

HortiSOLIN Project - Brief Summary

Horticultural market solidarity schemes to strengthen producer-consumer connectivity of agroecological opportunity crops for improved nutritional health in East Africa

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Project Partners: Egerton University, Kenya, Kabale University, Uganda, Makerere University, Uganda, Slow Food Kenya and Uganda, WWF



The HortiSOLIN research project has started its **initiation phase** – „Horticultural market solidarity schemes to strengthen producer-consumer connectivity of agroecological opportunity crops for improved nutritional health in East Africa”.

The availability of high-quality nutritious foods in local farming systems and local markets across Uganda and Kenya, East Africa, remains challenging and dietary diversity in both rural and urban areas is still low. To address these persistent issues, the HortiSOLIN project will focus on nutrient-dense opportunity crops – that create an opportunity for both agroecological farming and sustainable diets – and how they reach consumers in need of these foods in a sustainable and fair way.



By testing two horticultural solidarity schemes, a community-supported horticultural model and a territorial market solidarity scheme, in different agro-ecological areas in Kenya and Uganda, we aim to develop a project intervention framework applicable also in other areas of Sub-Saharan Africa countries.

In this way, the project contributes to the promotion of sustainable, resilient, and innovative agricultural and food systems, including through the targeted use of opportunity crops.

Although the project officially entered its initiation phase at the beginning of July, the workshop held in Uganda and Kenya at the end of August marked the start of the joint work with local and international project partners. The workshop formed the basis for further cooperation. This not only helped to get to know each other and involve local partners and stakeholders, but also to analyse existing structures, such as the Slow Food “Earth Markets”. A particular focus was placed on specifying the further project planning and identifying potential challenges. Through the intensive on-site exchange, a solid foundation was established for successful cooperation and the continued progress of the project.

