

## **Underutilised African Plant Biodiversity for New Crop Development**

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### **Abstract**

The African continent is rather poor in plant biodiversity when compared to other continents centred around the equator. Nevertheless, lots of useful plant species have been domesticated from Sub-Sahara Africa material and numerous others would seem to have market potential if addressed properly. Ethnobotanical research offers the possibility to collect information on use and utility of wild plant species from traditional people often living close to a challenging natural environment. This type of information allows us to find new candidates for domestication and subsequent development for income generation and increased food security. The paper gives examples of prospective new species, and goes on to discuss the policy issues related to new crop development and integration of the latter into the global economy.