

Traditional African Vegetables Strengthen Food and Nutrition Security in Madagascar



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World Vegetable Center

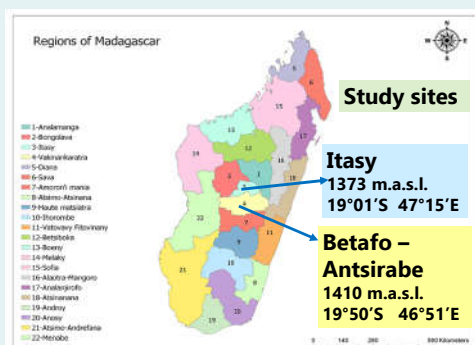
INTRODUCTION

Malagasy farmers still maintain a high diversity of traditional vegetables, but their production and consumption are low. Low usage makes traditional vegetables vulnerable to local or national extirpation under pressure of land-use change and crop replacement. A three year Darwin Initiative project (2019 – 2022) is being implemented.

OBJECTIVES

- To secure benefits of agro-biodiversity for farmer households.
- To protect genetic resources of traditional vegetables through ex-situ and on-farm conservation.
- To support Malagasy women farmers to grow promising varieties of Traditional African Vegetables (TAVs).

MATERIALS AND METHODS



- Samples: 200 women farmers from the two study sites;
- Surveys on the agro-biodiversity in food systems;
- Participatory Four Cell Analysis on local crop diversity;
- Germplasm collection to rescue landraces of both popular and threatened traditional vegetables in ex-situ;
- Capacity building of extension workers and women farmers;
- Distribution of 250 seed kits from the World Vegetable Center to women farmers every year;
- Participatory evaluation of TAVs adaptation, adoption, preferences and benefits.
- Strengthening school gardens and capacity building on growing and consuming TAVs.

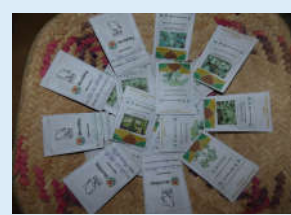
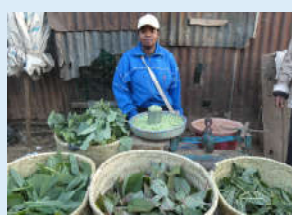
RESULTS



25 Malagasy extension workers trained to be experts on traditional vegetables. They trained and supervised 200 women farmers.



Women farmers' awareness raised on the importance of nutritional value of TAVs, produced and ate them. They saved seeds.



Women farmers started selling the vegetables and the seeds in small packet.



8 primary schools received training on traditional African vegetables production and raised awareness on the importance of local food plants and encourage consumption.



400 accessions of wild and traditional food collected for ex-situ conservation.



Seed business capacity developed by private company SEMANA for 11 progressive women farmers.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PLAN

- Traditional African vegetables deserve greater attention because of their potential to improve women's empowerment through income generation, better household nutrition and health. Increased utilization enhance and protect traditional vegetable genetic resources.
- **Future plan** : Seed disseminations - Network analysis - Development of agro-biodiversity catalogue - Organization of a conference on how to incorporate local food plant diversity in Malagasy school garden program.