

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, Ignam

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