

A stylized map of the African continent is the central focus, rendered in shades of green, yellow, and orange. Overlaid on the map are several green leaves of varying sizes, some with visible veins, suggesting a focus on agriculture and fresh produce. The background is a solid light yellow.

# POWER ON YOUR PLATE

**25-28 January 2021**

All-Africa Summit on  
Diversifying Food Systems  
with **African Traditional  
Vegetables** to Increase  
Health, Nutrition, and Wealth

Gran Meliá Arusha  
Arusha, Tanzania

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*Ensuring a healthier Africa now and into the future  
demands a smart, **sustainable food system**  
to deliver diets rich in nutritious, plant-based foods.*

*The time is right to advance knowledge and expand the use  
of **traditional vegetables** to help bring about this goal.*

# DIVERSIFYING FOOD SYSTEMS

## with African Traditional Vegetables

### to Increase Health, Nutrition and Well-being

With more than 20% of Africa's population undernourished and close to one-third food insecure, it is clear that food systems must change—to nourish people, not merely feed them.

Africa is home to a large number of plant species with the potential to invigorate the continent's horticultural value chain -- yet whether consumed as nutritious food or used as the foundation for natural health products, these **traditional vegetables** remain untapped and underutilized. From an estimated 6,400 species of useful indigenous plants, about 300 are traditional vegetables and about 126 species are widely known and used throughout the continent.

Traditional vegetables support nutrition-sensitive agriculture under climate change because they generally are more nutrient-dense than most commercial vegetable crops, they have lower water requirements, are adapted to poor quality soils, and have higher resistance to pests and diseases.

The biodiversity of traditional vegetables is endangered by displacement with high-energy staple crops, the fact that most traditional vegetables are not registered in national catalogues, lack of promotion and support for their use, lack of human resources capacity focusing on traditional vegetables, and lack of conservation infrastructure.

Because of their relatively low commercial value, no significant research investment has been made for traditional vegetables; crop improvement options have not been fully explored and genetic resources are poorly conserved.

Only a very few African traditional vegetables have become widely adopted across the continent. African eggplant and okra are now grown on large areas and improved varieties are successfully commercialized. In some regions, amaranth is about to turn from an underutilized vegetable to a mainstream grain and vegetable crop.

These success stories show that research and breeding can convert underutilized traditional vegetables into commercially successful crops. Other traditional vegetables could take a similar path if research would help to unlock their potential for income generation and nutrition for the benefit of local resource-poor populations.

**Power on Your Plate** is a call for action: for **increased investment**, regional **R&D** programs, and **policies** to promote traditional vegetables at national and regional levels and fully integrate traditional vegetables into Africa's **food systems**.

## VENUE: Gran Meliá Arusha

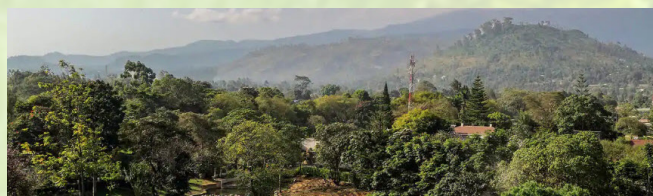
Enjoy panoramic views of Mt. Meru from every room at the new **Gran Meliá Arusha**, the summit venue.

This stunning 171-room hotel is set amid lush spice and vegetable gardens that supply the hotel's restaurants with fresh seasonal produce.

The Gran Meliá Arusha is a 45-minute drive from Kilimanjaro International Airport and 20-minute drive from Arusha Airport.

It is the perfect base for discovering the natural beauty of Tanzania on safari!

<https://www.melia.com/en/hotels/tanzania/arusha/gran-melia-arusha/index.htm>



**POWER ON YOUR PLATE**

*Plenary lectures, invited papers, oral and poster presentations, and panel discussions will explore innovative research, activities, and policies focused on expanding the role of traditional vegetables in Africa's food systems, unlocking their potential for income generation, ensuring the nutrition they offer reaches resource-poor populations, and investigating novel non-food uses for these crops.*

## CALL for Papers and Posters

### DIVERSITY AND BREEDING

- Collection, conservation, and characterization of traditional vegetable germplasm
- Mobilizing the diversity of traditional vegetables
- Digital technology for mapping spatial diversity of indigenous vegetables
- Crop improvement
- Gene sequencing

### SEED SYSTEMS, ACCESS, AND QUALITY

- Increasing access to quality seed of traditional vegetables
- Private and public seed sector collaborations
- Initiatives for local seed saving and distribution
- New developments in national and regional seed policies
- Germplasm exchange: opportunities and challenges for stakeholders

### FOOD ENVIRONMENTS

- Role of traditional vegetables in local, regional and national food systems
- Key programs and policies to foster integration of traditional vegetables in food systems
- Networks to champion change
- Role of traditional vegetables in resilience and food security
- Approaches and impacts to influence behavior change towards increased consumption of traditional vegetables

### VALUE CHAINS AND SCALING

- Production systems: opportunities and challenges
- Postharvest handling (packaging, storage, transport)
- Integrating traditional vegetables into existing market systems
- Developing new markets for traditional vegetables
- Value addition: preserving the harvest and creating new products
- Increasing utilization of traditional vegetables
- Business opportunities for commercialization along the value chain (breeding, seed multiplication, access to domestic and foreign markets)

### NUTRITION

- Nutrients and anti-nutrients in traditional vegetables
- Dietary impact of traditional vegetables
- Cultural aspects of traditional vegetable consumption
- Consumer preferences: What makes traditional vegetables desirable / not desirable?
- Increasing and disseminating knowledge of traditional vegetable health benefits

### BEYOND FOOD

- Traditional plant-based natural products
- African botanicals for health and nutrition
- Non-traditional uses of indigenous plants for the global market
- Issues facing sustainable collecting and production practices of medicinal and aromatic plants
- Herbs and spices
- African botanicals for cosmetics, perfumes, natural coloring agents
- Natural products as animal and insect repellants

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Visit [tav2020.org](http://tav2020.org) for registration details and partnership opportunities

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# Are you working to integrate traditional vegetables into Africa's food systems?



## SPEAKERS

*Power on Your Plate* will bring together researchers, policymakers, and representatives from government ministries, civil society groups, and private industry to discuss best practices, plan policy strategies, and chart a way forward for these essential crops.

*Speakers* (see [tav2020.org](http://tav2020.org) for the most current list!)

- HON. MATHIAS KASAMBA, Chair, East African Legislative Assembly
- PROF. ENOCH ACHIGAN-DAKO, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin
- MS. JACQUELINE MKINDI, CEO, Tanzania Horticulture Association
- MR. BABATUNDE OGUNYEMI, CEO/MD, Thelma Farms Ltd., Nigeria
- DR. JIM SIMON, Rutgers University
- DR. MARY ABUKUTSA-ONYANGO, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
- DR. MARCO WOPEREIS, Director General, World Vegetable Center
- DR. JOHN BOWMAN, Senior Agriculture Advisor, USAID
- DR. DANNY HUNTER, Bioversity International

Register now  
to secure your place!  
[tav2020.org](http://tav2020.org)

## KEY DATES

**Abstract submission closes:** 31 August 2020  
**Acceptance notification:** 30 September 2020  
**Full paper submission opens:** 30 September 2020  
**Early registration ends:** 30 November 2020  
**Late registration ends:** 31 December 2020  
**Summit:** 25-28 January 2021

 [info@tav2020.org](mailto:info@tav2020.org)

 [#PowerOnYourPlate](https://twitter.com/PowerOnYourPlate)

## REGISTRATION FEES

Category	Fee (USD)
SPECIAL RATE for CITIZENS FROM ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES	100
EARLY (ends 30 November 2020)	150
LATE (ends 31 December 2020)	250
STUDENT	50
ONE-DAY PASS	50
ACCOMPANYING PERSON	100

## SPONSORS



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