



Announcement for a Master's thesis on

Characterization and value addition options of underutilized edible plant species from Turkana, Kenya

in the framework of the project

“Improving dietary quality and livelihoods using farm and wild biodiversity through an integrated community-based approach in Ethiopia and Kenya”

led by Bioversity International, Nairobi, Kenya in collaboration with Georg-August-Universität Göttingen.

Background

The project proposes an integrated community-based approach involving communities, extension workers, NGOs, policymakers and researchers to improve use and benefits of seasonally available biodiverse cultivated and wild nutritious foods. The **project goal** is to empower communities to make better use of the potential of seasonally-available biodiverse nutritious foods to contribute to improved farm resilience, food and nutrition security and incomes in Tigray Region in Ethiopia and Turkana County in Kenya.

Responsibilities/research tasks

In consultation with the supervisors in Göttingen and at Bioversity, the master student will

- Conduct an **ethnobotanical survey** in selected areas in Turkana district, Kenya
- Document the **socio-cultural value** of local plant food species and the **recipes** of selected foods
- Test different **value addition options** such as preservation in order to bridge seasonal gaps
- **Work within an international project** and actively cooperate and communicate with the other team members in Göttingen, Hohenheim, Bonn and Kenya as appropriate

Main research questions are

- Which are the ethnobotanical characteristics of ten most preferred wild food and under-utilised crop species in the study area and what is their socio-cultural and economic value?
- How are these species prepared prior to consumption and what would be further value addition options?
- What could be promising processed products made from some of the selected plant species and what is/ would be their nutritional value/ gain?

Educational qualifications, skills and experience

- At least 2 semester master studies in agricultural sciences or related fields
- Basic knowledge and high interest in ethnobotanical surveys
- Good command of English as the thesis has to be written in English
- Team player; willingness to assume responsibility, work under harsh conditions and on own initiative
- Interest in development-oriented research in agriculture and nutrition

Preferred timeline

Start in **March 2020**

In cooperation with:

Alliance

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