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Special Issue

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Special Issue

In July of 2019, a two day conference *African Indigenous Plants: From Income Generation to Health and Nutrition* held in Nairobi, Kenya gathered participants from the Horticulture Innovation Lab AIV Initiative from Kenya including the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) and MOI University, University of Eldoret and Mirror of Hope); Tanzania (WorldVeg Center); Zambia (University of Zambia and Hantambo Women's Group); and from the USA (Purdue University and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey) to share experiences, scientific studies and lessons learned over the past 5 years linking African Indigenous Vegetables (AIVs) to nutrition, medicine and health and in support of smallholder farmers and emerging entrepreneurs and to learn more about these minor and under-appreciated crops. The conference was also joined by scientists and researchers involved in indigenous plants and resources, industry and the development community involved in international development, government and others interested in innovative approaches to empower citizens, including women and youth, to reduce poverty in rural areas and health with populations experiencing micronutrient deficiencies. Guest speakers and presentations from the University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) shared additional insights and expertise. This is the first of two special issues of JMAP dedicated to the papers presented at this meeting, that then underwent peer review process. We thank the scientific contributors and do hope that these papers will foster a greater appreciation and recognition of the value of indigenous foods found all over the world and the significant role they can play in providing nutritious foods as well as improving food security, cultural pride and economic development for those communities and countries that foster and nurture this valuable yet under recognized plants.

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