

# The Greater Yam

## Sunda or Sahul ? The origin of the Greater Yam (*Dioscorea alata*)

### ABSTRACT

Support for a research project aimed at defining the origin of the large yam (*D. alata*) and its transfer to New Guinea and Melanesia. The specific objectives of this project are: (i) to clarify the relationship between *D. alata* and related species and analyse their genetic diversity through the use of NGS markers; (ii) to characterise 100 accessions of *D. alata*, originating from Africa, and to identify the genetic diversity of these accessions; and (iii) to identify the genetic diversity of *D. alata* accessions from Africa, Asia and Melanesia and evaluate their agronomic potential and for the improvement of genotypes selected by smallholders in response to climate change; (iii) characterise the starch contents of different *Dioscorea* spp genotypes and (iv) improve the understanding of the domestication and origin on Sunda of *D. alata* and its transfer to Melanesia.

**Keywords :** Developing the plant of the future, Plant, Genomics, Operation/adaptation, Agrobiodiversity, Adaptation, Genetic diversity, Starch, Igmam

**Year :** 2014

**Project number :** 1403-023

**Type of funding :** AAP OS

**Project type :** AAP

**Research units in the network :** QUALISUD

**Start date :** 2015-01-01

**End date :** 2016-12-31

**Flagship project :** no

**Project leader :** Vincent Lebot

**Project leader's institution :** CIRAD

**Project leader's RU :** AGAP

**Budget allocated :** 145000 €

**Total budget allocated ( including co-financing ) :** 145000 €

**Funding :** Labex