

*Underutilized plants are species with under-exploited potential for contributing to food security and nutrition by combating 'hidden hunger' caused by micronutrient deficiencies; they often have medicinal properties and other multiple uses; they provide options for improved incomes to the poor, and for environmental services to the global community. These species collectively receive little attention from research, extension services, farmers, policy and decision makers, donors, technology providers and consumers.*

This 5-day Symposium is organised under the auspices of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), recognising the need to provide a global forum for exchange and debate on issues related to the promotion of underutilized plants.

The Symposium will take place at the Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge ([www.thengurdotomountainlodge.com](http://www.thengurdotomountainlodge.com)) ca 20 km outside of Arusha. A special price of USD80 per night on a single room bed and breakfast basis has been negotiated for participants of the symposium.



## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Four main thematic sessions are planned:

### 1. Just famine food? What contributions can underutilized plants make to food security?

Contributions to this session will discuss the role of underutilized plants as risk buffers for food security in times of environmental or societal disasters. Experience may be shared on the use of underutilized species as emergency food and fodder and the role of seed banks and other community-based initiatives during difficult periods.

### 2. Nourish or perish? The role of underutilized plants in family and society nutrition and health

Contributions to this session will highlight the use of underutilized plants, for example in providing balanced nutrition to mothers and children, contributing to healthier diets and reducing incidence of overweight and obesity. Examples may be provided of research into new forms of traditional foods, "nutraceuticals" and medicines and the re-emergence of 'forgotten' crops into the mainstream of newly affluent urban communities as trend products.

### 3. How do markets differ? Challenges and opportunities in the marketing of underutilized plant products

Contributions to this session will discuss value/supply chains for underutilized plants and their products. Do they differ from mainstream commodities, and if so in what aspects? What experience do we have with collective action in processing and marketing? Are there products that lend themselves specifically to domestic, regional or export markets? In this session, we also welcome contributions that have a specific focus on intellectual property rights issues for both newly developed/introduced crops and underutilized species.

### 4. Use it or lose it? The effect of developing underutilized plants on environmental sustainability and biodiversity

Contributions to this session will deal with the impact of increased utilization of a species on inter- and intra-specific genetic diversity and will discuss strategies to limit any adverse effect. Information about gene flow from wild to domesticated relatives may be presented as well as experience with newly domesticated species. Questions such as whether agro-ecological systems are more diverse and/or more sustainable when using underutilized species may be discussed.

### Invited Keynote Speakers

Professor **Wangari Maathai**, Nobel Prize Laureate, KENYA (tbc)  
Professor **M.S. Swaminathan**, World Food Prize Laureate, INDIA (tbc)  
Dr **Boitshepo Giyose**, NEPAD, SOUTH AFRICA (tbc)  
Professor **Alfred E. Temu**, Sokoine University, TANZANIA (tbc)  
Dr **Nigel Maxted**, University of Birmingham, UK

### EXCURSIONS

A 1/2-day excursion will take participants to AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center, the Arusha market and underutilized crop producing farmers.

**Post-conference tours** to Arusha (1-day), the Tarangire National Park (1-day) and into the Usambara Mountains (2-days) will be offered (see overleaf for more details).

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to the four themes will be peer-reviewed and if accepted, published in the ISHS series "Acta Horticulturae".

Please indicate whether you intend to make an oral or a poster contribution. Please also indicate if you are using a novel format, such as video, interactive play etc. (you must bring your own props if you need any). The Scientific Committee will make a final decision on acceptance and mode of presentation of the submitted abstracts.

### Guidelines for abstract submission

Abstracts should follow the format provided by ISHS: (<http://www.ishs.org/acta/index.htm>).

### Poster specifications

Each poster will be allocated a maximum space of 1m x 1.5m (ca 3ft x 5 ft).

### Time table

Abstract submission deadline: **15 August 2007**

Authors informed of acceptance of abstracts: **5 November 2007**

Deadline for submission of full paper: **28 February 2008**

### Members of the International Scientific Committee

Professor **Sayed Azam-Ali**, University of Nottingham, UK  
Dr **S. Bala Ravi**, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, INDIA  
Professor **Patrick van Damme**, University of Ghent, BELGIUM  
Dr **Ian K. Dawson**, Associate Fellow, World Agroforestry Centre, UK  
Dr **Lois Englberger**, Island Food Community of Pohnpei, FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA  
Dr **Jacky Ganry\***, Chair of ISHS Section Tropical and Subtropical Fruits and CIRAD, FRANCE  
Dr **Josep A. Garí**, FAO, ITALY  
Dr **Luigi Guarino**, Global Crop Diversity Trust, ITALY  
Dr **Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon\***, Global Facilitation Unit for Underutilized Species, ITALY  
Dr **Kim Hummer\***, Chair of ISHS Commission Plant Genetic Resources and USDA, USA  
Dr **Hannah Jaenicke\***, International Centre for Underutilised Crops, SRI LANKA  
Dr **Ramni Jamnadass**, World Agroforestry Centre, KENYA  
Dr **Rémi Kahane\***, GlobalHort, TANZANIA  
Mr **Patrick Maundu**, Bioversity International, KENYA  
Dr **Omo Ohiokpehai**, CIAT-TSBF, KENYA  
Dr **Stefano Padulosi**, Bioversity International, ITALY  
Dr **RBS Rawat**, ICIMOD, NEPAL  
Dr **Jan Siemonsma\***, PROTA, THE NETHERLANDS/KENYA  
Dr **Detlef Virchow\***, AVRDC-The World Vegetable Center, TANZANIA

\* also members of the Organizing Committee

## REGISTRATION

Registration fees will cover teas/coffees/lunches and dinner on 4 March and the proceedings as a volume of ISHS's peer-reviewed series "Acta Horticulturae". Tickets for the Symposium Banquet and Cultural Show on 5 March can be purchased for USD25.

### Registration fees (in US Dollar):

	Before 15 Nov 2007	After 15 Nov 2007
ISHS members	500	575
non-ISHS members*	575	660
accompanying persons	250	290
local attendees and students	100**	115**

\* includes a 1-year membership of the ISHS

\*\* or equivalent in local currency

### Cancellation policy:

50% refund will be available for cancellations up to **31 January 2008**. No refund will be available for cancellations after that date.

### Financial support

In order to encourage delegates from developing countries, we are currently negotiating with various sponsors to identify a suitable means of providing financial support. If you think you could qualify for assistance, please write a brief (no more than 400 words) proposal outlining the reasons why you think you should be considered. All applications will be considered in confidence by the Organizing Committee. However, there will only be limited funding and the organizers strongly encourage participants to source own funding.

### ACCOMMODATION

A special rate of USD 80 B&B has been negotiated with the Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge for participants of this Symposium. Participants need to book before 15 November to reserve a room and take advantage of this special rate.

Email: [ngurdoto@thengurdotomountainlodge.com](mailto:ngurdoto@thengurdotomountainlodge.com)



## POST-SYMPOSIUM TOURS

Three exciting tours are on offer. Bookings for these tours will be directly with the local Travel Agency.

### TOUR 1: Arusha Town (Friday, 1 day: 8 am-5 pm)

This excursion is nearby and a possibility for those people who did not have an opportunity to visit Arusha Market during the excursion on Wednesday. Furthermore we can have a look in town, buy some souvenirs and go to the snake park where we can see a great variety of African snakes.

Costs around **USD 30** per person.

### TOUR 2: Tarangire National Park (Friday, 1 day: 6 am-7 pm).

This excursion is going to one of the nearest and most beautiful National Parks here. In Tarangire we will see many elephants, giraffes, zebras and perhaps lions amongst a great landscape. Drive to the gate 2-3 h.

Costs around **USD 80 -100** per person.

### TOUR 3: Usambara Mountains (Fri/Sat 2 days. Friday 6 am-Saturday 7 pm)

The Usambara Mountains are around 4 hours drive from Arusha; a great landscape with a mild climate that allows growing tropical and temperate fruits and vegetables at the same time. Overnight will be in the lovely town of Lusotho.

Different visits are possible (but only 1-2 can be realized): (a) Meet farmers who are producing high quality (exotic) vegetables which are directly delivered to high-end hotels in Dar es Salaam. (b) Visit a wattle tree plantation (production of shoe polish). (c) Visit a small abbey where Macadamia oil (besides many other agricultural products) is produced.

Costs around **USD 150 - 170** per person.

### For further information, please email to:

[Symposium08@avrdc-rca.co.tz](mailto:Symposium08@avrdc-rca.co.tz)

Or contact:

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fax: +255-27-255-3125

Symposium website: [www.icuc-iwmi.org/Symposium2008](http://www.icuc-iwmi.org/Symposium2008)

## Second Circular

# International Symposium “Underutilized Plant Species for food, nutrition, income and sustainable development”

3-7 March 2008  
Arusha, Tanzania

