

# Taiwan Indigenous Vegetables in Current Agri-food Systems

Hsin-I Wang<sup>1</sup>, Wan-Jen Wu<sup>1</sup>, and Ray-Yu Yang<sup>1,2\*</sup>






<sup>1</sup>Nutrition, World Vegetable Center, Tainan, Taiwan, ROC

<sup>2</sup>Food and Fertilizer Technology Center for the Asian and Pacific Region (FFTC), Taipei, Taiwan, ROC

\* Corresponding: [ray-yu.yang@fftc.org.tw](mailto:ray-yu.yang@fftc.org.tw)

## Introduction

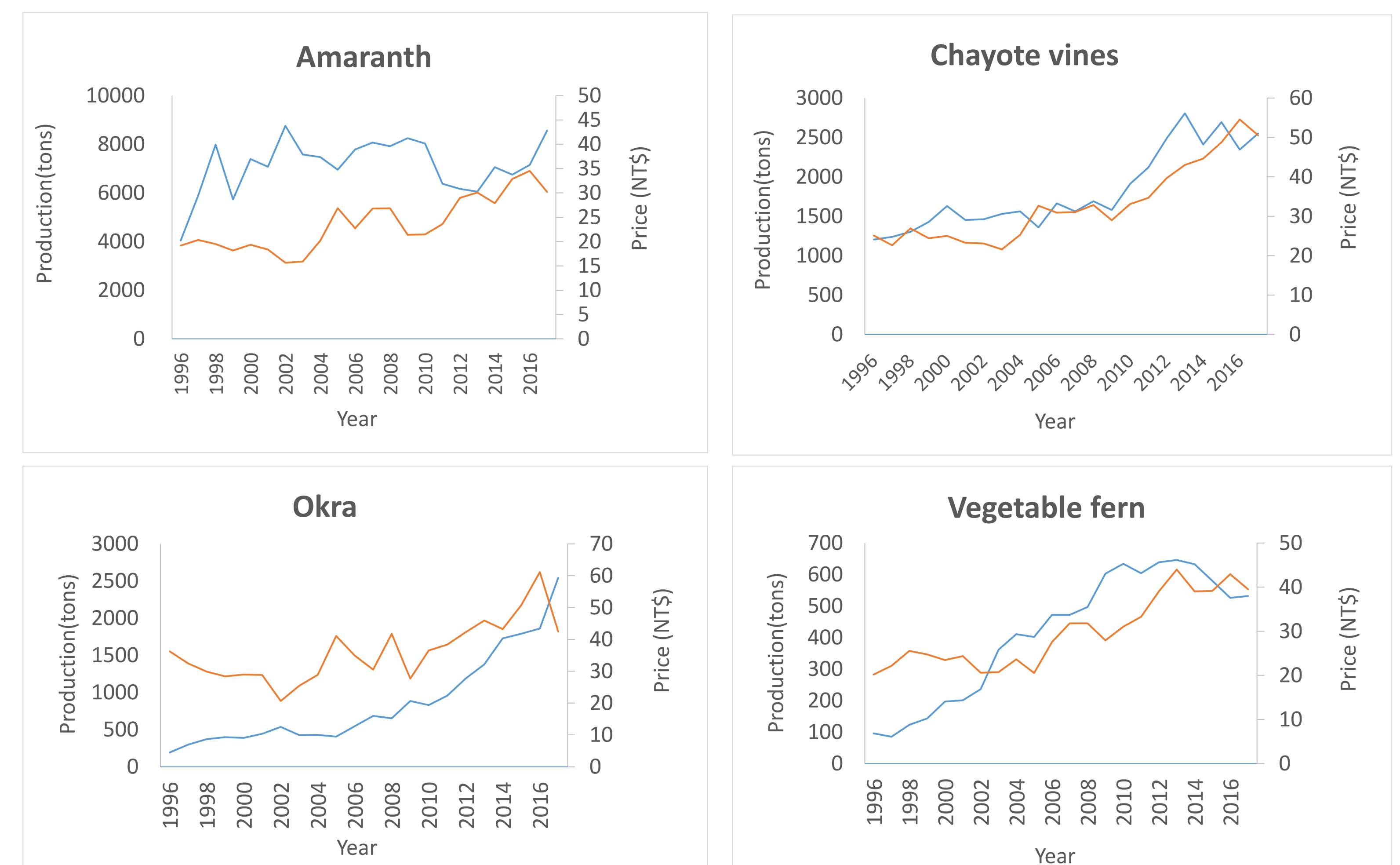
About 150 Taiwan Indigenous Vegetables (TIV) out of > 800 ethnic plants were summarized from our previous reviews of ethnobotanical studies. We further investigated TIV production over the past 20 years and searched where and how the TIVs are currently produced, utilized and promoted. Production data and market prices were retrieved from monthly and annual Taiwan Agriculture Statistics Reports; information on TIV farms, local markets, restaurants were searched from internets with key words.

		
Amaranthus <i>Amaranthus viridis</i>	Butterfly ginger <i>Hedychium coronarium</i>	Vegetable Fern <i>Diplazium esculentum</i>
		
Bird's-nest fern <i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	Betel nut-young stem <i>Areca catechu</i>	Betel nut-flower <i>Areca catechu</i>
		
Winged bean <i>Psophocarpus tetragonolobus</i>	Bitter melon <i>Momordica charantia L.</i>	White mugwort <i>Artemisia lactiflora</i>

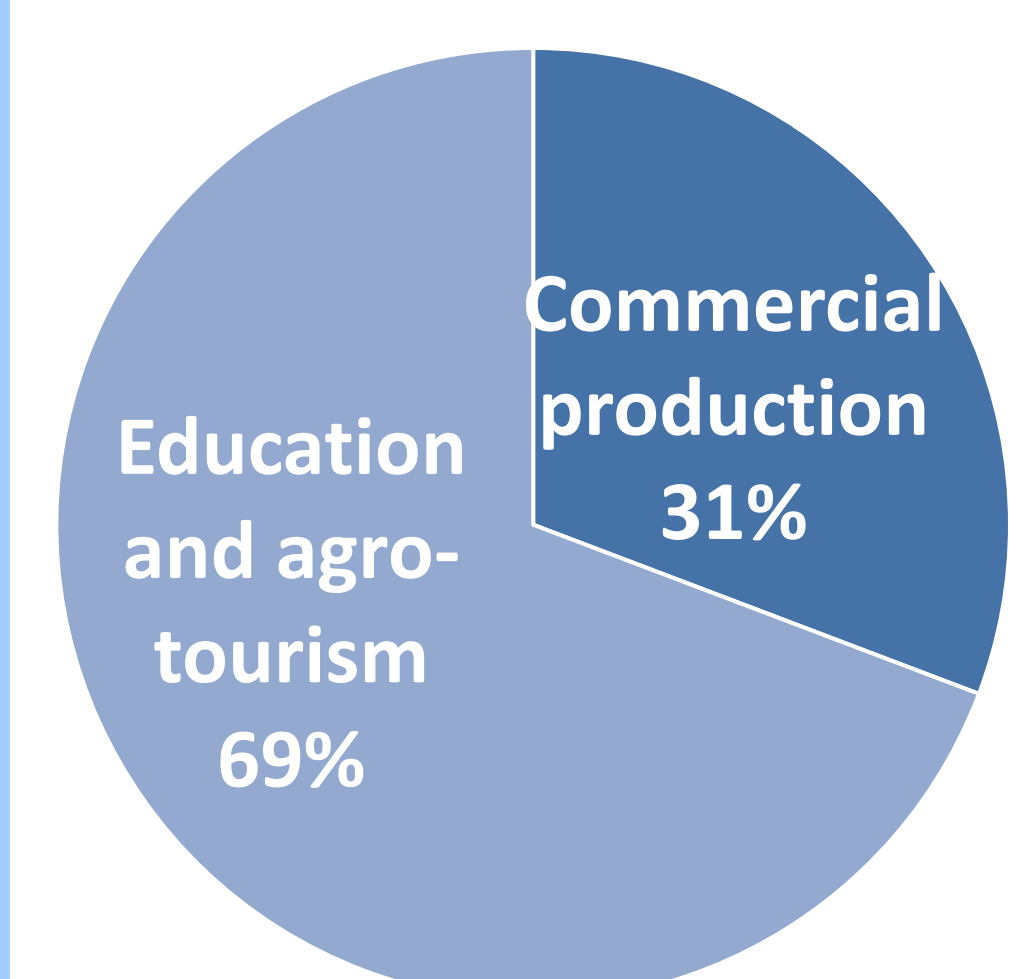
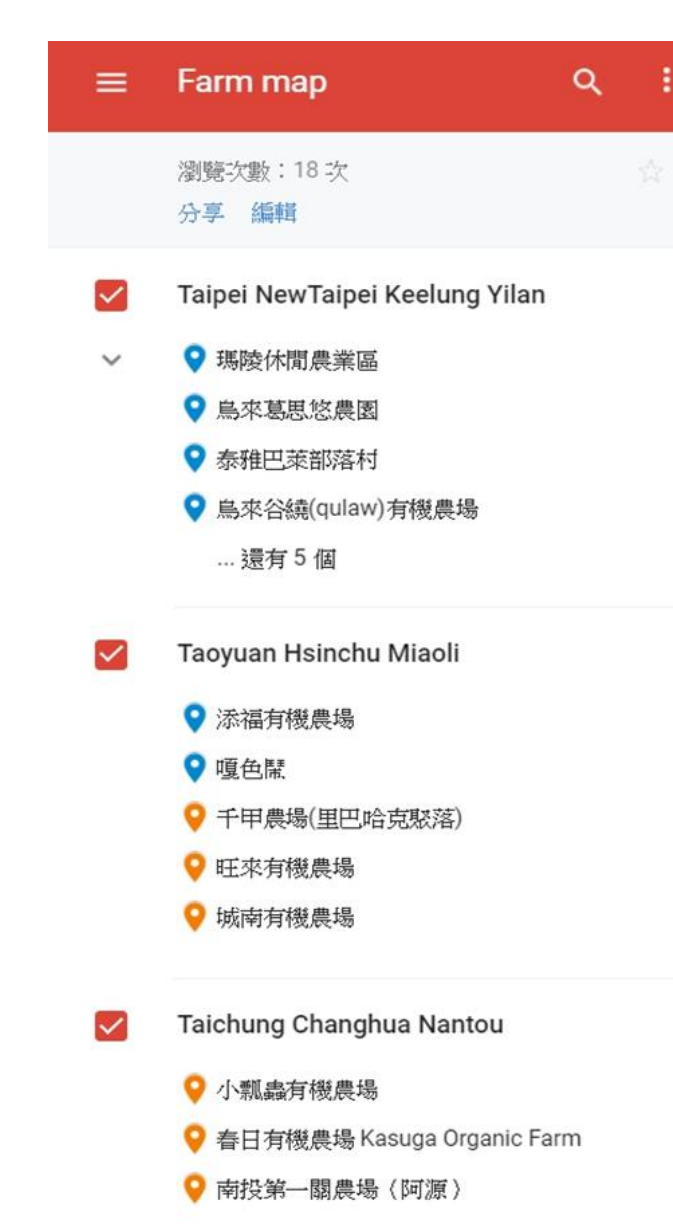
Selected Taiwan Indigenous Vegetables

## Key results

- Among the 150 TIVs, only 14 were included in wholesale market database.
- Amaranth has the highest annual production in 2017 (8566 tons), follow by chayote vines (2549 tons), okra (2545 tons) and vegetable fern (247 tons).
- Six types of trends of TIV production and price changes overtime were classified. Many TIVs were produced by small farms and sold in local markets; production data were not recorded.
- About 39 TIV organic farms were searched from internet, 70% of the farms are opened to visitors and provide farming courses for education purpose.
- The learning program and topics generally include DIY (do-it-yourself), indigenous peoples' culture, and food and agricultural education. Farm locations were scattered around Taiwan.
- Three common channels of purchasing TIVs include local markets, online shopping and wholesale markets.
- About 44 local markets selling TIV and 73 restaurants with TIV in menus were found from internet search.
- About 85% of the restaurants were tribal restaurants, 46 TIVs were mentioned in the 73 menus, and Mountain Pepper mentioned the most.
- Google Map for TIV farms, restaurants and local markets were developed using Google My Map for future promotion. Those farms, markets and restaurants not searchable from internet were not included in this study.



Production and prices (1996-2017) of selected TIVs- amaranth, chayote vines, okra and vegetable fern.



TIV organic farms map and farming purposes

## Acknowledgment

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