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## Neglected and Underutilized Species Community

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Leveraging the potential of neglected and underutilized species to strengthen food security, build resilience and empower poor communities

### [Highlights](#)



### [News and Events](#)

19  
Jan 2015

Videos show participatory research for conservation and value chain development of wild fruits in the Western Ghats

### + [Twitter Feed](#)



NUS Community **Food First** RT @foodfirstorg: Seed Libraries Fight for the Right to Share (via @Shareable) <http://t.co/oYW54yUiZJ>

Gennifer Meldrum, Bioversity International

## Goals:

- Communicate results from Bioversity International's work on neglected and underutilized species (NUS)
- Act as information hub on NUS
  - Highlight interesting research
  - Connect practitioners around the world

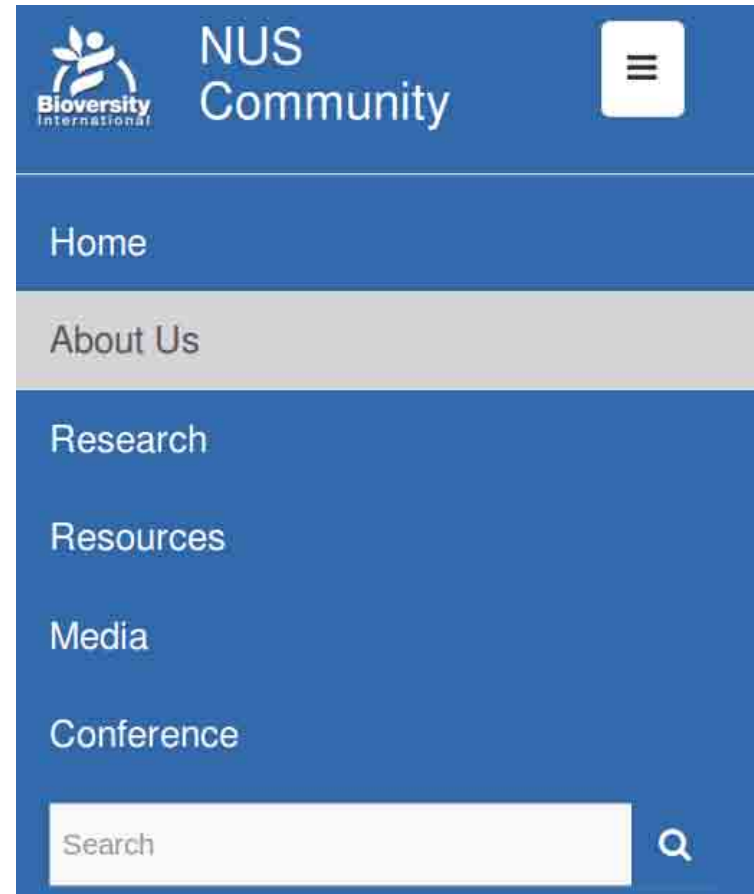




# Neglected and Underutilized Species Community

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**Mobile-Responsive:**  
Layout changes with  
different screen sizes  
(mobile, ipad, desktop)







# Neglected and Underutilized Species Community

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We are a community of researchers at Bioversity International investigating how neglected and underutilized crop and tree species can be leveraged to strengthen food security, build resilience and empower poor communities. Find out more about who we are and the important role of neglected and underutilized species in the following pages:



## Research Community

We are developing and testing methods to leverage neglected and underutilized species to achieve food security and sustainability benefits. This website shares our findings and other developments in the field.



## Neglected and Underutilized Species

Thousands of edible plant species have been cultivated and collected by humans throughout history but modern agriculture is dominated by just three crops. The plants overlooked by agricultural development could be critical to better nutrition, sustainability and poverty reduction.



## Bioversity International

We are based at Bioversity International, a global research-for-development organization that delivers scientific evidence, management practices and policy options to use and safeguard agricultural biodiversity to attain global food and nutrition security.



## Partners

Our partners include research organizations, NGOs, gene banks, farmer cooperatives and private sector actors who are critical to the success of our work.



[Home](#) · [About Us](#) · [Partners](#)

Our partners include research organizations, NGOs, gene banks, farmer cooperatives and private sector actors who are critical to the success of our work. Below you can find information about our current and past partners and links to their webpages. On desktop you can navigate using the map, but you can also view the list, which is shown in mobile or with a small browser window.

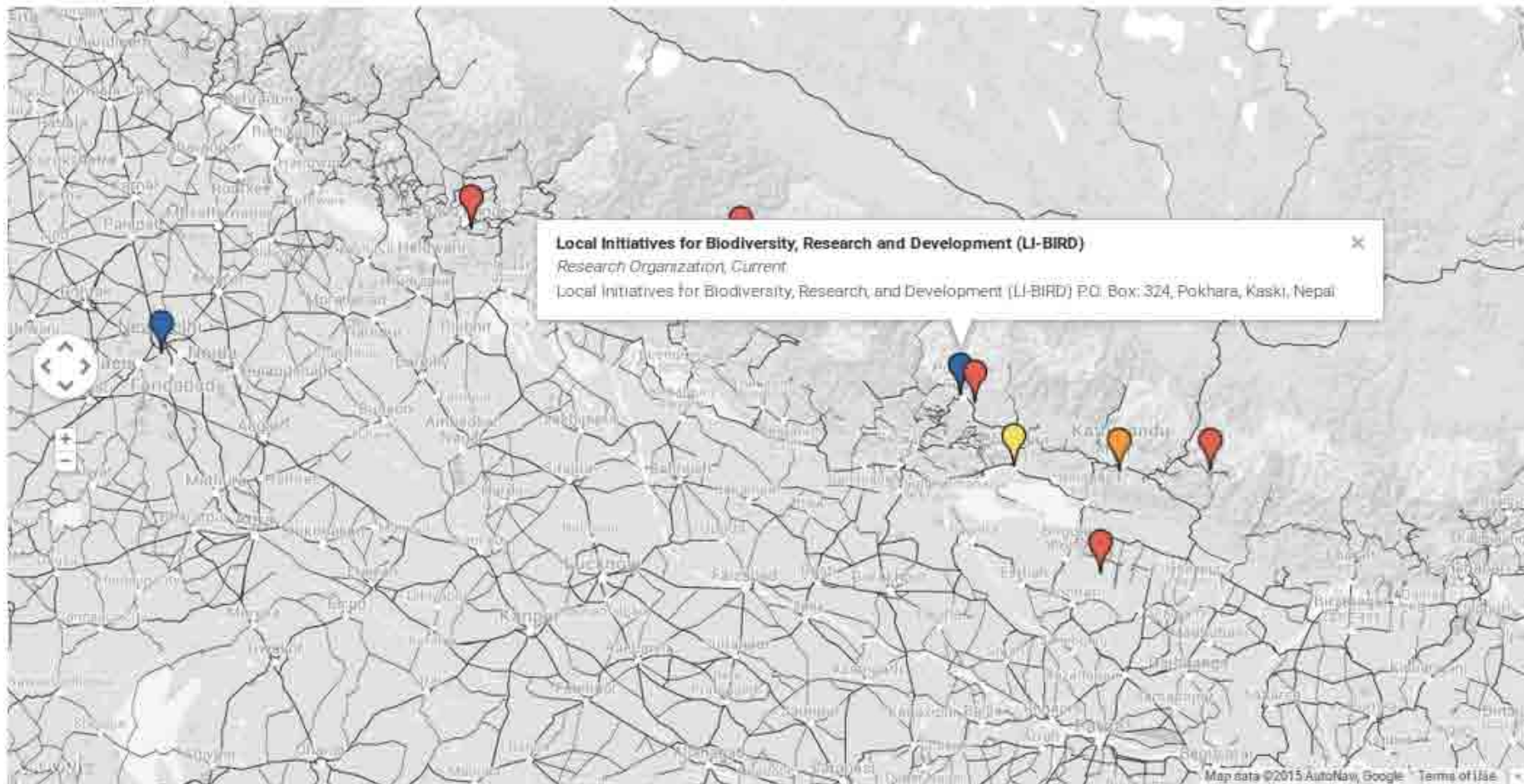
📍 Current   ● Past   ● Funding Org.   ● NGO/Research Org   ● Communities/CBOs   ● Government Org.   ● Universities/Education Institutions   ● Private Sector



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Details

## Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)

*Research Organization, Current*

*Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research, and Development (LI-BIRD) P.O. Box: 324, Pokhara, Kaski, Nepal*

LI-BIRD is a non-profit making, non-governmental organization that is committed to capitalizing on local initiatives for sustainable management of renewable natural resources in order to improve the livelihoods of rural poor and marginalized farmers, especially women. LI-BIRD is a pioneer organization in strengthening participatory methodologies for research and development in agriculture, biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management. LI-BIRD has played an instrumental role in institutionalizing these approaches in the national systems of Nepal. Through partnerships in development-oriented research, LI-BIRD has contributed to several innovative methodologies and approaches for participatory research and development and generated impacts that have enhanced the livelihoods of rural poor and marginalized farmers through appropriate technological, social and policy changes.



[Link](#)



# Research

[Home](#) / [Research](#)

Our work on [neglected and underutilized species](#) centers around four themes that are highly inter-related. Value chain development aims to leverage the nutritional and sustainability benefits of target species, including their hardiness to environmental stress, and is meant to contribute to the conservation of the species by providing incentive to farmers to continue and upscale their cultivation. Capacity building underpins all aspects of our work, including training and policy advocacy to enable conservation, research and development of target species. Currently we have two major projects on neglected and underutilized species but over the past 40 years at Bioversity International we have carried out numerous research projects on this topic. Information on our research themes, current projects and some of our past projects is available below.

## Themes



### Value Chain Development

Our holistic approach bridges conservation and use and leverages nutrition and sustainability benefits.



### Climate Change Adaptation

We are investigating the role of stress-tolerant crops and on-farm conservation for climate change adaptation.



### On-Farm Conservation

We are developing methods to support on-farm conservation of neglected and underutilized species such as diversity fairs and community seed banks.



### Capacity Building & Policy Advocacy

We work to develop a supportive policy environment and to build the skill base for a long lasting impact.

## Projects

### IFAD-NUS III-IV

Reinforcing the resilience of poor rural communities in the face of food insecurity, poverty and climate change through on-farm conservation of local agrobiodiversity (2011-present).

### ACP-EU Value Chains

Strengthening capacities and informing policies for developing value chains of neglected and underutilized crops in Africa (2014-present)

[Project Archive](#)



We live in a highly interconnected world faced with a multitude of interacting pressures: poverty, hunger, environmental degradation, climate change, and a growing human population. We need solutions for agricultural development that can enhance food security and reduce poverty through more efficient and sustainable means.

## Holistic Approach

We have been developing and testing a holistic approach to value chain development of [neglected and underutilized species](#) that addresses issues across the inter-related segments of the value chain, bridges the gap between conservation and use, and leverages the nutrition and sustainability benefits of target crops to achieve livelihood and sustainability benefits.

Through a multi-stakeholder, participatory, inter-disciplinary, pro-poor and gender-sensitive approach, activities undertaken in this framework span from seed selection and enhancing cultivation, post-harvest, value addition, and marketing to surveying, collecting and conserving genetic diversity. [Capacity building](#) supports all aspects and includes training farmers and researchers, as well as lobbying to establish a supportive policy environment.

Conservation of crop genetic resources is a major aspect of the approach that is pursued actively by conserving material *ex situ* and strengthening [on-farm conservation](#) through various methods, such as diversity fairs and community seed banks. It is also intended that the value chain development in itself stimulates conservation by providing incentive to continue and upscale cultivation of target species.

This approach has been developed and tested prominently through the decade-long IFAD-NUS project which worked to promote :

- [Andean grains in South America](#)
- [Minor millets in South Asia](#)
- [Medicinal and aromatic plants in Western Asia](#)

A similar approach to value chain development has also been applied for leafy vegetable promotion in Africa, promotion of wild fruit value chains through the UNEP-GEF Tropical Fruit Tree project and promotion of native capsicum in Peru through the BMZ-Biodiversity International Project. Visit the Biodiversity International page for more information on all their projects on [marketing diversity](#).

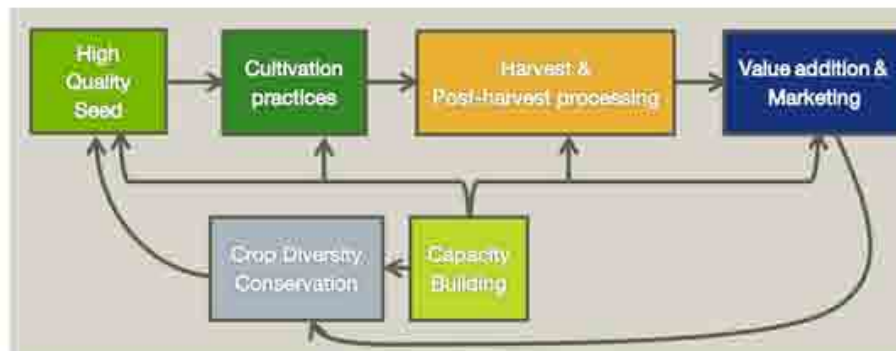


Diagram showing aspect of the value chain addressed in the holistic approach to promotion of neglected and underutilized species. Conservation is both an activity and a result of the process and capacity building underpins all aspects.

### ■ Themes

- » [Value Chain Development](#)
- » [Climate Change Adaptation](#)
- » [On-Farm Conservation](#)
- » [Capacity Building & Policy Advocacy](#)

### □ Projects

### Publications

[Marketing underutilized species: the strategy of Bioversity International. Presentation slides Padulosi 2013.](#)

[Using Markets to Promote the Sustainable Utilization of Crop Genetic Resources. Anderson et al 2009.](#)

[Promoting Value Chains of Neglected and Underutilized Species for Pro-Poor Growth and Biodiversity Conservation. Will 2008.](#)

[Realizing the benefits in neglected and underutilized plant species through technology transfer and human resources development. Padulosi et al 2003.](#)

### Projects

[IFAD-NUS I-II](#)

[IFAD-NUS III-IV](#)

[Value Chains & Capacity](#)

### News and events

[Videos show participatory research for conservation and value chain development of wild fruits in the Western Ghats](#)



*Reinforcing the resilience of poor rural communities in the face of food insecurity, poverty and climate change through on-farm conservation of local agrobiodiversity (2011 - present)*

## Climate Change Resilience and Traditional Crops

Phases III and IV of the [IFAD NUS project](#) aim to enhance the resilience of rural communities to climate change by strengthening the conservation and use of local agricultural biodiversity. The project is investigating the role of agricultural biodiversity and [neglected and underutilized species](#) in climate change adaptation and exploring means to leverage their contribution to enhance food security, nutrition, and income-generation in face of weather challenges. The primary target group and beneficiaries of the project are poor farmers, women's groups and other users who rely on local crops for their food security, income and other livelihood benefits.

[Bioversity International](#) is global coordinator of the project, which is being implemented in Nepal, India, and Bolivia under the coordination of Local Initiatives for Biodiversity Research and Development ([LI-BIRD](#)), M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation ([MSSRF](#)), and Fundación Promoción e Investigación de Productos Andinos ([PROINPA](#)). This work fits within the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security ([CCAFS](#)).



A millet food fair held in Mandla, Madhya Pradesh. Photo Credit Stefano Padulosi, Bioversity International

## Objectives

- Develop and test new methods and tools in close partnership with farmers and value chain actors aimed at enhancing their capacities to sustainably conserve traditional crops and associated knowledge at the farm level
- Develop and test highly participatory, community-based approaches, methods and tools for documenting local agrobiodiversity and assessing the values, threats and competitiveness of crops relevant to the rural poor, within a climate change context

## IFAD NUS III & IV

[Contacts](#)

### Publications

[On farm conservation of neglected and underutilized species: status trends and novel approaches to cope with climate change.](#) Padulosi et al (eds) 2011

[Underutilized species and climate change: current status and outlook.](#) Padulosi et al 2011

[Agricultural biodiversity enhances capacity to adapt to climate change.](#) Meldrum et al. 2013

[Building on farmers' perception and traditional knowledge: Biodiversity management for climate change adaptation strategies.](#) Briefing note Oxfam Novib et al 2013.

[Methodology mapping for resilient production systems: approaches and results from surveys in Bolivia, India, and Nepal.](#) Presentation slides Meldrum et al 2013

[Role of on-farm/in situ conservation and underutilized crops in the wake of climate change.](#) Sthapit et al 2009.

[Food security and climate change: role of plant genetic resources of minor millets.](#) Padulosi et al 2009

### Themes

[Climate Change Adaptation](#)

[On-Farm Conservation](#)

[Capacity Building & Policy Advocacy](#)



[Home](#) [Resources](#)

We strive to encourage sharing and exchange of information, experiences and resources between researchers of neglected and underutilized species. In this section, research papers and products emerging from our work can be downloaded and links to other useful resources on neglected and underutilized species are provided.



## Our Publications

Books, articles, conference proceedings, training manuals, technical briefs and fact sheets emerging from our work, as well as presentation slides and posters.



## News Feed

We provide reviews and alerts on important developments in the field of neglected and underutilized species and topics linked to our research themes.



## Links

There are several other organizations carrying out research on neglected and underutilized species. Here we provide links to useful websites and resources for the field.



## Reading Group

Our Mendeley Reading Group is a growing collection of important references related to neglected and underutilized species. Take a look and help build the list with some contributions.



Our research on [neglected and underutilized species](#) is published in books, journal articles, conference proceedings and other document types. We also share our work in oral presentations and posters. You can access these documents on this page. The most recent 10 publications are displayed initially but we have nearly 200 documents in the database, which you can access by navigating categories of interest using the bar below. The categories that can be toggled are: Research Theme, Crop, Publication Type, Project, and Language.

Minor millet, IFAD NUS III-IV

Reset

IFAD-NUS I-II

IFAD NUS III-IV

NUS 2013

ACP-EU Value Chains

3-4

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Our Publications

Links

Reading Group

News & Events



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[Proyecto NUS IFAD III: Reforzar la resiliencia de las comunidades rurales pobre ante la inseguridad alimentaria, la pobreza y el cambio climático a través de la conservación en finca de la agrobiodiversidad local](#)

Presentation on the activities and outcomes of the IFAD NUS III-IV project in Bolivia.

By Rojas, W., 2015



[Nuestros avances: Vincolo con los bancos de germoplasma \(IFAD-NUS III\)](#)

Presentation on links made between ex situ and in situ conservation through the IFAD-NUS project in Bolivia delivered at the final project meeting in...

By INIAF Centro Toralapa, 2015



[La conservacion in situ y el rol de los agricultores custodios en la revalorizacion de la agrobiodiversidad](#)

Presentation on the role of custodian farmers in the revalorization of agricultural biodiversity delivered by INIAF at the final IFAD-NUS meeting in...

By Ontondo, A., 2015



[Himalayan Superfoods](#)

Poster on himalayan superfoods shared at festivals in Nepal

By Sajal Sthapt, 2014

**Crops For the  
Future**

**Research**

**FutureCrop**



## Research

CFF Research is committed to multidisciplinary, high quality and outcome-driven research on underutilised crops and agricultural biodiversity.

*Archidendron pauoiflorum*

## FutureCrop

An initiative by CFF, FutureCrop is a global educational resource on underutilised crops.

**Sign up for updates**



28 JAN 2015

Radio Sputnik's Brave New World programme talks to Prof. Sayed Azam-Ali on food security



17 SEP 2014

Approaches Used to Compare Cropping Systems



30 JAN 2015

Common Purpose GLE's "What makes a city smart" programme





**REFARM**

Resilience Framework for Agriculture and Risk Management Database

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[GLOSSARY](#) [CONTACT](#)

Browse through our catalog of case studies on diversification for climate change adaptation. Use the filters to refine your search.

Search for Term

World Regions

-- All --

Agroecological Zones

-- All --

Scale

-- All --

Threats

-- All --

Intervention

-- All --

Outcomes

-- All --

- Agroecology: Farms Forest
- Case Studies: Community Crops
- Case Studies: Soil Vegetation
- Diversification**
- Drought and Water Stress
- Environment: Farm
- Field Household
- Household Impacts
- Intervention: Irrigation, Policy and
- Intervention: Crop: Interspecific
- Diversification: Species**
- Diversification: Waterpools
- Diversification: Landscape
- Diversification: Landscape
- Diversification: Landscape
- Effects: Livelihood
- Diversification: Species: SEA
- Semi-Arid: Case Studies
- SOWBFA SSA**
- Subsistence: Household: Variety
- Intervention: Yield

ADAPTATION  
and MITIGATION  
KNOWLEDGE  
NETWORK



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
Climate Change,  
Agriculture and  
Food Security



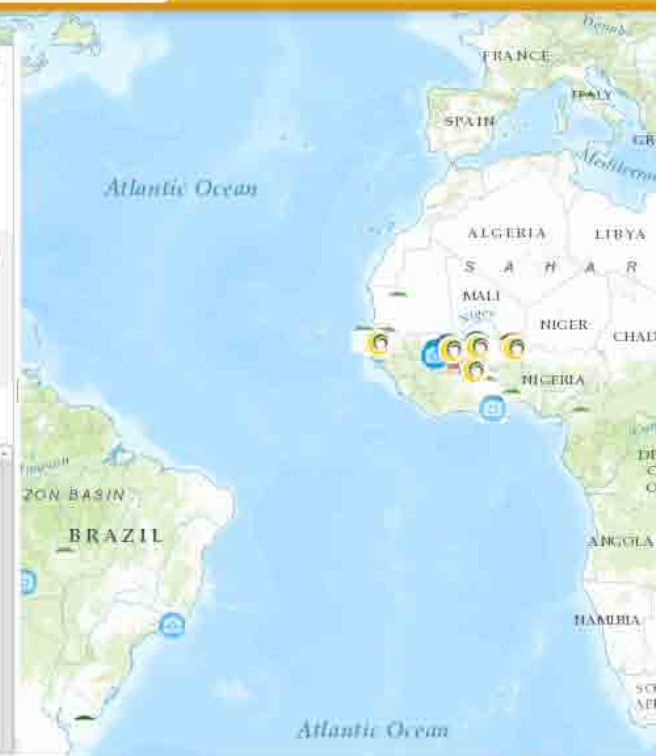
What's on the map (455)



Only contents with geo-coordinates are represented on the map.

Select All

- Data Layers
- Layer Group
- Research Projects (97/592)
- Research Sites (22/22)
- Agrobiodiversity Cases (39/39)
- Blog Posts (196/747)
- Photo Sets (52/59)
- Videos (49/50)



The Newest on AMKN

CCAFS Farms of the Future Video - Lushoto district Tanzania



**Resilience**

A resilience framework can help provide a dynamic perspective on adaptation processes and their



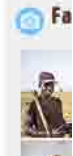
**Vulnerability**

Vulnerability is the susceptibility of a group to a natural hazards, which affects social, productive.



**Diversification**

Diversification is a risk management strategy of incorporating diverse



Fa



d plant > View crop

## View crop

View crop [Data sheet](#) [EcoPort](#)

### Dactyloctenium aegyptium



Authority	(L.) Beauv.
Family	Liliopsida:Commelinidae:Cyperales:Gramineae
Synonyms	
Common names	crowfoot grass, Egyptian grass, button grass, calandrin
Editor	
Ecocrop code	866

Family	Fabaceae or Leguminosae
Synonyms	Baptisia gibbesii. Podalyria tinctoria. Sophora tinctoria.
Known Hazards	The plant is poisonous in large quantities[21, 46]. Irritation of the eyes. May cause dermatitis. Avoid with inflammatory gastrointestinal diseases [301].
Habitats	Dry soils in open woods and clearings[21, 43].



#### Notes

BRIEF DESCRIPTION A Leaves often hairy on the short-term annual. It flows grass, Beach wire-grass, Rumput miuyak, Krus-krus Co chi, Ndanguel, Burgue FURTHER INF Scientific aegyptia. Crowfoot grass sea level and 2100 m. It of the grass is rich in cyano

## Food Plants International

helping the hungry feed themselves through being good stewards of God's amazing resources

Home Our Database Countries Articles & Books Newsletters Links About Us About our Logo Contact

Home > Our Database

### Our Database

search here ...

Access Database: [Click Here](#)

Log-in using the 'Guest Account' option.

There are a huge number of undervalued and overlooked food plants in the world. The FPI database provides accessible information about these plants to support production of locally relevant and nutritious food, and enable people to appropriately value their local foods. The searchable database has information on scientific name, genus, common names, synonyms, plant description, production and use notes, nutritional value, pictures and references. The data is not complete for all food plants. As you can imagine, documenting this range of information for over 27,000 plants is an enormous task. If you have information you would like to contribute, we would be very happy for you to contact us. The uses of this data are limited only by your imagination. You can identify local plants, assist with production issues, or promote the most nutritious food to the most vulnerable sectors of the community.

Production problems can be minimised by matching plants to the environments in which they grow best. Using local plants means they are already suited to surrounding conditions and are more resistant to pests and diseases.

Increasing the diversity of food plants available is the simplest solution to a balanced diet. What one plant lacks another will provide. Maintaining a diversity of food plants enhances food security. If some plants are affected by adverse weather and environmental conditions, others will still be there to provide food.

#### Important Disclaimer

Although our website has been designed to be as user-friendly as possible, neither the committee nor the



### World Crops Database

Search

You are here: Home

NETHERLANDS  
Wereld Gewassen  
Database  
Zoeken

### World Crops Database



Welcome to the World Crops Database; a database of agriculture with hundreds of agricultural crops. The database includes scientific names, synonyms, and common names in several languages.

Find a crop (type name or part of the name) in the database.

Search crop names



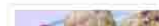
At this moment the World Crops Database contains 7222 names for 620 agricultural crops.

Each crop in the database is assigned to one or more different crop categories. Main categories are cereals, fruits and vegetables, but many other categories are used to give additional information about the crop (spices, herbs, fodder crops, fiber crops, etc.).

#### Using the database

The World Crops Database can now be explored via this website. There are several ways to find a crop in the database:

- Enter a Search Text to find a crop name (or part of the name)





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Groups

Search...



## Neglected and Underutilized Species

 In this group: **40** papers · **1** members

Invite people to join

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Mendeley

Biological Sciences

Groups

Overview

**Papers**

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### Papers in this group

A-Z

Recently added

1 - 20 of 40

 Prev **1** 2 Next

#### Four new non-spiny *Solanum* (Solanaceae) species from South America

 Tiina Särkinen, Paül Gonzáles, Sandra Knapp in *PhytoKeys* (2015)

Added 1 week ago

#### Sohshur: Promising Underutilized Fruit Crop of Himalaya tracts

 H Rymbai, A.K. Deshmukh, W. Shimray in *Biotech Articles* (2014)

Added 3 weeks ago

#### Marketing Neglected and Underutilized Species

K Koolman (2014)

Biodiversity, food security, nutrition, health, economic development – all these topics are high on the agenda of numerous organisations around the world and are the goals of global campaigns, initiatives, task forces and research projects. And they...

Added 3 weeks ago

#### The potential for underutilized crops to improve security of food production.

 S Mayes, F J Massawe, P G Alderson, J A Roberts, S N Azam-Ali, M Hermann in *Journal of experimental botany* (2012)

Staple crops face major challenges in the near future and a diversification away from over-reliance on staples will be important as part of the progress towards the goal of achieving security of food production. Underutilized or neglected crops...

Added 3 weeks ago

#### African Orphan Crops: Their Significance and Prospects for Improvement

 Various in *African Technology Development Forum Journal* (2009)

Special issue on African orphan crops

Added 3 weeks ago

### Top tags in this group

[Value Chain Development](#)
[Latin America](#)
[Africa](#)
[Legumes](#)
[Crop Improvement](#)
[Diversification](#)
[Nutrition](#)
[Minor Millets](#)
[Methods and Tools](#)
[Policy Advocacy](#)
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[Quinoa](#)
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[Peru](#)
[Ancient grains](#)
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## NUS Community

@NUS\_Community

Leveraging the potential of neglected and underutilized crop species to strengthen food security, build resilience and empower poor communities @BioversityInt

Rome, Italy

[nuscommunity.org](http://nuscommunity.org)

3 Photos and videos



TWEETS  
201

FOLLOWING  
233

FOLLOWERS  
127

FAVORITES  
57

LISTS  
8

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Photos & videos

Pinned Tweet



**NUS Community** @NUS\_Community · Feb 4

Agricultores “custodios”, pilares de la conservación in situ: Read more by @INIAFBolivia: [ow.ly/lvAgp](http://ow.ly/lvAgp)



NUS Community retweeted



**Food First** @foodfirstorg · Feb 13

Seed Libraries Fight for the Right to Share (via @Shareable) [shareable.net/blog/seed-libr...](http://shareable.net/blog/seed-libr...)



NUS Community retweeted



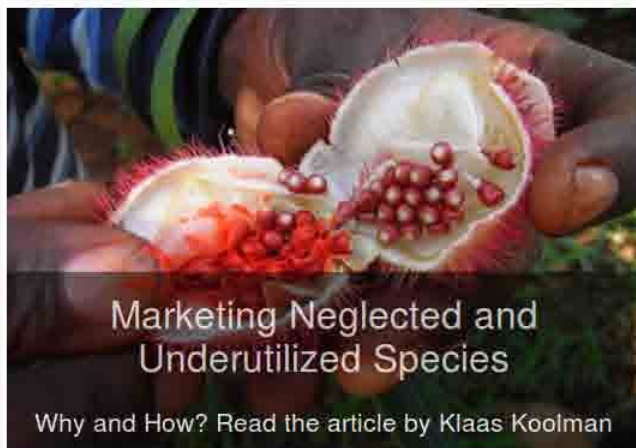
**Farming First** @farmingfirst · Feb 12





Leveraging the potential of neglected and underutilized species to strengthen food security, build resilience and empower poor communities

## Highlights



## News and Events

- 19**  
Jan 2015 Videos show participatory research for conservation and value chain development of wild fruits in the Western Ghats
- 9**  
Jan 2015 Intensive Writeshop in Nepal: Collaboration and long days to bring together findings as we wind down this phase of the IFAD-NUS project
- 30**  
Oct 2014 Celebrating food diversity: Reflections on Terra Madre

## + Twitter Feed

-  **NUS Community Food First** RT @foodfirstorg: Seed Libraries Fight for the Right to Share (via @Shareable) <http://t.co/oYW54yUiZJ>  
Feb 13, 2015 10:59am
-  **NUS Community Farming First** RT @farmingfirst: LIVE: How can policy encourage demand for nutritious foods? @BioversityInt case study on millet in India shows it is poss...  
Feb 13, 2015 10:43am

## Media



[Home](#) [Media](#)

Images and videos connected to our research on neglected and underutilized species can be viewed by the following links:



### Photos

View photos of our research activities on Flickr.



### Videos

View videos linked to our research on Youtube.

[Contact us](#) [Forum](#) [Mailing list](#)







# Neglected and Underutilized Species

Bioversity International NUS Community

10  
Albums

July 2012  
Member Since

Photostream

**Albums**

Favorites



Bolivia: IFAD-NUS III-IV  
89 photos



India IFAD-NUS III-IV  
139 photos



Nepal: IFAD-NUS III-IV  
105 photos



Minor Millet Promotion  
132 photos



Andean grain promotion  
16 photos



Bolivia: Final  
IFAD-NUS...  
75 photos



Nepal: Custodian  
Farmer...  
22 photos



Terra Madre 2014  
33 photos



NUS2013 Accra, Ghana  
42 photos



Protection of farmer...  
23 photos



# Nepal: IFAD-NUS III-IV

Biodiversity International NUS Community  
IFAD-NUS project activities to promote use and conservation of neglected and underutilized species.

105 Photos

[View all albums](#) **Photos**







# Contact Us



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There are many ways you can keep in touch with us at the NUS Community: send us an email, engage in discussion in our forum, follow us on twitter, flickr, youtube, and mendeley, or join our mailing list. You can also reach us directly using the contact form below, where you can share files to bring to our attention.

SENDER NAME

E-MAIL\*

SUBJECT

MESSAGE

SHARE A FILE (PHOTO/ARTICLE)

No file selected.

**Mailing List**

Enter email address




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**Email**

nuscommunity(at)cgiar.org

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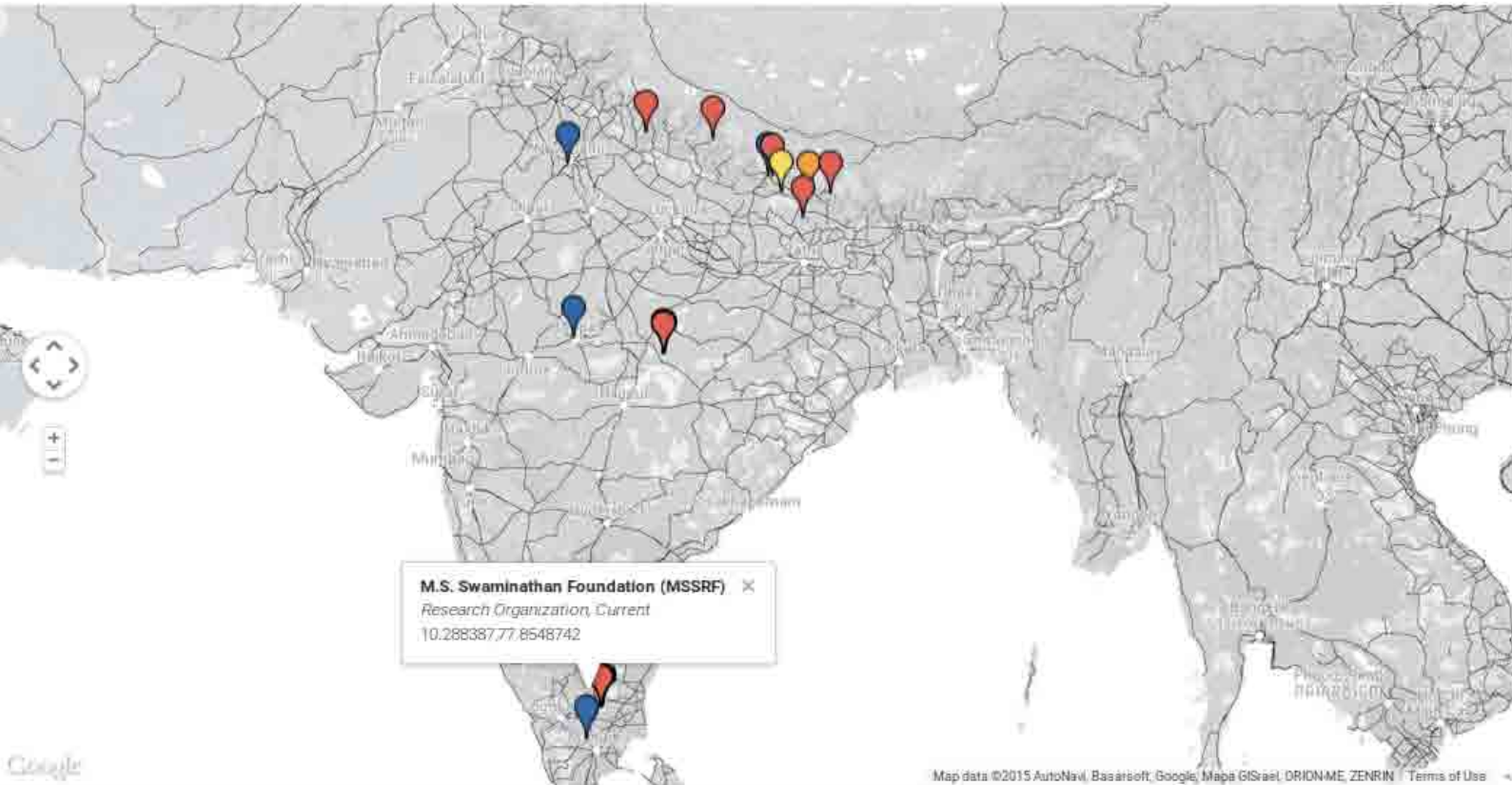


Many thanks to IFAD and CCAFS for supporting the development of this information platform. Big thanks to Valentina Barbiero and the Newt Vision team for the technical design and support. Also thanks to Stefano Brizzi, Ewa Hermanowicz and Peio Madrid for their vision in design aspects and help with content development.

**Thank you for your attention. Let's stay in touch!**







**M.S. Swaminathan Foundation (MSSRF)** ✕  
Research Organization, Current  
10.268387.77.8548742

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Details

## M.S. Swaminathan Foundation (MSSRF)

Research Organization, Current  
10.268387.77.8548742

MSSRF aims to accelerate use of modern science for agricultural and rural development for development and dissemination of technology to improve lives and livelihoods of tribal and rural communities. MSSRF follows a pro-poor, pro-women and pro-nature approach and applies appropriate science and technology options to address practical problems faced by rural populations in agriculture, food and nutrition. These efforts have been undertaken in a participatory manner and in partnership with other knowledge-based institutions, public and private sector organisations and local communities. From a small beginning, across the years, MSSRF has made its impact felt in various dimensions making a difference to the lives of over 600,000 individuals, impacting livelihood of 100,000 farmers and fisherfolk every day with influence that spreads across 18 countries.

[Link](#)



**Puliampatti, Namakkal**  
Communities and Farmers Organization

