



UPGRADE
Plus

Decentralised postharvest processing of underutilized species to improve food and nutrition security in West Africa

THE CHALLENGE

- **1.3 billion tonnes of food** is **lost or wasted** each year at different stages of the food value chain
- High post-harvest losses lead to economic losses and **significant harm to natural resources**
- More than **2 billion people** worldwide are **suffering from micronutrient deficiencies**
- Women of reproductive age and children of 0-59 months are particularly susceptible to the severe consequences

OUR APPROACH

- ✓ An innovative small-scale modular, **decentralised postharvest food processing** unit based on **local materials** and **renewable energies**
- ✓ Utilisation of high-value underutilised species for the production of innovative and diverse **nutrient-rich processed food** products with extended shelf-life
- ✓ **Empowerment of women**, especially those organized in groups, to prevent micronutrients deficiencies in children as well as improve the health status of pregnant and lactating women
- ✓ Trained artisans who contribute towards rollout of the system in partner countries
- ✓ Development of a mobile phone application to promote linkages between key value chain actors and support the **development of a working maintenance and repair infrastructure**

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EXPECTED RESULTS

- **Improve the diets among women, infants and young children** in selected target regions
- Creation of **income generating opportunities** for women's groups in West Africa
- Develop innovative **small-scale modular, decentralised photovoltaic driven postharvest food processing units** appropriate for local conditions
- **Empowerment of women** in order to prevent micronutrient deficiencies in their communities
- Stimulation of technology rollout through capacity development among **local artisans** to **build and maintain systems**
- Training selected members of women's groups to conduct trainings on processing of underutilised species (training of trainers)

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