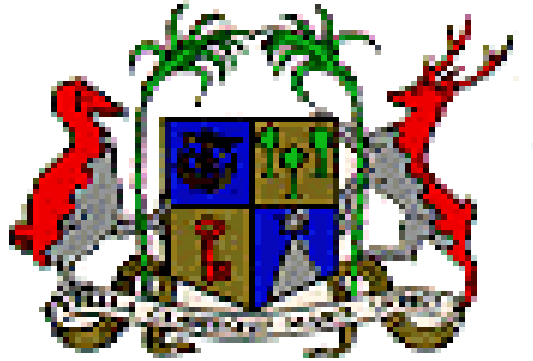


# Country Report Mauritius



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# The Republic of Mauritius

***Sawaadee kaa***  
***Good Morning***  
***Bonjour***  
***Namaste***



# The Republic Of Mauritius



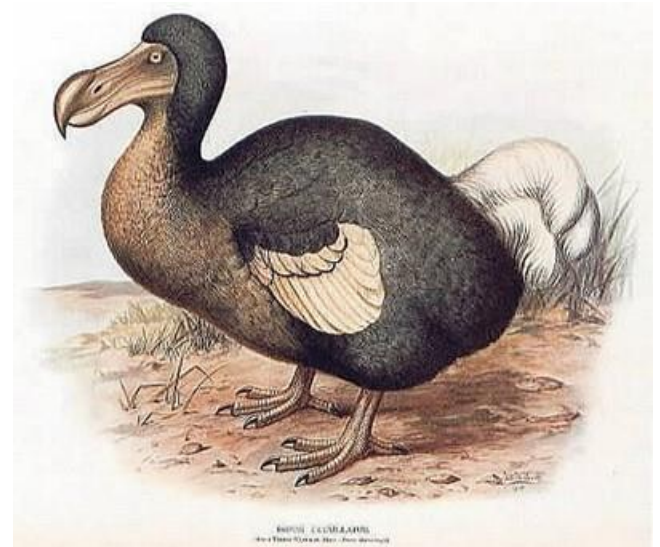
# The Republic Of Mauritius

- Small tropical volcanic island
- 1,865 km<sup>2</sup> (186,475 ha)  
(55 km x 35 km)
- Situated in the Indian Ocean, 2,000 km off the south east coast of the African continent slightly over the tropic of Capricorn.
- Global Positioning: Latitude 20° south and Longitude 57° east of Greenwich.
- Has a number of dependencies, namely Rodrigues, Agalega, St. Brandon, Tromelin and some small islets
- Exclusive Economic Zone 1.9 million km<sup>2</sup>



# History

- Dutch Period (1598-1710)
- French Period (1715 – 1810)
- British Period (1810 – 1968)
  - Abolition of slavery
  - Indian Immigrants
  - Independence -1968
- Republic - 1992



# Facts & Figures

- Population: 1.26 M
- Population of Indian, African, European and Chinese origin (Rainbow nation)

Hindus	48%
Roman Catholic	23.6%
Protestant	8.6%
Muslims	16.6%
Others	2.5%
Non-Religious	0.4%

- Languages Spoken: Creole (Local dialect), English, French, Bhojpuri (Indian dialect), Asian Languages



# Pillars of the economy

- Agriculture (4 % of GDP )
- Manufacturing (18% of GDP )
- Tourism (7% of GDP )
- Financial Services
- ICT (Information & Telecommunication Technology)
- Seafood Hub



# Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI)

- Parastatal body operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security
- Has the responsibility to conduct research in non-sugarcane crops, livestock, agro-forestry and to provide an extension service to farmers in Mauritius and its outer islands.
- Mission: To support and implement priority research, development and training programmes and projects and appropriate technologies for food security and to enhance competitiveness, sustainability and stakeholders equity across the agri-food value chains.

# FAREI Organisational Structure

- Departments
- Crop Research



- Livestock Research
- Extension and Training
- Support Service

## Divisions

Agronomy  
Vegetable and Ornamental  
Entomology  
Fruit  
Plant Pathology  
Resource Management

# Objectives of Crop Department of FAREI

- To develop improved cropping technologies.
- To develop novel varieties through breeding and biotechnology.
- Value addition of agricultural produce through agro-processing.
- Increase farmers' knowledge and skills to improve their productivity and income through timely cost-effective technology transfer of innovative practices.
- Meet policy requirements of government.

# The Vegetable and Ornamental Division

- **Projects**
- Introduction and evaluation of cucurbits (Cucumber, squash, melon, watermelon, zucchini, butternut, gherkins)
- Maintenance Breeding of local cucumber variety
- Improvement of cultural practices for vegetable production (Protected structure)



# The Non-Sugar Sector Strategic Plan

- The Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Agroindustry and Food Security for the period 2016-2020 has been formulated to take Mauritius to a higher level of food security whilst respecting the need for safe food and better nutrition of the population.
- Overall goal
- Raise the national food security level by maintaining self-sufficiency in those agricultural products where it is possible and by generating a significant, concomitant increase in local production of others.

# Topics from Module 2

- Value Chain Analysis
- Nutrition Security and Bioactive compounds in vegetables and fruits
- Urban Agriculture Practices: Home and Public facility gardens, an approach to food security



# Development Action Plan

- Mauritius self-sufficient in fresh vegetables: 110000 t
- Potato: 17,000 t
- Onion: 6,000 t
- But still a net food importer, with imports close to 77 % of its food requirements.

Some imported Food items	Amount (t)
Wheat	166 000
Rice	66 000
Potato	7000
Onion	9000

# List of vegetables cultivated in Mauritius

Vegetables		
Crucifers	Tomato	Eddoes
Carrot	Ginger	Manioc (Cassava)
Chillies	Ladies Finger	Beet
Cucurbits	Lettuce	Maize
Garlic	Legume Crops	Groundnut
Onion	Brinjal	Leafy vegetables
Potato	Echalote	
Sweet Potato	Leek	

# Action Plan

- Title: Promotion of highly-nutritious, health-benefic, under-utilised crops (*Moringa oleifera*)

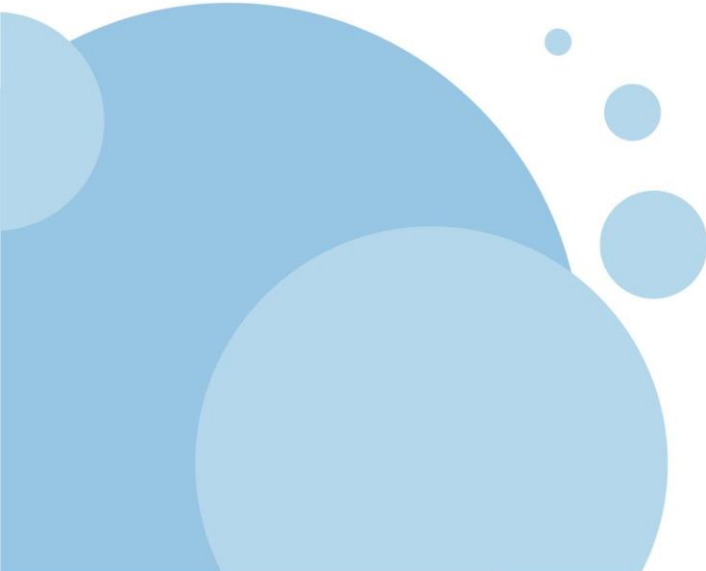


# Justification

- Nature a treasure of nutrients and bioactive compound-rich crops, but many still under-utilised/unknown
- Bioactive compounds beneficial to health, reduce risks of cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases
- High prevalence of non-communicable disease in Mauritius due to unhealthy eating habits
- Local population aware of benefits of some under-utilised crops (noni, moringa)
- Climate change and international conflicts
- Food and nutrition security
- Opportunity for agribusiness, Small and medium Enterprises (SMEs)

# Objectives

- To expose the local population to a more diversified range of vegetables.
- To ensure food and nutrition security through the exploitation of more locally available vegetables.



# Implementation of Activities

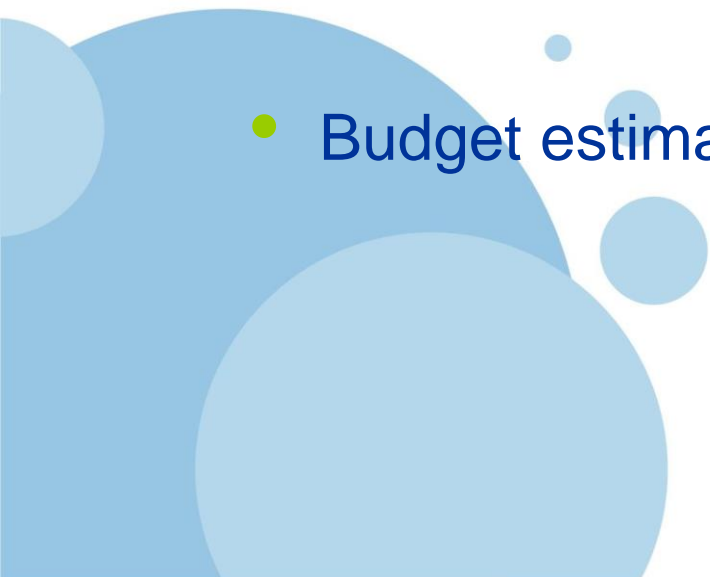
- Activity 1: Production of seedlings for the establishment of Moringa plantation on FAREI research stations
  - Time frame: 1 year
  - Seedling production (2 month)
  - Set up of moringa field
- 
- Activity 2: Production of seedlings for distribution to planters and homegardens
  - Time frame: 3 months

# Implementation of Activities

- Activity 3: Collaborative work with Agro-processing unit of FAREI for minimal-processing of moringa leaves and drumsticks.
- Time frame: 2 years
- Budget estimate: US \$ 5000
- Activity 4: Collaborative work with Agro-processing unit of FAREI for the production of a recipe book on moringa
- Time frame: 2 years
- Budget estimate: US \$ 15000

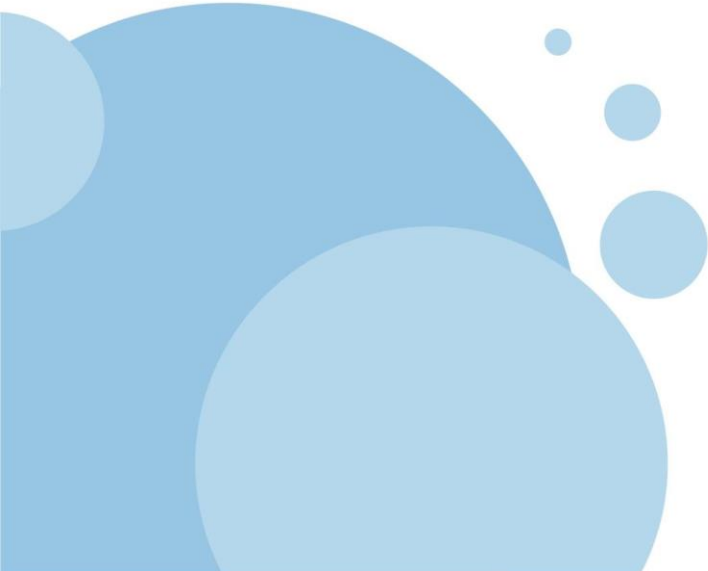


# Implementation of Activities

- Activity 5: Collaborative work with training unit of FAREI for training of women entrepreneurs in minimal-processing of moringa leaves and drumsticks.
  - Time frame: 1 month
  - Budget estimate: US \$ 5000
- 
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# Challenges

- Reluctancy from growers community to cultivate not-very-well-known crops
- Slow integration of 'new' vegetables into the diet of the local population



# Conclusion

- We should eat locally available vegetables and fruits
- A step forward toward sustainable development in Agricultural sector



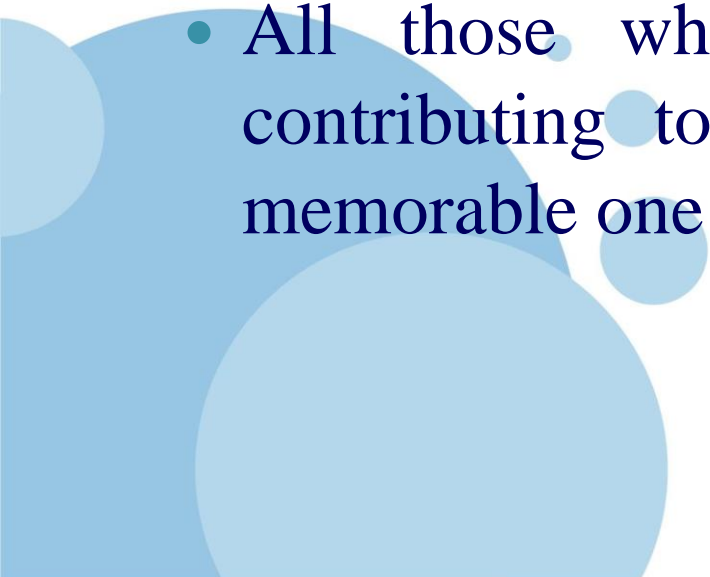
**EVERY SCHOOL SHOULD  
TEACH GARDENING  
BECAUSE FOOD IS KIND OF IMPORTANT**



**SHARE IF YOU AGREE**

**FB/JUSTEATINGREALFOOD**

# Acknowledgements

- AVRDC and AARDO
  - Staff of World Vegetable Centre and Kasetsart University
  - The Government of Mauritius
  - FAREI
  - Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security
  - All those who in one way or another are contributing to making my stay in Thailand a memorable one
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- Several overlapping light blue circles of various sizes are positioned in the bottom-left corner of the slide, serving as a decorative element.

# Kob Kun Ka Thank You

