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SASS-y sustainability /  
Cambodia's safer approach to  
managing pests / Students,  
parents garden in Nepal

Jan 2019

## To secure the future of food, look to the ancestors of eggplant



Eggplant comes in all colors, shapes and sizes. Protecting crop wild relatives is the key to future food security. Photo courtesy: Crop Trust

*In collaboration with the Crop Trust and the Crop Wild Relatives project, WorldVeg collects and protects the many precursors of today's eggplant varieties. NOVA, an influential science program of the US Public Broadcasting System (PBS) reported on this important work.*

In a greenhouse in tropical southern Taiwan grows a small tree. From its hardy trunk sprout stems with wide, fuzzy leaves and sprays of white star-like flowers. Some of these flowers have already transformed into inedible green fruits...

— READ MORE —

[\(https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/wild-relatives-eggplant/\)](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/wild-relatives-eggplant/)

## TOP STORIES



**54th Board Meeting brings members to the field**  
board members toured the regional office campus and learned first-



**WorldVeg and ACIAR sign new agreement to guide future collaboration**



**Developing a concept for SAFEVEG**

hand about initiatives to develop solar dryers for vegetables, innovations in below-ground grafting chambers, and vegetable business hubs to engage young people in horticultural production.



### Training for South Asia's seed companies

In early 2018, seed company representatives attended a needs assessment at WorldVeg and set out a priority list of training topics. In response, WorldVeg South Asia organized three courses to address their training requirements.



### Committing personal resources to vegetable trials

It takes individual effort for the benefits of a project to take hold on farms and in communities once activities conclude.

Long-term strategic donor the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research recently renewed its commitment to the mission and research of WorldVeg.



### SASS-y symposium highlights sustainable ag strategies

What makes local food systems more sustainable?



### Safe pest management in Cambodia: Calling for impact

Some insects like eating vegetables, but most consumers don't like to share theirs. Protecting vegetable crops from insect pests remains a huge challenge for farmers; many often over-apply chemical pesticides to reduce the risk of crop loss and deliver unblemished produce to the market.

WorldVeg and partners in Mali, Burkina Faso and Benin recently began planning for a new initiative to tap rising urban demand for safe, affordable, and nutritious vegetables.



### Garden interventions diversify vegetable production in Nepal

Increasing vegetable consumption is important in Nepal, where only 42% of the boys and girls 6-9 years old are estimated to receive the minimum diversity of foods needed for a healthy diet.



### New members appointed to World Vegetable Center Board of Directors

The World Vegetable Center is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda** and **Ms. Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli** to the Center's Board of Directors. The announcement was made during the 54th meeting of the board, held from 26-29 November 2018 in Arusha, Tanzania. "Their scope of experience in shaping Africa's agricultural strategy and policy will strengthen the Center's ability to deliver research with impact," said Marco Wopereis, WorldVeg Director General. "We are fortunate to have these dynamic and forward-thinking women to advise us on our strategy and activities."

## RECENT RESEARCH

- + Identification of resistance in tomato against root knot nematode (*Meloidogyne incognita*) and comparison of molecular markers for Mi gene.

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- + Quantitative and quality losses caused by rodents in on-farm stored maize: a case study in the low land tropical zone of Kenya.

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- + Effect of nitrogen fertilizer and shading on the growth of *Tetragonia tetragonioides* (Pallos) Kuntze in summer.

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- + Strengthening AIRCA monitoring and evaluation systems.

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- + Long-term spatial-temporal trends and variability of rainfall over Eastern and Southern Africa.

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- + Drought or/and heat-stress effects on seed filling in food crops: Impacts on functional biochemistry, seed yields, and nutritional quality.

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Annual Seed & Seedling Festival

## NEW PROJECTS



### Characterization and Evaluation of Genetic Resources of Minor Pulses for Crop Improvement

By tapping the diversity in genebanks, minor pulses can have a major impact on the quality of diets and livelihoods.



### Analyzing schools as platforms to improve diets, livelihoods and the environment in East Africa

Analyzing schools as platforms to improve diets, livelihoods and the environment in East Africa Can schools be a link to health and well-being for the entire community? Start date: 1 [...] (<https://avrdc.org/analyzing-schools-as-platforms-to-improve-diets-livelihoods-and-the-environment-in-east-africa/>)

## CORNUCOPIA

### HAVE YOU READ...

- 📖 **Makaushio ya kutukia nishati ya jua: Kanuni na misingi**  
([https://worldveg.tind.io/record/66417/files/MAKAUSHIO%20YA%20KUTUMIA%20JUA\\_r1.pdf](https://worldveg.tind.io/record/66417/files/MAKAUSHIO%20YA%20KUTUMIA%20JUA_r1.pdf)) (Solar Dryers: Principles and Basics). This manual provides an overview of solar drying principles and practices in Kiswahili.
- 📖 **International cooperators' guide: Suggested Cultural Practices for Bitter Gourd**  
([https://worldveg.tind.io/record/66488/files/icg\\_bitter-gourd-cultural-practices\\_final.pdf](https://worldveg.tind.io/record/66488/files/icg_bitter-gourd-cultural-practices_final.pdf)). Bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia*)

### WORLDVEG IN THE NEWS

To Secure the Future of Food, Look to the Ancestors of Eggplant (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/wild-relatives-eggplant/>)  
NOVA, 19 January 2019

KU welcomes executives from WorldVeg  
(<https://iad.intaff.ku.ac.th/wordpress/?p=15753&lang=en>)  
Kasetsart University, 14 January 2019

Why indigenous vegetables hold the key to better economy, health (<https://www.the->

L.) is one of the most popular vegetables in Southeast Asia. Native to China or India, the fast-growing vine is grown throughout Asia and is becoming popular worldwide.

#### **Fresh Fruit and Vegetables: Contributions to Food and Nutrition Security.**

(<https://worldveg.tind.io/record/66771/files/eamo703.pdf>)

An overview of the importance of fruits and vegetables for food and nutrition security, with an analysis of global consumption and production data and other influencing factors.

#### **Boosting the vegetable sector in Africa.**

(<https://worldveg.tind.io/record/66747/files/e13965.pdf>)

The vegetable sector in Africa requires technical, organizational and institutional innovations as well as market interventions.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### **Eighth International Conference on Management of the Diamondback Moth and Other Crucifer Insect Pests**

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **2 FEBRUARY 2019**

### **VI International Symposium on Tomato Diseases**

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **15 FEBRUARY 2019**

[star.co.ke/news/2019/01/01/big-read-why-indigenous-vegetables-hold-the-key-to-better-economy\\_c1862079](http://star.co.ke/news/2019/01/01/big-read-why-indigenous-vegetables-hold-the-key-to-better-economy_c1862079)

The Star (Kenya), 1 January 2019

**Affordable, Scalable, Overlooked: Evaporative Cooling Can Fight Food Loss – Why isn't the Development Sector Embracing It?** (<https://nextbillion.net/affordable-scalable-overlooked-evaporative-cooling/>)

University of Michigan, 16 November 2018

## BRIEFING

### **New WorldVeg office for Korea**

A Memorandum of Arrangement between the **National Institute of Horticultural and Herbal Science, Rural Development Administration (RDA-NIHHS), Republic of Korea** and the World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) regarding the establishment and operation of a WorldVeg - Korea Office was signed by NIHHS Director General Hwang Jeong Hwan and WorldVeg DG Marco Wopereis on 21 January 2019. NIHHS is committed to developing a variety of horticultural and herbal crops, production technologies and added value creation, based on the convergence of information and communication technology and biotechnology.

### **New variety for Africa**

Using WorldVeg tomato breeding line AVTO1003 (CLN3125L), Rijk Zwaan Breeding B.V. developed a new semi-determinate plum tomato variety '**Jarrah RZ F1 (71 102)**' specifically for the African market. 'Jarrah' has good vigor and canopy color, and produces firm fruit with uniform color, weighing 80-100 g. The variety is resistant to Tomato mosaic virus (ToMV) and Tomato yellow leaf curl virus (TYLCV). 'Jarrah' is another example of how WorldVeg germplasm, breeding consortia, and collaborations in Africa and Asia benefit farmers and consumers!

### **Africa Vegetable Breeding Consortium**

(<https://avrdc.org/africa-vegetable-breeding-consortium/>) --

### **APSA-WorldVeg Vegetable Breeding Consortium**

(<https://avrdc.org/apsa-worldveg-vegetable-breeding-consort.../>)

## VISITORS



## WELCOME



**Marwan Benali** is the new Post-Doctoral Scientist for Impact Evaluation for the UK aid Africa Project. He is based at WorldVeg West and Central Africa – Coastal and Humid Regions, Cotonou, Benin. Marwan received his PhD in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Göttingen, Germany.

See who's been visiting WorldVeg headquarters!



**Delphine Larrousse** joined the Center in January 2019 as Regional Director for East and Southeast Asia, based in Bangkok, Thailand. She previously served as a Senior Program Officer in Agriculture and Food Security at Canada's International Development Research Center (IDRC), with a leadership role in research uptake and knowledge management. Her expertise in international development is founded on 15 years of experience designing, managing, monitoring, and evaluating projects globally. She has lived in 10 countries, and has led research and development projects in more than 15 countries. Her specific strengths include communication across cultures, disciplines, and sectors, coordinating large multidisciplinary research teams, and fostering partnerships.

## CONTRIBUTORS

M Abhilash, Victor Afari-Sefa, AfricaRISING, PVL Bharathi, Amy Chen, Kathy Chen, Thomas Dubois, Delphine Larrousse, Vanna Liu, Ravishankar Manickam, Maureen Mecozzi, Pepijn Schreinemachers, Marco Wopereis, Ray-yu Yang

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 Korea  
 Japan

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*"The WorldVeg genebank represents a part of the history of humanity and plants."* **Maarten van Zonneveld**, WorldVeg Genebank Director

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