

# GHANA

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Freda Asem

**Internship Title:** Graduate Research Intern – AIFVs Database Creation and Socio-Cultural Analysis

**Time Period:** Summer 2025

## Project Background

The research project, titled "Promoting Food and Nutrition Security Through Indigenous Fruits and Vegetables in Ghana and Mali" is aimed at enhancing food and nutrition security by promoting the cultivation and consumption of African Indigenous Fruits and Vegetables (AIFVs) in Ghana and Mali as well as the West African Sub-region in general. AIFVs hold significant potential to improve local diets and contribute to economic sustainability. One of the key work packages within this project is the creation of a comprehensive database of AIFVs, coupled with an analysis of socio-cultural and economic factors influencing consumer preferences for these foods. Additionally, the project aims to map out market linkages to strengthen the value chain for AIFVs. We hereby invite a motivated student as a graduate intern in-country for a 14-day on-the-ground research engagement as part of this project. The intern will work closely with the project team at the West Africa Regional Innovation Hub for Horticulture, University of Ghana and receive guidance throughout the internship period. The outcome of this research will contribute to the broader project's objectives of promoting food and nutrition security through the utilization of AIFVs in Ghana and Mali.

| Research Question(s) or Specific Areas to be Addressed   | Acceptable Disciplines and Skills  | Deliverables   |
|--|--|--|
| <p>What are the socio-cultural and economic factors influencing consumer preferences for indigenous fruits and vegetables in Ghana?</p> <p>What market linkages can be harnessed to strengthen the value chain for AIFVs?</p> <p>Contribute to creating a comprehensive database of AIFVs found in at least six West African countries.</p> <p>Conduct fieldwork by travelling to locations within Ghana where AIFVs are found to map out sites and photograph collections.</p> <p>Analyze pre-collected data to identify socio-cultural and economic factors influencing consumer preferences.</p> <p>Map out market linkages and value chains for AIFVs from pre-collected data.</p> | <p>Agriculture<br/>Nutrition<br/>Environmental science<br/>Related fields</p> <p><b>Areas of Expertise</b><br/>Web development<br/>Photography<br/>Documentation<br/>Field data collection<br/>Data analysis</p> | <p>A well-organized and documented database of selected AIFVs, including photographs and descriptions.</p> <p>Field reports with site mapping and photo collections.</p> <p>Socio-cultural and economic analysis report highlighting factors influencing consumer preferences.</p> <p>Market linkage and value chain mapping report, outlining key findings and recommendations.</p> |

