



**HEALTH  
RESILIENCE  
DIVERSITY**

## CAPACITY STATEMENT



# World Vegetable Center

WorldVeg builds quality partnerships in research and development to increase the production and consumption of safe, nutritious and health-promoting **vegetables** for faster, greater and lasting positive impact on the nutritional status, incomes, and well-being of people, particularly youth and women in Africa and Asia.

## MISSION

Research and development to realize the potential of vegetables for healthier lives and more resilient livelihoods.

## WHAT WE DO

WorldVeg research provides small-scale farmers with the **knowledge, skills, technologies, and opportunities** to boost their vegetable yields and increase their incomes.

Our activities aim to **strengthen the entire vegetable value chain to unleash the economic and nutritional power of vegetables**, from breeding and vegetable seed systems to market access and awareness of the need for a healthy diet.

## VEGETABLES

### *A major source of cash income for smallholder farmers*

Vegetable production provides a way out of poverty for smallholder farmers and the landless—especially women and youth. It generates more income and jobs per hectare, on-farm and off-farm, than most other agricultural enterprises.

### *Nutritional powerhouses*

Vegetables are the best source of vital micronutrients. Without sufficient micronutrients in the diet, children fail to thrive and adults struggle to learn and earn. Increasing vegetable consumption reduces micronutrient deficiencies (“hidden hunger”).

### *Essential for balanced diets and good health*

Previous global emphasis on increasing the production of staples has resulted in less diverse diets and reduced health. WorldVeg promotes the health benefits of vegetables as part of a balanced diet, and develops specific health-promoting properties of particular vegetables.

## THE WORLDVEG DIFFERENCE

- Exclusive focus on **vegetable research**
- Global leader in promoting **vegetables for development**
- Holds the **world's largest public-sector collection of vegetable seed**, an international public good, with more than 440 species represented
- Holds **Africa's largest collection of traditional vegetable seed**
- WorldVeg plant breeders have developed some of the most enduring, heat-tolerant, pest and disease resistant **vegetable varieties** available
- Experienced, knowledgeable **trainers**
- Expertise working with national partners, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector in **Africa and Asia**



## BREEDING NOW and FOR THE FUTURE

- Develop **climate-resilient vegetables** adapted to higher temperatures and more extreme weather
- Find species suited to **specific production systems**
- Breed **pest- and disease-resistant vegetables** to reduce the need for pesticides
- Enhance the **nutritional quality** of vegetables
- Explore the untapped possibilities of **traditional vegetables** for nutrition and income generation



## WORLDVEG GENE BANK

- WorldVeg maintains the world's **largest public sector collection of vegetable seed** in its headquarters Genebank. Comprising more than 61,000 accessions of 440 species, the WorldVeg genebank includes globally important vegetables as well as more than 10,000 accessions of hardy traditional vegetables. Our Seed Repository in Arusha, Tanzania holds more than 2,700 accessions, 78% of which are traditional crops.

## QUICK FACTS

**Founded in 1971 in Taiwan by the Asian Development Bank, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Thailand, USA, Vietnam, and the Republic of China.**

### **Global network with 5 regional offices**

- o Headquarters (Shanhua, Taiwan – 1971)
- o East and Southeast Asia (Bangkok, Thailand - 1992)
- o Eastern and Southern Africa (Arusha, Tanzania - 1992)
- o South Asia (Hyderabad, India - 2006)
- o West and Central Africa - Dry Regions (Bamako, Mali - 2014)
- o West and Central Africa - Coastal & Humid Regions (Cotonou, Benin - 2017)





## RESEARCH FOR RESILIENCE

- For more than 40 years the Center's breeding and agronomic research has developed **climate-resilient vegetable crops** better adapted to the high temperatures and weather extremes of the tropics.
- Our **integrated pest management strategies** and **protected cultivation structures** help farmers reduce pesticide misuse to protect the health of themselves, consumers, and the environment. Protected cultivation extends harvests, so farmers can make money in the off-season.
- With **improved postharvest practices**, more of a farmer's crop reaches the market. Best postharvest practices ensure a safer food supply for consumers.
- Adding **value to vegetables** by drying or processing creates jobs and generates income for many participants along the vegetable value chain.
- **Home gardens** provide a ready supply of fresh, nutritious food for the family, create home-based employment through vegetable processing, and generate household income through sales of surplus vegetables. WorldVeg is a leader in home garden design and dissemination.

## THE COMPANY WE KEEP

- WorldVeg is a member of the **Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture (AIRCA)** and is committed to achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals**.



## GLOBAL AND TRADITIONAL CROPS

- **Global vegetables** such as tomato, onion, and pepper are a source of cash income for smallholders and are among the most popular vegetables grown worldwide.
- **Traditional vegetables** such as amaranth and spider plant are hardy, nutritious and culturally important underutilized species from specific locations. They may be native to an area or naturalized, and are generally easy to grow. Traditional vegetables are important sources of food and nutrients for the poor in times of scarcity.



### Projects in over 30 countries

#### Annual revenue: USD 21 million. Core donors:

- o Republic of China (ROC)
- o UK Department for International Development (UK aid)
- o United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- o Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)
- o Germany
- o Thailand
- o Philippines
- o Korea
- o Japan

Approximately 400 staff with about 60 internationally recruited scientists and professionals

# VEGETABLES

*Healthier lives, more resilient livelihoods*



## INVEST in VEGETABLES!

- In eastern and southern Africa, 50% of tomato and 98% of African eggplant seed produced commercially in the region were varieties developed by WorldVeg. With an investment of US\$ 7 million in research, extension, and promotion, these two crops generated economic gains of US\$ 254 million for tomato and US\$ 5 million for African eggplant in Tanzania alone.
- In India, nearly 15% of tomato and chili pepper seed sales of commercial hybrids contained WorldVeg material, benefiting an estimated 500,000 farmers.
- Two-thirds of Myanmar's mungbean farmers plant Yezin 11 and Yezin 14, two virus-resistant varieties developed by WorldVeg. Together, these two varieties benefit about 425,000 farm households in the country.



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

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