



BUSH FOOD PLANTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Bush Food Plants

- Aboriginal people use them for food
- They have identified food, nutritional and therapeutic values of these Plants
- They have an understanding of edible parts and seasons
- This knowledge has passed from one generation to another and managed them in a sustainable manner
- Part of aboriginal culture and knowledge system



Why BFP are important?

- Valuable part of global biological diversity

250,000 plant species in the world

10% Australia

5000 different edible plant species

Zhukovsky [1975] “Australia as one of 12 genetic centres of cultivated plants in the world

- Indigenous knowledge as Intellectual property
- Culture



Present situation

- These plants and knowledge are threatened
- Dominant European knowledge and value system
- Food and nutrition dependence of introduced crops
- Dependant on fewer crops
- European style agriculture
- Replacement of native vegetation including BFP by commercial agricultural crops
- Loss of habitats, NRM issues
- Agriculture Lands are managed by people who have no idea about BFP
- Indigenous knowledge is not valued



Why Bush Food Plants are important?

- True food security
- 150 species are cultivated
- 9 major crops provide $\frac{3}{4}$ of total energy requirement of the world
- Failure can be a disaster
- ex. potato famine, coffee rust, failure of 'besostaya' winter wheat variety, corn leaf blight

6. Why Bush Food Plants are important?

- Address food and nutritional issues at household level
- Meet food and nutritional requirements
- Improve diet
- Vitamins and micronutrients
- Feed during lean periods
- Address low-income groups

7. Why Bush Food Plants are important?

- **Economic development**
- Possibility of promoting bush food plants as future major crops
- Tourism
- Valuable genes in crop development programs
- Intellectual property rights



Traditional Food Plants in developing countries

- Considering importance of under-exploited, traditional food plants FAO, NGOs, Governments implemented programs
- Improve food security
- Included into major food production programs
- Community based rural development projects



Why promotion of BFP is difficult in Australia?

- Food security is assured
- Lack of knowledge, marketing channels, demand, seasonality, food storage
- Food culture Culinary techniques
- Community participation

Future of BFP

- Community participation/consultation
- Research and development
- Food, nutritional and therapeutic values
- Potential species: Development breeding, farming systems
- Targetting/Promotion/ Marketing
- Education
- Education/Philosophy/policy/program