

# Research and Development of Traditional Vegetables in Zimbabwe: A Review Paper

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## Abstract

The role of traditional vegetables in food and nutrition security of both rural and urban populations has gained significant prominence in the last two decades. In response interest has grown for research and development to promote production and utilisation among various players including national research and extension services, non-governmental organisations and tertiary institutions. Uncoordinated and disorganised information on properties and uses of traditional vegetables in Zimbabwe exists in various forms. The Horticulture Research Institute conducted research on *Cleome gynandra*, *Amaranthus* sp and *Brassica carinata* and *Brassica juncea* focusing on fertiliser requirements and harvesting techniques with an aim to improve productivity. Unfortunately this work and similar research from other institutions has been difficult to access. With this in mind this paper reviews research work and related documentation on traditional vegetables with a view of promoting the value chain of traditional vegetables. A desk study will be commissioned and this will be supported with interviews of key informants who will be identified through snowballing. Data analysis will be qualitative, guided by the principles of thematic analysis. This review is of significance as it will inform policy of the role of traditional varieties and identify gaps for future research

**Keywords:** Traditional vegetables; food and nutrition security; research and development; Zimbabwe