



Presentation Invitation

Joint virtual workshop between the CNAFS, QAAFI, The University of Queensland, Australia and Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa On

Promoting Health and Food Security with Indigenous Crops

Dates: 5th & 6th March, 2024 Time: 4.30 PM – 6.00 PM, Brisbane, Australia 8.30 AM - 10.00 AM Pretoria, Tshwane, South Africa

Guest Speaker: Prof Ing. Ladislav Kokoška

Department of Crop Sciences and Agroforestry of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, The Czech Republic

Title of the presentation: Underutilized crops as novel foods for health and nutrition improvement: A Samoa case study

About this workshop

According to a United Nations report, 75% of global food production comes from just 12 crops, with rice, maize and wheat providing around 60% of the protein and calories consumed by people. This is alarming, as the genetic diversity of plants has decreased by 75% since the start of the 20th century. Investing in indigenous crops could be a solution to both food insecurity and biodiversity loss. Indigenous crops offer numerous benefits such as improved nutrition and health, boosting local economies, strong adaptability to climate change, conservation of biodiversity in agriculture, and preservation of cultural heritage. Indigenous foods help to increase dietary diversity. This workshop aims to share the evidence-based research on the nutritional, bioactive and functional properties of Indigenous crops, impact of processing methods on phytonutritional compounds and antinutrients in Indigenous crop and product development and value addition. This workshop aims to improve research collaborations between the two institutions and encourages participation of postgraduates and early career researchers.

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