

Fachgebiet Gender und Globalisierung  
Albrecht Daniel Thaer – Institut für Agrar- und Gartenbauwissenschaften  
Zentrum für transdisziplinäre Geschlechterstudien (ZtG)



## Gender in Agricultural Value Chains: African Indigenous Vegetables in Kenya

November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
Invalidenstr. 42, Room 1231

For further information to the workshop  
please visit:

<https://hu.berlin/hortinlea-gender-ws>



Even though AIVs (African Indigenous Vegetables) are an integral part of Kenyan meal culture, their potential for food sovereignty and sustainable livelihoods has not been fully explored - lacking policies for indigenous crops and the stigmatization as 'weed' and 'poor people's food' stemming from colonial rule cause low consumption. Much of the labour and knowledge in producing and consuming AIVs is provided by women. However, on the production side, women lack access and control over necessary resources and may not benefit from the current upgrading of the crop as men take greater control in production and marketing. On the consumption side, the preparation of AIVs is time-consuming and clashes with other productive and reproductive duties. Moreover, sociocultural norms cause a traditional division of labour within households.

If we want to shape development in the future along lines of fairness, gender equity and sustainability, it becomes thus vital to understand past and current developments of AIV value chains. We must explore who is included and who is left behind, focus on the inherent power relations along the chain – starting from seed management to cooking and eating within the household – and critically assess them from a gender perspective. The aim of this workshop is to address the power relations and the social embeddedness of AIV value chains in Kenya by presenting and discussing the final results of the HORTINLEA PhD projects “Gender Order in AIV value chains” and “Meal Cultures”, which investigate the AIV value chain from production to consumption. The discussion will focus on the diverse aspects of food systems, an analysis of their implications and finally on policy recommendations to create a more just, gender equal and sustainable AIV value chain in Kenya.

#### Contact:

Meike Brückner (meike.brueckner@gender.hu-berlin.de),  
Inken Behrmann (inken.behrmann@hu-berlin.de),  
Division of Gender und Globalisation

#### Program

**9:00 – 9:15 am**

Welcome Remarks  
*Christine Bauhardt,*  
*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin,*  
*Germany*

**9:15 – 9:45 am**

Introduction of the  
Hortinlea Project  
*Suse Brettin,*  
*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin,*  
*Germany*

**9:45 – 10:30 am**

Gender Dynamics in Agricultural  
Value Chains  
*Rhiannon Pyburn, Royal Tropical*  
*Institute - KIT, Netherlands*

**10:30 – 10:45 am**

Coffee Break

**10:45 – 11:45 am**

Commercialization of African  
Indigenous Vegetables and their  
Effect on Gender Dynamics  
in Kenya  
*Ruth Githiga, African Center for*  
*Technology Studies, Kenya*

**11:45 am– 12:45 pm**

The Role of Women in Ensuring  
Food Security in Structural  
Conflict in Kenya  
*Emma Oketch, African Center for*  
*Technology Studies, Kenya*

**12:45 – 2:15 pm**

Lunch Break

**2:15 – 3:00 pm**

Women as Gatekeepers to  
Family Nutrition: Paradoxes of  
Power, Preferences and Morality  
*Anke Niehof, Wageningen*  
*University & Research,*  
*Netherlands*

**3:00 – 4:00 pm**

The Bittersweet Consumption of  
African Indigenous Vegetables:  
A Meal Sovereignty Perspective  
*Meike Brückner,*  
*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin,*  
*Germany*

**4:00 – 4:15 pm**

Coffee Break

**4:15 – 5:15 pm**

AIV Consumption in Kenya -  
Choices and Challenges  
*Anne Aswani, African Center of*  
*Technology Studies, Kenya*

**5:15 – 5:30 pm**

Wrap-up