Partners

The BAOFOOD project is conducted in collaboration with research institutions, NGOs and industry in Germany, Kenya, Sudan, Malawi and the UK:

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Justus Liebig University, Gießen, Germany

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya

University of Kordofan, El Obeid, Sudan

University of Khartoum, Khartoum, Sudan

Mzuzu University, Mzuzu, Malawi

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Wild Living Resources, Kilifi, Kenya

PhytoTrade Africa, London, UK

Baobab Social Business gGmbH, Munich, Germany

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BAOFOOD PROJECT

The BAOFOOD project

Enhancing local food security and nutrition through promoting the use of baobab (*Adansonia digitata* L.) in rural communities of Eastern Africa

The baobab tree

The iconic baobab tree, commonly also known as monkey-bread tree or up-side-down tree is found naturally throughout the drier parts of sub-Saharan Africa. These areas are often also hot-spots of food and nutrition insecurity and socio-economic deprivation.

Since many parts of the tree can be used as a food source it has great potential to improve local diets and livelihoods. Particularly its fruits, which feature high contents of vita-min C, selected minerals as well as prebiotic and antioxidant properties can help com-bat micronutrient deficiencies and hidden hunger. Furthermore, through the sale of products derived from the baobab tree much needed income can be generated.

Food products made from baobab are in-creasingly popular, both in Africa as well as international markets.

Project goal

In Eastern Africa the great potential baobab can have on improving local diets and livelihoods is not yet fully recognized. Value chains and marketing pathways are poorly developed, ad-equate cultivation and processing technologies are lacking, and qualities in the raw material can vary greatly.

The BAOFOOD project aims to address these problems in the target countries Kenya and Sudan and undertakes research to promote the use, processing and market development of baobab. Distribution of baobab will be assessed, nutrient contents of baobab and derived prod-ucts as well as their contribution to nutrition and food security analysed, and baobab market and value chains investigated. Ultimately, the project results will serve to develop and imple-ment a model community-based processing unit to produce and supply highly nutritious baobab products with and for local communi-ties.

Approach

The BAOFOOD project runs from 2016 to 2019. Research activities touch on all parts of the value chain, from biological and eco-logical enquiries into the baobab tree, to the production, marketing and consump-tion of baobab foodstuffs and products.

Distribution and variability of baobab in the target region ·····> Recommendations for sustainable cultivation and domestication for commercial use

Analysis of nutrient content of raw and processed baobab products ·····> Recommendations for the develop-ment of improved, marketable baobab products

Assessment of impact of baobab on nutritional and health status of consumers ·····> Recommendations for the utilisation of baobab for human nutrition and food security

Analysis of baobab mar-kets, value chains and consumer preferences ·····> Recommendations for baobab market development

Community capacity assessment and knowledge gap analysis ·····> Capacity building activities and estab-lishment of a com-munity-based pilot processing unit