

Production and marketing of horticultural seeds and seedling of Africa indigenous vegetables and fruits in Benin

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Abstract: The quality of seeds was recognized to be of paramount importance in crop production. Quality seeds available permanently and at an accessible cost will enable smallholders to increase their production, especially when it comes to horticultural crops such as vegetables and fruit trees. Unfortunately, in Benin there was no specialized company in the production of indigenous horticultural seeds IHS. The existing companies were rather specialized in exotic vegetables e.g. cabbage, carrot, seeds production, and those of them trying to supply IHS faced environmental adaptability problems. This situation obliged farmers to use seeds from their year production, a practice that resulted in drastic yield decrease over years. Our company Seed Services propose to take this challenge by providing Beninese smallholders farmers specialized in endogenous horticultural crops production with high yielding seeds at a competitive price. Our current production stressed on vegetables and fruits that have the potential to improve the nutritional profile of our local population especially children and women at reproductive age. We postulated that permanently accessible high yielding seeds will result in larger production that will in turn promote an increased consumption of nutrient rich indigenous vegetables that will ultimately result in an improved nutritional status of our population.