

# A participatory journey to select nutritious value chains for implementing agroecological interventions in the Nutrition in City Ecosystems (NICE) project in Kenya

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## 1 Motivations and objectives

**Sustainable food systems** can be a pathway for delivering nutritious foods.

The Nutrition in City Ecosystems (NICE) project aims to enhance the **availability and accessibility of nutritious, agroecologically produced foods** for vulnerable populations in secondary cities, including Bungoma and Busia in Kenya.

Focusing on the value chains to improve nutrition, we highlight the **collaborative and participatory** selection process for the NICE project.



Fig.1: Participatory workshop on the nutrition-sensitive value chain selection



Fig.2: Orange fleshed sweet-potato plot in Bungoma

## 2 Methods

**Participatory value chain mapping and selection** followed a five-step process (Fig.3).



Fig.3: Five steps of participatory value chain mapping and selection

The framework for **nutrition-sensitive value chains** developed by IFAD was used as a guideline for the process of value chain selection. A multi-stakeholder **participatory workshop** was held using seven decisive criteria to select the value chains (Fig.4).

Stakeholders from **private and public sectors** involved in the process such as: nutritionists, agronomists, suppliers, processors, traders, retailers, wholesalers, transporters and lead farmers with **representation of women and youth**.

## 3 Results

**Five value chains** were selected:

- African leafy vegetables (spider plant and black nightshade),
- Orange-fleshed sweet potatoes,
- Groundnuts,
- Fish (Tilapia), and
- Indigenous poultry.



Fig.5: Pictures of selected value chains (in order)

## 4 Conclusions

**Strengthening and transforming food systems** to deliver on nutrition outcomes require collaboration and participation of multiple partners and stakeholders representing the value chain in the local context.

The NICE project and local stakeholders will further support and drive the **value chain upgrade** through increased production and beneficial post-harvest activities.

## 5 Contribution to Sustainable Food Systems

Our work contributes to four Sustainable Development Goals:



Fig.4: Seven criteria of IFAD nutrition-sensitive value chains guidelines

Partner/Sponsor:

