



## INTRODUCTION

The main objective of InnoFoodAfrica (IFA) is to develop new sustainable value chains (VC) to produce and distribute diverse and healthy foods from African farms to local and export markets. It focuses on Southern and Eastern African regions (South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda) and European export markets by empowering smallholder farmers and SME entrepreneurs. IFA works on strategic food crops (Finger millet, Teff, Maize, Faba Bean, Amaranth, Sorghum, Cowpeas, Bambara Groundnut, Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato, Banana) in the partner countries.

## IFA WORKS TO ADDRESS

- ❑ How to improve the supply of nutritious, affordable and good-quality food for the increasing population in Africa.
- ❑ How to improve nutritional imbalance in Africa both in the rural and urban areas.
- ❑ How to improve market access to smallholder farmers in Africa.
- ❑ How to address the gender gap and lack of prospect for youth which is holding back progress towards ending hunger and creating meaningful jobs for these population groups.

## PRELIMINARY PROJECT RESULTS

Training on consumer and sensory testing of food products is conducted for researchers, students and other stakeholders. The training seek to equip participants with the knowledge, skills and tools required not only to effectively and successfully conduct food product sensory testing in the four Africa countries, but also to promote a culture of making sensory science an integral part of the whole food value system. The [training videos](#) are made available for the public on the YouTube channel of the project.

A [guidebook](#) on the demographic profiles of consumers and cultural practices in the four African countries is completed and published. It can be accessed on the publication page of the project website.

Value chain and market survey is conducted to show how food and bio-packaging products, services and their value are created and what the barriers and opportunities are to create successful market strategies for the new products. The survey helps to understand the main stakeholders, primary value adding activities, interlinkages between operators and relationships in the studied crops. The [report of the survey](#) is available on the publication page of the project website

A food review in selected urban areas is conducted showing that undernutrition is declining in many parts of Sub Saharan Africa countries, but prevalence of adult overweight is alarmingly increasing, due to poor quality diets. The sub-national maps generated as part of the food review helps various stakeholders in identifying the magnitude and distribution of malnutrition.

A food consumption survey is conducted providing insight on what urban dwellers purchase, consume, and what drives their dietary choices. The report helps various stakeholders to understand how diet and nutritional outcomes relate in the urban African settings.

Development of novel food products based on the IFA crops is underway. The process utilizes adapting various technologies to the selected crop raw materials that were converted to flour to obtain year round availability, improve preservation time and nutrient content. So far, promising food prototypes such as snacks, porridges, pastas, animal protein analogues, grits and baked goods are developed. A [factsheet](#) on the development of healthy gluten-free crackers is available on the publication page of the website.

## PRELIMINARY PROJECT RESULTS

A survey of chosen crop side streams in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa was conducted and most potential side streams for material development selected. The survey provides various stakeholders knowledge about side streams and their commercial potential in the packaging industry. Valorisation of crop side streams to biomaterials is conducted. The first biomaterial prototypes developed indicate potential in replacing fossil-based materials. Read the [factsheet](#).

The InnoFoodAfrica project work begun by implementing the farmer participatory research (FPR) activities in the four African countries. FPR approach empowers smallholder farmers. The farmers are involved in decision making, planning and in the development of suitable farming practices. Smallholder farmers in two different sites of the four African countries are selected to participate in the FPR. The focus is to introduce good agricultural practices apt to climate smart production in order to boost productivity, develop and link farmers to functional seed systems for sustainability, assist the farmers in adapting modern postharvest handling technologies to maintain the quality and increase the shelf life of the produced crops.

# innofood africa

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SCAN ME

