

IDENTIFYING PLANTS USED AS NATURAL PESTICIDES IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

On June 2017 the [CIRAD \(French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development\)](#) launched the *Knowledge management on pesticide plants in Africa project*. This initiative has been designed as a mean to support the development of organic farming in the countries where it is carried out, enhancing the economic and environmental potential in the use of traditional natural pesticides.

The project will be realized in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo involving a network of 70 researchers and organizations partners which participate by analyzing the available literature and performing the field work.

The work consists in identifying plants and essential oils used by the local farmers as natural pesticides to protect crops or stored products from pests or diseases. The studies will concern their uses, how they work, the organisms they target, and their unintentional effects, for instance on a non-target organisms.

The aim is to gather and add-on the information already available with scientific validation studies in a database that could be disseminated and used in order to:

- develop the production of these quality-controlled products, boosting the income of producers and enhancing economic development in the territories;
- increase the use of natural products, which are much cheaper than conventional pesticides, among farmers and their organizations, making local people less dependent for what concerns the production and use of phytosanitary protection products.

The initiative, with the overall goal to contribute to the development of organic farming in the countries, is managed by the CIRAD Center in the framework of the programme [INRA-CIRAD transition pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.](#)

CIRAD is the French agricultural research and international cooperation organization working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions. From its regional offices, CIRAD conducts joint operations with more than 90 countries. For CIRAD, [territories are major areas of experimentation and technical, organizational and political innovation.](#)

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