AGENZIA ITALIANA PER LA COOPERAZIONE ALLO SVILUPPO

Financé par l'Union européenne



the fruit



the seed



the powder

MORINGA, THE TREE OF LIFE

REDISCOVERING THE BENEFITS AND POTENTIALS OF LOCAL CROPS

Local **NUS crops (neglected and underutilised species)**, such as moringa and hibiscus, represent a formidable asset that can help rural communities in the Sahel address the major obstacles that affect their lives.

However, NUS crops are increasingly relegated to the margins of daily culinary practices, in favour of staple crops such as wheat or rice. The action of the Italian Cooperation and its partners therefore aims to promote the benefits of NUS local crops by supporting technical and scientific research, agricultural producers and all actors in the respective value chains.

Photo credits : Moringa leaves. Author : Mauricio Mercadante. Retrieved online from : https://www.flickr.com/photos/mercadanteweb/5581072030 | Moringa fruits. Author : http://www.cropsforthefuture.org/ | Moringa seeds. Author : Forest & Kim Starr. Retrieved online from : https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/37/Starr_070207-4294_Moringa_oleifera.jpg | Moringa powder. Author : Satyalatha. Retrieved online from : https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/07/Moringa_leaves_powder.jpg

Food security. NUS crops, which are adapted to survive in arid and fertiliser-free conditions, can guarantee harvests during drought.

Nutritional security and health. Rich in nutritional properties, NUS crops can provide every person's diet with all the elements they need.

Socio-economic security. The sale of NUS crops and derived products represents an important source of income, especially for women and the youth.

Ecosystem security. Resilient to stress and climate change, NUS crops constitute a strong barrier against desertification.

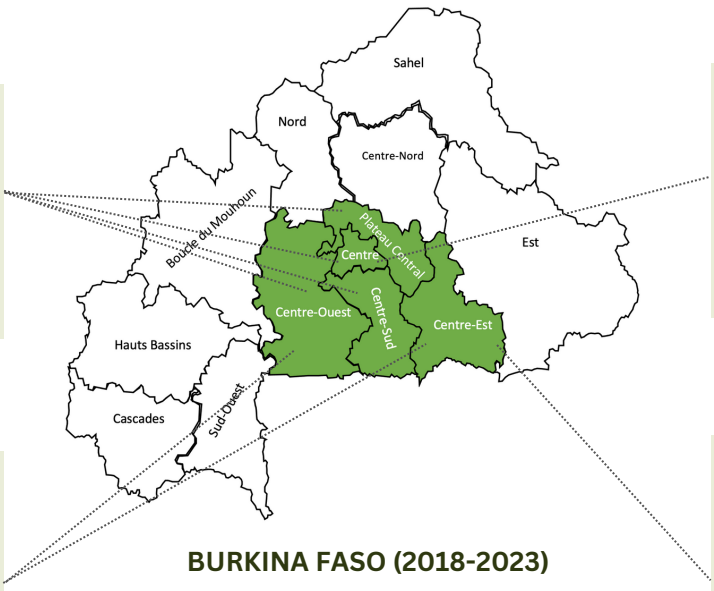
MAPPING OUR PROJECTS

AGENZIA ITALIANA PER LA COOPERAZIONE ALLO SVILUPPO — CIHEAM BARI

SUSTLIVES
Total value: 6.000.000 €
Duration: 2021-2025
Typology: EU financing
Objectives: to support research on neglected and underutilised species (NUS) and the respective value chains

manitese
UN IMPEGNO DI GIUSTIZIA

Innovative Social Enterprises
Total value: 1.975.275 €
Duration: 2018-2021
Typology: NGO Call for Proposals (AICS Rome)
Objectives: to promote entrepreneurship and create jobs



BURKINA FASO (2018-2023)

Total value: **12.637.682 €**

Supported enterprises /cooperatives : **85**

Direct beneficiaries: **515.154**

women beneficiaries: **54%**

ACRA

FEEDING THE CITY!
Total value: 3.071.848 €
Duration: 2022-2025
Typology: NGO Call for Proposals (AICS Rome)
Objectives: to promote sustainable and inclusive agriculture in the cities

AESCCO ong

Improving the nutritional conditions of women and children
Total value: 1.590.559 €
Duration: 2020-2023
Typology: NGO Call for Proposals (AICS Rome)
Objectives: to diminish the prevalence of malnutrition through the creation of revenues



DESCRIPTION AND USES

Also known as the miracle plant or tree of life, the moringa is a shrub that can grow up to 10 metres high. The trunk is about 45 cm in diameter, the bark is whitish, grey or pale, smooth or, more rarely, rough. The shoots are purplish or greenish-white. The flowers are whitish, sometimes with a pink tinge. The fresh leaves are used to prepare sauces. The leaves and flowers can also be dried and ground into a powder and used as a food supplement. Moringa (all its parts) is also used in the preparation of cosmetic products (e.g. soaps, ointments, creams) and pharmaceutical products (e.g. tablets, syrup or juice) due to its countless properties. The seed powder is also used to purify water.

NUTRITIONAL PROPERTIES

Rich in iron, zinc, calcium, vitamin A and vitamin C, moringa helps strengthen the immune system and fight infection and fatigue. Consumption of the leaves' powder is used in the fight against child malnutrition. Moringa also contains all the amino acids essential for the body's proper functioning.

ADDED VALUE

Source of **income**: The production, processing and marketing of fresh leaves and moringa-derived products generate income for thousands of families in Burkina Faso. Demand for moringa products is increasing on the international market.

Reforestation: a drought-resistant shrub adapted to low-fertility soils, moringa is used in reforestation interventions against desertification and soil degradation in the Sahel (such as the Great Green Wall) and in agroforestry systems in botanical gardens and orchards.

Women's empowerment: women occupy an important place in the processing and sale of moringa; the income these activities generate helps to promote their socio-economic status.

CHALLENGES IN THE VALUE CHAIN

PRODUCTION

- Lack of water in the dry season
- Poor crop retail
- Lack of knowledge of the technical process
- Lack of financial and technical support
- Lack of availability of moringa seed varieties

MARKETING

- Lack of information on supply and demand
- Weak stakeholder organisation
- Lack of product traceability
- Lack of organic certification, necessary for international trade opportunities
- Lack of attention to fair trade principles

PROCESSING

- Lack of knowledge of good preservation and processing techniques
- Difficulty in accessing adequate equipment
- Lack of finance and difficulties in the access to credit
- Low quality of packaging and lack of sustainable packaging
- High cost of equipment and laboratory analyses

WFTO and ECOCERT. The advantages of the fair trade and quality certification process.

- The finished product meets international hygiene and traceability standards
- Safe working conditions
- Production procedures that respect the environment
- Fair prices for women harvesters and processors
- Protection of forest areas where non-timber forest products are obtained

ECOCERT® COSMOS NATURAL

LOCAL ENTERPRISES

KE DU BURKINABÉ

Foundation: 2018

Products: Bere and Tapoa honey, Boussouma tomato puree, rice, maize couscous, moringa powder, soumbala, fruit juice, rice biscuits, soumbala broth, honey wine, honey whisky, soaps

Future prospects: i) supplying supermarkets and restaurants; ii) training to increase production and product quality; iii) social responsibility

UNION DES FEMMES DE GARANGO

Foundation: 2014

Producers supportes: +600 women

Products: shea butter, baobab oil, hibiscus oil, moringa oil, desert date oil, neem oil, dried moringa and baobab leaves, baobab fruit powder.

Future prospects: i) marketing in Europe through fair trade networks; ii) online sales; iii) national certification of enriched flours deployed to combat malnutrition.

Financial contributions

AGENCE ITALIENNE POUR LA COOPÉRATION AU DÉVELOPPEMENT

Projet financé par l'Union européenne

Executing partners

JUSTLIVES

CIHEAM BARI

ACRA

manitese UN IMPEGNO DI GIUSTIZIA

AESCCO ong