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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. The participants 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.

Participants came from Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, and the USA. These included members of the Horticulture Innovation Lab African Indigenous Vegetables (AIV) Initiative from Kenya (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).

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 KALRO, University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) shared additional insights and expertise.

This is the third and final installment in this series of JMAP issues dedicated to the papers presented at the Nairobi meeting, which have been peer reviewed. We thank the scientific contributors and hope that these papers, which reflect only a part of the exciting research that is ongoing with traditional plants that are used as foods, flavors, medicines, will foster a greater appreciation and recognition of the value of indigenous foods found not only in Africa but all over the world. These African indigenous plants play a significant role 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.

Guest Editors:

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