? Are there value addition methods to be employed in better marketing strategies? All papers on these subjects will be of keen interest.

- **Nutrition and consumption**



Indigenous vegetables are often nutrient-dense. Have we fully understood their potential for helping to achieve nutritional security? Research results and case studies with hard data in this area are welcome. Nutritional goals can be achieved only when consumers are knowledgeable and ready to eat more indigenous vegetables. Contributions on promotional experiences of this type at community, country, regional and global levels are welcome.