

Crops for the Future

Paths out of poverty





The Problem

Hunger and malnutrition in Africa, South Asia and parts of Latin America are exacerbated by the increasing uniformity of diets and decreasing species diversity in agriculture. The abandonment of traditional foods contributes to cultural alienation and the rise of diet-related non-communicable diseases in developing countries. Deficient knowledge and awareness of the existing diversity of the very large number of scientifically neglected and economically underutilized crops limits their potential to contribute to better nutrition and greater rural incomes. Policies concerned with agriculture, conservation, seed systems and trade are generally unfavourable to the wider use of these plants. Producers face barriers when accessing markets and the value-added potential of these crops is usually not realized.

Addressing the Millennium Development Goals and an increasing international call for better use of underutilized plant genetic resources for future generations, Crops for the Future steps in to contribute to an enabling environment for researchers and development experts.

Our Mission

To help collect, generate, synthesize and promote knowledge on neglected and underutilized species for the benefit of the poor and agricultural sustainability.

Our Goals

- 🌱 Enhanced production and consumption of neglected/underutilized crops.
- 🌱 Increased income for producers through better marketing and post-harvest treatments.
- 🌱 Improved nutritional status of the society through higher consumption of neglected/underutilized crops and/or more diverse diets.
- 🌱 Increased resilience to change and shocks through diversified production and improved production systems.



Our Strategic Objectives and ongoing Activities

1. Increase the knowledge base for neglected/underutilized crops, especially in the areas of sustained market access, nutritional security, health and climate change.

- ✿ Leading the Coalition to Diversify Income through Underused Crops
- ✿ Collaboration with community and research partners in India and Vietnam
- ✿ Scaling up research findings
- ✿ Integrated approach to processing and marketing of niche crops
- ✿ Research collaboration with University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus

2. Advocate a favorable policy environment to promote the use of neglected/underutilized crops.

- ✿ Continued engagement in the revision of EU Novel Food Regulation
- ✿ Close collaboration with Bioversity International in governance bodies such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

3. Increase awareness of the contributions of neglected/underutilized crops for livelihoods and well-being.

- ✿ Dynamic news service and information portal at our website:
www.cropsforthefuture.org
- ✿ Production of information material and scientific publications
- ✿ Participation in international events and fairs

4. Strengthen capacity in relevant sectors at different levels.

- ✿ Providing support to expert consultation and training workshop “Crops for the Future in the Pacific”
- ✿ Providing support to participants at the All African Horticulture Congress
- ✿ Collaboration with Wageningen University on the development of training components on niche crop management

Mechanisms for Partnerships

- 🌱 We build upon an extensive existing network of partners, including international and national research institutes, development NGOs, intergovernmental organizations and advanced research institutes.
- 🌱 Our Consortium partners Bioversity International and University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus provide links to the CGIAR as well as academia and private sector.
- 🌱 We work closely with networks such as the Global Horticulture Initiative, Global Forum for Agricultural Research, Asia-Pacific Association of Advanced Research Institutes, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, International Society for Horticultural Sciences and others.
- 🌱 Crops for the Future staff are chairing various working groups and discussion fora.
- 🌱 We are supporting international conferences and seminars.
- 🌱 We engage in joint activities with national and international partners in a true spirit of collaboration.

Governance

- 🌱 Crops for the Future has a lean staff structure and a small secretariat to ensure that most of its funds are used for operations.
- 🌱 Crops for the Future has a small Board of Directors with individuals selected on merit.
- 🌱 Crops for the Future is an independent not-for-profit organisation registered in UK. It is hosted by Bioversity International in Malaysia to retain a 'Southern' focus.

Interested to learn more about Crops for the Future?

Visit our website: www.cropsforthefuture.org or contact Michael Hermann: m.hermann@cropsforthefuture.org or Paul Bordoni: paul@cropsforthefuture.org

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