

About Speakers



Patrick Maundu is an Ethnobotanist who has devoted much of his life to research in indigenous knowledge of African biodiversity, especially in health and nutrition. Patrick led a multi-institutional team of researchers in promoting African leafy vegetables and Dietary diversification (2001-2010) in 10 African countries. This work saw the return of indigenous vegetables in the Kenyan markets and diets. For these efforts, he was recognized as a guardian of biodiversity in a Global campaign for Diversity for Life. He received the 2006 CGIAR Outstanding Award for an

innovative and highly effective campaign to promote the consumption of micronutrient-rich African leafy vegetables in Sub-Saharan Africa. He is the main author of: *Indigenous Food Plants of Kenya* (1999) and *Useful Trees and Shrubs of Kenya* (2005) and he is an editor of *Useful Trees and Shrubs of Ethiopia* (2007). He is co-author of the *Traditional Foodways* book series of Kenyan communities and of the book 'Recettes à base de légumes du couvert forestier, Burkina Faso.

Patrick is working with a team of others to improve our knowledge of African foods and to promote the foods for improved household and community nutrition. Their work led to the decision by UNESCO's sixteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage to place Kenya's Success Story of promoting traditional foodways on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices (https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/8.c.3)

Patrick Maundu believes in food diversification as an approach to improving nutrition. African biodiversity, especially food and medicinal plants, has a huge hidden potential for improving nutrition, health and livelihoods in urban and rural communities. He views indigenous knowledge as a vehicle toward discovering and unlocking this hidden potential.



Yasuyuki Morimoto has worked for the Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT as a research scientist in ethnobiology and genetic diversity since 2004. He manages several international multi-disciplinary research projects in genetic diversity and farmers' knowledge and practices with a particular emphasis on local food plants in Sub-Saharan Africa and research activities aimed at stimulating the use of local food resources in Africa to improve nutrition and livelihoods.

Currently the Principal Investigator of two Japanese government-supported research projects. Dr Morimoto is also responsible for providing scientific supervision for post-graduate student research. Dr Morimoto was previously involved in several international research projects in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso and Japan and played a key role in the African Leafy Vegetable (ALV) project, the Dietary Diversity project, Satoyama resilience indicator development project and several indigenous knowledge and several community-based researches on underutilized African food crops.

Prior to joining Biodiversity International, from 1995 to 1998, Dr Morimoto worked at the herbarium department of the National Museums of Kenya as a visiting scientist in Botany, with the financial support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Programme Agenda:

Time	Particulars
10:30-10:33	Welcome note for the speakers by Dr. Geetha Mohan
10:33-10:45	Role of Alliance Biodiversity International and CIAT by Dr. Yasuyuki Morimoto
10:45-11:40	Lecture on `Traditional Food Systems, Food Security in Kenya and the Lingering Effects of Colonial and Post-Independence Extension Policies` by Dr. Patrick Maundu
11:40-11:48	Question & Answer Session by Dr. Yasuyuki Morimoto
11:48-12:00	Closing remarks (TBD) & Group Photo