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Special Issue

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Special Issue

In July of 2019, a two-day conference *African Indigenous Plants: From Income Generation to Health and Nutrition* was held in Nairobi, Kenya. Participants from the Horticulture Innovation Lab AIV Initiative from Kenya including the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) and MOI University, University of Eldoret and Mirror of Hope); Tanzania (WorldVeg Center); Zambia (University of Zambia and Hantambo Women's Group); and from the USA (Purdue University and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey) came together to share experiences, scientific findings and lessons learned over the prior 5 years linking African Indigenous Vegetables (AIVs) to nutrition, medicine and health and in support of smallholder farmers and emerging entrepreneurs. Government leaders, scientists and researchers involved in indigenous plants and food security, and those from industry and the development community also participated and shared their observations as we presented innovative approaches to empower citizens, including women and youth, to reduce poverty in rural areas and improve health with populations experiencing micronutrient deficiencies. Guest speakers and presentations from the Kenyan Agricultural and Livestock Organization (KALRO), University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) shared additional insights and expertise. This is the second installment in the series of JMAP issues dedicated to the papers presented at this meeting, which then underwent a peer review process. We thank the scientific contributors and hope that these papers will foster a greater appreciation and recognition of the value of indigenous foods found not only in Africa but all over the world and the significant role they can play in providing nutritious foods as well as improving food security, cultural pride and economic development for those communities and countries that foster and nurture this valuable yet under recognized natural resource.

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