

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



*XIV International Scientific Agriculture Symposium  
"Agrosym 2023"  
Jahorina, October 05-08, 2023*



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## CUSTODIAN FARMERS OF *BAMBARA GROUNDNUT* AND *SORREL* SEEDS IN *MOSSI* AREA OF BURKINA FASO: PROFILE, DIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION METHODS

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### Abstract

The conservation and preservation of landraces genetic resources are of utmost importance in securing sustainable food security, especially in the face of significant global changes. This study aimed to identify and profile custodian farmers dealing with the preservation of two neglected and underutilized crops, Bambara groundnut/ (*Vigna subterranean*) and sorrel (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*), and explore their conservation strategies in Burkina Faso. Through gender-disaggregated focus group discussions, 68 custodian farmers were identified across 11 villages, with a majority being female. Individual semi-structured interviews were then conducted to gain insights into the seed conservation techniques employed by these farmers. The study revealed that custodian farmers employed various techniques, such as utilizing cooking pot, canaries or ash, to conserve seeds. Seed exchange emerged as a common practice among custodian farmers, playing a significant role in enriching seed diversity and fostering social cohesion within local communities. Among the identified custodian farmers, 40 were conserving Bambara groundnut seeds, while 28 were custodians of sorrel seeds. They range in age from 30 to 105, and some of them have owned their landrace for over 80 years. Nineteen (19) landraces of Bambara groundnut and six (06) landraces of sorrel were identified across the villages. Overall, these findings underscore the necessity for further research to better comprehend the factors influencing the distribution and maintenance of traditional landraces as well as the diversity of conservation methods used. They also emphasize the importance of developing effective conservation strategies that engage local communities to ensure global food security.

**Keywords:** *biodiversity conservation, custodian farmers, crop diversity, orphan crops, Burkina Faso.*