

**International Seminar on  
Value-added Processing of African Traditional  
Fermented Foods for Improved Quality and Food  
Safety**

16 – 19 February 2009

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

**Background**

Indigenous fermented products play an important role in the diets of many people across the world. Fermentation processes are used for improving shelf life, nutritional quality and safety of foods. Beneficial health effects are also inherent characteristics of traditional fermented foods. In Africa, most fermented foods are still produced traditionally by spontaneous and uncontrolled fermentations, with inherent hygienic, nutritional and organoleptic challenges.

There is therefore a need to study traditional fermented foods in order to identify the microorganisms responsible for the fermentation, and to obtain knowledge on the biochemical changes that occur during the fermentation. There is also a need to develop the technology required for using starter cultures to carry out controlled fermentations. Such development is a pre-requisite for the establishment of viable local food industries in Africa. To increase sales and support export of African fermented foods there is also a need to introduce quality assurance systems, by accredited laboratories.

This seminar is the 8<sup>th</sup> in the series of biennial international seminars on traditional African fermented foods which has been held since 1992 in order to establish an on-going dialogue among food scientists, technologists and industry in Africa.

The seminars were initiated under the project «Capability Building for Research and Quality Assurance in Traditional Food Processing in West Africa » involving institutes and universities from Benin, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Denmark and funded by the Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA) . The seminars have also been supported through various European Union funded projects on fermented foods.

**Theme**

The theme for the current seminar is “**Value-added processing of African traditional fermented foods for improved quality and food safety**”.

The seminar aims at collating the results achieved through the years towards a wider dissemination and application by local industry and other relevant agencies.

It will bring together scientists and policy-makers to exchange information and ideas on how to harness the available scientific knowledge on African fermented foods in order to enhance quality and food safety , which is a pre-requisite for enhancing their competitiveness in both national and international markets.

The seminar will also provide an opportunity to link into other international research findings in the areas of food quality and food safety, especially, the EU-funded research project “PathogenCombat”, an Integrated Project within the EU 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme ([www.pathogencombat.com](http://www.pathogencombat.com)).



**Keynote Speakers and principal presenters**

The seminar will assemble renowned scientists, development experts and food industry representatives from West Africa as well as internationally. **Keynote speakers will include:**

- Prof. Basil Guissou, Director-General, CNRST, Burkina Faso
- Dr. A. B. Salifu, Director-General CSIR, Ghana
- Prof. Joseph Hounhouigan, National Director of Research, Bénin
- Prof. Mogens Jakobsen, KU-LIFE, Denmark

**Principal presenters will include:**

- Dr. Wisdom Amoah-Awua, CSIR/FRI, Ghana
- Prof. David Millar, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University for Development studies, Ghana
- Dr. Bréhima Diawara, DTA/IRSAT/CNRST, Burkina Faso
- Prof. Servé Notermans, The Netherlands
- MSc, MBA. Susanne Braun, University of Stuttgart, Germany
- Prof. Wilhelm Holzapfel, ICFMH, Germany

**Call for Papers**

Papers are invited in areas relevant to the theme of the seminar with special emphasis on the following areas:

- African fermented foods and food safety
- Starter cultures and fermentation technologies to improve food security and nutritional status by use of underutilized crops in semi-arid regions
- The potential role of African fermented foods in human health
- New technologies for the industrial and semi-industrial scale, value-added processing of fermented food products

- Quality Management of African fermented foods at household and semi-industrial level in cognisance of international food standards
- Implementation of internationally recognized laboratory testing methods and Good Laboratory Practice in West Africa
- Socio-economic aspects of traditional fermented foods processing and the impact of the results of research activities on development
- Biodiversity, domestication and sustainable conservation of plant species to satisfy the market demand of raw materials

#### Working Language

The language of the seminar will be English. Translation into French will be provided.

#### Time Table

Registration deadline - **31<sup>st</sup> December 2008**

Submission of Abstracts - **1<sup>st</sup> December 2008**

Notification of acceptance - **1<sup>st</sup> January 2009**

Submission of full paper – **30<sup>th</sup> January 2009**



#### Sponsors

The seminar is sponsored by the **Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA)**. It is also supported by the following organisations:

- PathogenCombat – EU 6<sup>th</sup> FP
- International Committee on Food Microbiology and Hygiene (ICFMH)
- University of Copenhagen – LIFE, Denmark
- University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin
- CNRST, Burkina Faso
- University for Development Studies, Ghana
- CSIR – Food Research Institute, Ghana

#### Organizing Committee

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Dr. Bréhima Diawara, DTA/IRSAT/CNRST, Burkina Faso

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##### **Members**

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 Dr. Wisdom Amoa-Awua, CSIR/FRI, Ghana  
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 Dr. Richard Glover, UDS, Ghana  
 Prof. Wilhelm Holzappel, ICFMH, Germany

#### Dissemination of the output

All presentations will be published in a book. To facilitate the edition, abstracts and full papers should be presented following the authors' guidelines that will be sent to all participants. In addition, a CD of workshop highlights and PowerPoint presentations will be distributed to all participants.

#### For further information, please contact

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#### Venue

##### **Hotel AZALAI**

Avenue de la resistance du 17 mai Secteur n°4  
 Ouagadougou Burkina Faso

#### Registration

Please email the completed registration form and your abstract to the following addresses:

[dta@fasonet.bf](mailto:dta@fasonet.bf)  
[hagretou@yahoo.fr](mailto:hagretou@yahoo.fr)

