

**INTEGRATED COMMUNITY-BASED ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT (ICEMA)
CENTRE for RESEARCH, INFORMATION & ACTION IN AFRICA (CRIAA SA-DC)
INDIGENOUS PLANT TASK TEAM (IPTT)**

KALAHARI MELON SEED (KMS) OIL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1ST REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MELON
SEEDS FOR CAPRIVI AND EAST-KAVANGO
Held at Bumhill Campsite, on 22 October 2008**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CCs	Communal Conservancies
CEDP	Community Economic Development Programme
CFs	Community Forests
CFN	Community Forestry Namibia
CRIAA SA-DC	Centre for Research, Information, Action in Africa - Southern Africa Development & Consulting
CRM	Community Resource Monitor
DoF	Directorate of Forestry (MAWF)
EWC	Eudafano Women Co-operative Pty Ltd
FFEM	French Global Environment Facility (Fond français pour l'Environnement mondial)
HVNM	High-Value Niche Market
HVPS	High Value Plant Species
ICEMA	Integrated Community-based Ecosystem Management (Project)
INP	Indigenous Natural Product
IPTT	Indigenous Plant Task Team
IRDNC	Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation
KA	Kyaramachan Association
KM	Kalahari Melon
KMS	Kalahari Melon Seed
LC	Local Centre
MAWF	Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry
MET	Ministry of Environment & Tourism
MTI	Ministry of Trade & Industry
NBRI	National Botanical Research Institute
NCRs	North Central Regions (i.e. Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, Oshikoto)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPs	Natural Products
NNFU	Namibia National Farmers' Union
OOP	Oontanga Oil Producers cc
PTA	PhytoTrade Africa (The Southern Africa Natural Product Trade Association)
RF	Rössing Foundation
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SO	Support Organisations
TBSI	The Body Shop International
VDC	Village Development Committee

INTRODUCTION

Kalahari Melon Seed (KMS) is an important indigenous plant resource of Namibia. Seed oil from the North Central Regions (NCRs) has been commercialized since 2000 as cosmetic oil for the international market. Since the demand for KMS oil has been growing rapidly and producers from the NCRs have difficulties meeting this increasing demand, there is a need to broaden the supply-base of KMS. Other regions in Namibia where Kalahari Melons grow include the Kavango and the Caprivi Regions. This workshop is the first regional KMS workshop regrouping stakeholders from East-Kavango, West- and East-Caprivi. It represents an important milestone in the expected development of a new KMS supply chain in the North-East of Namibia. However, to enter the existing supply-base, producers need to get well organized, and manage production and quality adequately.

The purposes of the workshop are:

1. To inform Caprivi and East-Kavango stakeholders about the opportunity to produce and market melon seeds;
2. To examine the potential and constraints of developing melon seeds supply chains in both regions;
3. To plan the way forward for developing the melon seed opportunity in Caprivi and East-Kavango for farmers and for members of Communal Conservancies and Community Forests.

The 1-day workshop was organized by the High Value Plant Species component of the FFEM-ICEMA project (which sponsored the workshop) in collaboration with CRIAA SA-DC supported by the Indigenous Plant Task Team (IPTT) KMS oil development project. This workshop is part of a broader national effort that is complemented by a regional (SADC) initiative undertaken by PhytoTrade Africa (PTA).

- The FFEM-ICEMA project is assisting the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in restoring and managing natural resources through the sustainable utilization of natural resources aimed at enhancing livelihood of local communities. The project mainly works with targeted Communal Conservancies but also adopts a more regional approach on plant resources in order to reach viable commercial quantities.
- CRIAA SA-DC is a non-profit association offering development and consultancy services. It undertakes a variety of research and development projects to support the sustainable commercialization of non-timber plant products for improving the livelihood of local communities.
- The IPTT is a national body aiming at promoting and coordinating the development of income generating opportunities from indigenous plants and plant products. It comprises government departments, research and academic institutions, private sector, NGOs and other civil-society organizations.
- PhytoTrade Africa is the Southern Africa Natural Product Trade Association supporting the development of niche markets for product based on indigenous plants of Southern Africa. It has over 50 members (including IPTT, EWC, IRDNC and CRIAA SA-DC in Namibia) in 8 countries (Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

PROCEEDINGS

The workshop was opened at 9.30am by Peggy Poncelet, Junior Professional Officer on the High Value Plant Species component of the FFEM-ICEMA project. She welcomed and thanked all participants for coming to the workshop. She introduced Festus Kapembe, new Junior Professional Officer at ICEMA, and Michel Mallet from CRIAA SA-DC, the facilitator of the workshop. She thanked the regional Support Organisations for their logistical assistance in making this workshop possible.

M. Mallet presented the objectives of the workshop and the program (*see Appendix 1*). He explained that the aim of the workshop was to guide the participants, share information and facilitate the process of developing a KMS supply chain in the two Regions with the assistance of locally based support organizations and their resourceful representatives. He stressed that the agenda of the workshop should be flexible in order to accommodate discussions regarding the feasibility and interest in KMS and the practicality of developing a KMS supply in each regions (constraints and strategies).

The 42 participants were invited to introduce themselves (see list in *Appendix 2*). Participants were from West Caprivi, East Caprivi and East-Kavango, and included representatives from IRDNC, CFN-DED, NNF, CEDP, Likwama Farmers Union, KMS producers, Kyaramachan Association, Community Forests and Conservancies.

Part No 1: KALAHARI MELON SEED AND KMS OIL MARKETS: EXPERIENCE FROM THE NORTH CENTRAL REGIONS

Kalahari Melon Seeds (KMS):

M. Mallet explained that the Kalahari Melons are part of a wide range of wild and cultivated (water) melons with fruits of different sizes, shapes, and colors. All these are actually the same plant species as the well known sweet watermelon, grown in many parts of the world nowadays. The scientific name of the species is *Citrullus lanatus* (the Latin name). Local landraces of Kalahari melons are cultivated in crop fields, especially in the NCRs and also in Caprivi, where it has a long history of traditional use. It also grows wild throughout the sandy areas of the entire Kalahari Desert. Hence, the name “Kalahari” Melon/ Melon Seed given for international marketing, reflecting the broad ecological area in southern Africa where it is mainly found (i.e. in Botswana, Namibia, West Zambia, South-East Angola, North-West South Africa and South East Zimbabwe). Melon seeds and oil are also produced in other parts of the world. West Africa is a very large producer of melon seeds and cooking oil. In Nigeria the roasted melon seeds are known as Egusi. South-East Asia is also a large producer of oil.

Emerging KMS oil industry in the NCRs:

The market for the Namibian KMS oil has been developed from the KMS production in the NCRs (Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto and Ohangwena Regions) with around 10 years of experience and establishment of supply chain for KMS. It is important to understand the model so that it can be used for the development of supply in the North East Regions.

The market demand for KMS oil has been growing but the supply has so far been constrained. There are efforts to develop a supply-base in Botswana and south-east Zambia, but it may take some times to reach significant volumes. So there is an opportunity to develop a new supply-base from North-East Regions.

All the elements constituting an industry are in place in the NCRs with KMS producers, KMS oil processors, supporting stakeholders, and a market for KMS oil.

Producers:

- Producers in the NCRs are farmers who grow melons in cultivated field, mainly intercropped with mahangu (pearl millet)
- Producers are around 1'000 to 2'000 and mainly women
- Around 60 tons of KMS are marketed per year
- The annual marketed production is aimed at 120 tons, at least.

Processors:

- The oil processors are the buyers of KMS
- There are two factories in Ondangwa: Eudafano Women Cooperative (EWC) and Oontanga Oil Producers (OOP)
- The current production is around 8 tons of oil per annum
- With the installed processing capacity, the oil production could be over 16 tons per year (i.e. over 120 tons of seeds processed per year).

Supporting stakeholders:

- Government: MAWF (because it is a crop and KMS oil is a top priority product for IPTT), MET/ICEMA, MTI ...
- NGO service providers: Rössing Foundation, CRIAA SA-DC, other NACSO members ...
- A regional Trade Association (PhytoTrade Africa - PTA) for Natural Products, which supports and coordinates the niche-marketing of Natural Products (NPs) from SADC producers.

Markets:

- The local (Namibian) market is limited
- The export market is for KMS oil as a cosmetic ingredient; it is a high-value niche market

Reputation of the Namibian KMS oil:

The reputation of the Namibian KMS oil results from its successful exposure in high-value niche markets as a cosmetic ingredient. Maintaining and improving this reputation is aimed at responding to consumer demand in these markets and is of crucial concern for Namibian producers of KMS oil.

The essential elements of this reputation are:

- Oil quality: Its quality is not only known traditionally but also recognized by the international cosmetic industry for its excellent skin care properties (it is easily absorbed by the skin).
- Cold-pressed, pure, natural, virgin oil: The process of extraction of the oil from the seeds results in desirable qualities: cold-pressed (extraction temperature remains low, which does not make the oil smelly), pure (no addition of other elements during processing), natural and virgin (produced straight from the seeds without treatment of the seeds or chemical extraction of the oil).

- An indigenous natural product (INP): This is an important marketing point for a high value niche market (HVNM) product such as KMS oil.
 - **History of use:** the resource and the oil have a long history of use by communities in Namibia, with associated traditional knowledge.
 - **Biodiversity:** KMS oil is produced from an indigenous natural resource, which biodiversity has been managed over many generations.
- Development conducive: KMS oil production brings interesting opportunities for
 - **Income generation and local value-addition** through processing
 - **Biodiversity conservation** as it is environmentally friendly
 - **Low input:** the method of production does not require fertilizers and pesticides, it is virtually organic.
- Community traded: The trade credential is ethical, fair and non-exploitive with a minimum agreed price paid to producers.
- Quality assured: Quality is crucial to an enhanced reputation and must be based on full traceability, recording, quality control and quality management along the supply chain. Quality certification then becomes possible (and is desirable). Traceability means that you can document and trace back where (and when and how) the oil was processed and where the seeds are coming from. This is essential for quality management and for addressing any quality problem or for rewarding excellent quality. It is also a minimum requirement for certification, which is performed by an independent professional certifier.
- Strong commercial partnership: There is a reliable and conducive trade relationship with the commercial partners, which is important to keep and strengthen. The present commercial partnership for the NCRs is between EWC, The Body Shop International (TBSI, well known cosmetic company) and PTA.

Question/answers and discussion from the presentation:

Q. How many liters is one ton or 1 kg of oil?

A. 1kg of oil is a bit more than 1 liter because of the density of oil which is less than water (oil floats on water because it is lighter): 1 kg of oil is around 1.1 liters or 1 liter of oil is around 0.9 kg.

Q. How much melons are needed to make 1kg of oil?

A. To make 1kg of oil, a processor will need 7kg to 8kg of KMS. The ratio seed/fruit is around 4% to 5%, so to produce 1kg of KMS you need around 20kg to 25kg of fresh fruits. So for producing 1kg of oil, you need around 140kg to 200kg of fresh fruits.

Q. Can KMS oil be used as cooking oil?

A. KMS oil can be used as food oil but it is expensive. It is expensive because producers want a good price for the seeds, which is in line with community trade / fair trade pricing.

Q. How is the oil made?

A. The oil is cold-pressed (low temperature of extraction) and is light in color, clear after decanting or filtration and does not smell strong. The oil is different from the traditional

method whereby seeds are generally roasted and boiled in water resulting in dark oil. The machine used to press the seeds is called an expeller (or screw press). The by-product of oil extraction is an oilcake good for animal feed. KMS are very hard and abrasive seeds for the machinery bringing serious wear and tear on the working parts which needs to be changed regularly. KMS do not contain as much oil as Marula kernels which explain the relatively low extraction yield of KMS oil.

Q. What is the shelf life of KMS oil?

A. KMS oil is not as stable as Marula oil. However, it can be kept for more than a year if stored at cold temperature out of the sun light to prevent the oil getting rancid.

Q. What is a niche-market?

A. A niche market is smaller in size but with better prices than a conventional market, for instance the sunflower cooking oil commodity market, which represents million of tons and is traded at a relatively low international price. A niche market is specialized and has higher quality and requirements. Niche refers to a small and specialized place, just as the Red Lechwes which only leaves in niche habitat.

Local names:

Typically KMS are small black, grey and whitish seeds. The participants were asked to give the local names for Kalahari melons:

- East-Caprivi: **Tunyangombe** or **Tunyañombe** (literarily from the manure of cows)
- East-Kavango: **Yimbutu** (Rukwangali)
- West-Caprivi: **Pori** (Khwe)

Matanga is a generic name for all types of melons (cucurbits) in Caprivi and Kavango. Seeds are named in East-Caprivi: **Intanga** or **Litoze** (Silozi), and in Kavango: **Etanga**.

Cooking melons are name:

- **Muchoko** or **Sikululu** in East-Caprivi
- **Musoko** in East-Kavango (etanga iyo musoko for the seeds)

Runovi or Runwai (?) is a specific cultivar with a reputed high oil content (the seeds are generally white bordered with red on the edge)

Sweet watermelons are called **Mahapu** in East-Caprivi.

Participants noted that sometimes a cultivar seed planted would grow into another melon form (introgression). These are called **Masidindi** (“it has changed”) in East-Caprivi and **Embunde** (in Rukwangali).

Traditional uses:

East Caprivi:

- Making oil by pounding the seeds of Sikululu without prior roasting
- Making a relish (soup) with roasted, pounded and winnowed seeds cooked in water using Runovi
- Seed meal are used to bait mice

- Seeds with lots of oil are called **Namulungu** (big flat seeds either white or black, extracted from small round melons)
- Most farmers plant seeds from all those melons but Tunyañombe grows naturally in field and is then weeded.

West Caprivi:

- Old people used to get melons in the wild but nowadays young people do not use them anymore. Nowadays wild melons seem difficult to find but no reason is known for that. It was further speculated that it could be due to bush encroachment, change in climate (no more early rains in September), uncontrolled veld fire and increased elephant numbers (“they like it too much”) and lastly perhaps because people weed them off the fields.
- Sometimes roasted seeds are used to make a relish (soup).

East-Kavango:

- Wild and planted melons are left to grow and are sometimes fed to the pigs but no other uses are known.

Traditional seed extraction methods:

In North-East Regions:

- Melons are harvested early around April/May and seeds are extracted soon after
- Fresh melon fruits are sliced in thin layers
- Seeds are then removed from each slice using a knife
- Seeds are then dried from 3 days to a week and then stored in a closed container to avoid rodents getting in

In NCRs:

- Melons are harvested with the other crops around May/June and kept in the homesteads
- Once farmers have completed the mahangu threshing and storing, they start the seeds extraction of melons (from July to September and sometimes later)
- The melon fruits are crushed by pounding them with the threshing pestle
- The seeds are either extracted in water (the pounded fruits are put in a water container, the seeds are manually separated from the fruit pulp which will float while the seeds will go to the bottom), or by winnowing (it is easier when the fruits are very matured and have even dried out)
- Seeds extracted with the water method are very clean
- Seeds are always dried for a few weeks
- KMS marketing generally starts in August and can last till October and even much later (the seeds store well).

Part No 2: PRODUCING AND MARKETING KMS IN CAPRIVI & KAVANGO: AN OPPORTUNITY?

M. Mallet invited the participants to discuss in plenary the issue at stake: Is KMS production and marketing an opportunity for the Regions, and at what conditions? He also asked Richard Sihani from CEDP to share his 2-year experience with the promotion of KMS in East-Caprivi. Further information about KMS marketing and processing in the NCRs was provided.

The CEDP experience:

R. Sihani reported that conservancy members seem interested by this new cash income opportunity. As part of the conservation agriculture (CA) promoted by CEDP, crop rotation is promoted instead of intercropping. This means that KM is to be planted as a mono-crop (and part of the crop rotation plan of CA). With the limited quantity of planting seeds available so far, the plots planted with KMS have been small. He sees a need for more support to **obtain seeds for planting** and for more promotion/**awareness** to get more members on board. CEDP is still evaluating the response from the members in Mudumu North Complex (MNC). They have identified 124 farmers interested as long as planting seeds are provided. Should many inhabitants get access to the information, especially if they know the plant already, KMS could be produced and even marketed relatively quickly. With time, more and more people will buy-in the activity. Last year, CEDP bought the seeds at N\$3/kg from producers and kept some for planting. This year all the seeds have been kept as planting seeds. Producers are asking for a better price for KMS and CEDP thinks that N\$4.00/kg is acceptable.

Discussion:

KMS price:

- In the NCRs, the current producer price is N\$3.00/kg (it may be increased next year by N\$0.50/kg on request of producers, but this is not confirmed).
- An organized producer group or association gets an additional margin of N\$0.50/kg for their organization and logistic work, such as intake co-ordination, quality control, recording, stationery, labor and bagging.
- When a producer association/group delivers the KMS bags to Eudafano factory, an additional transport margin of N\$0.50/kg is paid to cover the transport, loading and off-loading costs.
- The current Eudafano factory-door price is N\$4.50/kg this year for KMS delivered in sufficient quantity at a time (over 500kg).

The NCRs price will have implications for Caprivi and Kavango if KMS are sold to Ondangwa. The long distance will make the transport cost high and a producer price of N\$4.00/kg will not be recovered.

Q. What quantities of KMS are sold by farmers in the NCRs and what cash income is earned?

A. From previous marketing seasons, a farmer in a high producing area would market on average 75kg of KMS (N\$225) and in a lower producing area around 25kg (N\$75). This is not a lot of cash but it is an appreciated supplementary income, especially by poor women (90% of producers are women). KMS production is labor intensive and wealthier farmers are generally not interested in it. KMS trade is pro-poor.

Q. Who determines the price of KMS?

A. In the NCRs, the 2 processors set their prices and EWC price is considered the reference. For processors, KMS is the raw material for making oil and its cost is the main cost of production, which I have estimated at around N\$90/kg in bulk ex-factory (KMS oil retailed in small bottles for the tourist market could fetch N\$25/bottle, but for small quantities overall). With production scaling up some economies of scale can be realized and an improved price for KMS could be absorbed by the processing business. We hope to re-discuss KMS pricing at the forthcoming national workshop planned for later in November this year. It will address this issue among others.

A processing plant in the North East?

M. Mallet suggested that the longer term solution for the Regions would be to have KMS processed locally in Caprivi or East-Kavango to save on the transport costs to Ondangwa. However, to be feasible and economically viable sufficient volume of KMS will need to be available. This volume to be achieved would be in the region of 25t to 30t of seeds marketed per year.

Additional requirements for such a (small) processing plant to be viable would be:

- Proper location with access to a good road and proper services (communication, mechanic services...), and reliable electrical supply (380V)
- Proper facility for processing and storage for quality production
- Good management and trained staff, technical back-up services.

If such processing enterprise becomes feasible, who should own and run it?

The participants proposed that:

- It should not be a Service Provider because it is not their role
- It could be a Conservancy, most of them already manage enterprises (tourism, crafts...) or a group of Conservancies (a Complex) such as the MNC
- It could be a private entrepreneur or a processing/marketing cooperative (the members of which would be KMS producers).

KMS marketing organization:

M. Mallet explained how the collective marketing of KMS is organized in the NCRs. There are 17 EWC associations and more organized groups of producers that market KMS. These associations and groups are organized around a main centre where producers bring their KMS for marketing. Each centre has a committee which organizes the intake and co-ordinates the selling of KMS.

In East-Caprivi, CEDP has also been organizing local centers where producers have been paid cash on the spot. Regional Farmers' Unions and Co-operatives also have experience in organizing collective marketing for mahangu, and for maize in Caprivi. NNFU and regional affiliates have a scheme with the Namibian Agronomic Board for promoting grain marketing by farmers' organizations in the northern communal areas. In the NCRs, the scheme was extended to KMS marketing this year. KMS could also be included for the Caprivi Region thus expanding the supply-base to organized farmers in the whole region.

Improved planting seeds:

M. Mallet informed the participants that a KMS breeding project is being implemented with funding from the IPTT and MAWF. KM improved cultivar lines have been selected by inter-crossing and breeding over some years. This has been contracted out to a private farm. There

are a few interesting lines that have now been selected and are currently been multiplied. This first set of improved seeds (3 to 4 improved lines) should be available by early January next year for field testing. Some of these seeds could be tested in Caprivi if it is not too late in the season.

The seed line improvements have been based on the following characters:

- Germination rate
- Agronomy and production potential
- Fruit size and yield
- Seed yield
- Oil content and composition.

The issue of elephants:

Elephants (and other grazing animals) are attracted to fields planted with KM. This could be a constraining factor to KMS production. Participants debated the issue and noted that the best method available to repel elephants was the “chilli bombs” (made of chilli powder and elephant dung). Conservancy members have been trained to make these. CEDP is having a nursery for chilli and seedlings are distributed to Conservancy members along the Kwando elephant corridor. For growing KM (in CA or intercropped) the use of chilli bombs will be the best prevention method available. The elephant issue is understood to be a challenge for KM production.

Part No 3: PLANNING THE WAY FORWARD

After the lunch break, the agenda for the afternoon was revisited. It was decided to continue the workshop in plenary rather than working groups. M. Mallet presented some key information on KMS quality screening and collective marketing organization, and facilitated the discussions on the way forward.

KMS quality requirements:

The basic but essential quality requirements are as follows:

- Dried seeds: After extraction the seeds must be dried. Sun drying is sufficient as long as the seeds are not placed directly on the ground but on a clean surface to avoid soil contamination. During the cold season around May-July, drying may be needed for at least 2 weeks for the seeds to reach a moisture content below 10%. Our experience with the first KMS brought from Caprivi in 2007 was that the seeds lost 20%-25% in weight in a few weeks after arriving to Windhoek because they were very fresh and not dried enough; the moisture content of the dried seeds went down to 6%-8%
- Clean seeds: KMS must be properly extracted and winnowed to prevent pieces of fruit flesh and skins mixed with the seeds; at the intake point, if this is not right a producer must be asked to clean and winnow again the seeds before bringing them back
- No foreign matter: KMS must be free from sand, dust, soil particles and any foreign matter that may contaminate the seeds and cause problems during processing
- Fresh seeds only: KMS marketed must be from seeds from the year's harvest; older seeds have higher chances to be of lower quality (infestation, lower oil content...)
- No insects: There should be no visible signs of insects in the seeds, such as flying adults, worms, eggs and web; the presence of insects in one bag may lead to the infestation of the other bags, storage problems and quality deterioration.

In addition, seeds from cooking melons shall **not have been cooked** to be marketed.

Storage containers and bags:

The ways KMS are stored, bagged and transported are part of quality management

- No contamination: Any form of contamination through the containers in which seeds may be stored must be avoided: containers and bags used for storage and transport must be clean and should not have been used previously for holding chemicals, fertilizers, cement, animal feed and products etc.
- Good bags: Packing of KMS must preferably be in new bags; if second-hand bags are used, they must be clean (see above), strong and not cracked
- Rejection: KMS packed in poor quality bags must also be rejected at the intake point
- Marking of bags: Bags must be properly marked (and recorded) to ensure traceability.

Type of seeds for marketing:

- The **best KMS to be marketed for oil processing are the Tunyangombe** type. The oil composition from seeds of last year was tested and proved to be within the market specification. For the other types of melons, we are not sure. Samples have been taken yesterday from 2008 seeds collected by CEDP and will be tested in a laboratory.
- Before we know for sure, it is recommended to keep in different bags the seeds from the different types of melons (Kalahari melons and cooking melons).
- Marketing of seeds from **sweet watermelons is not encouraged** at this stage. Generally these seeds have lower oil content (perhaps the price should be lower?) and the oil

composition might not be within market specifications. Samples have also been taken for checking.

M. Mallet stressed to the participants, who are Conservancy and Community Forest leaders and SO co-ordinators that it will be their responsibilities to clearly disseminate these messages on quality requirements to their communities wishing to embark on KMS marketing.

KMS marketing organization:

Participants discussed the organization of local centers for the collection of KMS and proposed the following:

Local collection centers:

- East Caprivi: 1 local centre per VDC
- West Caprivi: the approach will be to work per village
- East Kavango: 1 local centre per VDC.

The following Conservancies and CFs might be interested to market KMS next year:

- East Caprivi: Kwandu Conservancy
Salambala Conservancy and 5 CFs
Malengalenga, Masida and Mashi (including Sachona) Conservancies
Lubuta and Katope CFs
- West Caprivi: to be confirmed
- East Kavango: Mbeyo CF
Ncumcara CF
Ncaute CF

Who runs the Local Centers (LCs):

- The VDC members (elected representatives) with one person from the conservancy
- In Community Forests, the CF Facilitators should play an active role (with the support of CFN).
- In West Caprivi, it was requested that IRDNC and Kyaramachan Association be responsible for LCs. IRDNC could help at the beginning as a support organization.
- It is important that the LC running costs are covered (communication, travel...) even if the LC co-ordinators are unpaid volunteers. It would be best if a little incentive could be paid to them in cash (especially possible once a large volume of seeds is reached).

KMS marketing:

The initial stages will require some financial assistance from SO projects before a sufficient volume of KMS marketed is achieved that would justify local processing.

The selling options for KMS are:

- Option 1: sale to Ondangwa, with transport needed
- Option 2: keep seeds for planting such as CEDP is doing at the moment
- Option 3: CRIAA SA-DC can be the buyer of last resort but the KMS will have to be transported to Windhoek where the seeds will be used for processing trials.

M. Mallet then asked the participants whether they were interested in the KMS opportunity. Participants generally declared being really interested in KMS even though they will first

need to get back to their respective communities to confirm it further. It was agreed that all participants will be given 2 weeks to get back to their respective communities and inform their respective Support Organizations of their decision. Every Support Organization will then be contacted by ICEMA to get the feedback from the communities. Based on the outcome of these consultations, the Way Forward described below and agreed upon with participants will be initiated.

Way forward:

- Seed multiplication and distribution should be part of the program. Harvesting wild melons is more difficult because of long distances, so CEDP had been distributing seeds for planting. The use of the “improved” seeds should be looked at in the future.
- Organize an exchange visit to the NCRs with ICEMA support to enhance awareness and quality management skills. CFN could finance similar approach if reflected as part of CFs quarterly planning which means it might take a bit of time as CFs groups are not far advanced yet on the topic.
- Communication channels:
 - East-Capriivi: CEDP will be the focal organization for KMS promotion and marketing, channeling communication with IRDNC, MET, CFN and LFU
 - West Capriivi: IRDNC and MET
 - Kavango: CFN, MET and NNF.
- Next workshops: participants endorsed to have a series of regional follow-up workshops. ICEMA will forward requests to the forthcoming CFN quarterly meetings (November, February/March) and the IRDNC bi-annual meetings (January and July).

National KMS Workshop:

Towards the end of November, there will be a national stakeholders’ workshop in Ongwediva. This workshop will be followed by another one around March 2009. KMS stakeholders will be represented by producer organizations, processors, support organizations and government representatives.

The two Regions will be invited. Women representations is important not only for gender balance but because it is often women that are involved in the business. English proficiency is required. The participants pre-selected the following representatives:

- Kavango: one CFN and one community representatives (2 persons)
- West Capriivi: one representative from KA or IRDNC (1 person)
- East Capriivi: one CEDP representatives, one IRDNC staff, one CFN staff and possibly one community member (3 to 4 persons).

CONCLUSION AND CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

M. Mallet thanked all the participants for a very good participation and thanked Festus Kapembe and Peggy Poncelet for organizing the workshop.

F. Kapembe closed the workshop by repeating the objectives: information sharing, examining potentials and constraints of getting involved in KMS industry and organize the way forward. He reminded the participants to share the information of today's workshop with their communities and provide feedbacks to their Support Organizations within 2 weeks.

As the first KMS regional stakeholder workshop, it was positive to have a good attendance with most invited stakeholders being present. This was important to ensure that the meeting's information will be disseminated to a wider audience. The level of interest and interaction by participants was of a high standard, with clarity being provided through questions and active participation.

Initial discussion on a common way forward was achieved which now paves the way for follow-up activities. These should include a series of community meetings to provide more in-depth information, streamline action plans and define in more detail stakeholders' roles. In the future, women should be more targeted for such meetings.

Participants and their communities are encouraged to start collecting seeds from Kalahari melons as well as from other melons as long as they are bagged separately.

APPENDIX 1: Draft Program of the Workshop

ICEMA HVPS / CRIAA SA-DC
KALAHARI MELON SEED (KMS) DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

First Regional Workshop on Melon Seeds for Caprivi and East-Kavango
DRAFT WORKSHOP PROGRAMME
Venue at IRDNC Office, Kongola, 22 October 2008

Workshop objectives:

4. Inform Caprivi and East Kavango stakeholders about the opportunity to produce and market melon seeds
5. Examine the potential and constraints of developing melon seeds supply chains in both Regions
6. Plan the way forward for developing the melon seed opportunity in Caprivi and East Kavango for farmers and for members of Communal Conservancy and Community Forest

The workshop is organised with the support of ICEMA's High Value Plant Species (HVPS) component and the KMS Development Project of the Indigenous Plant Task Team (IPTT).

ICEMA HVPS: Peggy Poncelet and Festus Kapembe

CRIAA SA-DC: Michel Mallet

8:30 - 9:00	<i>Registration</i>	
9:00 - 9:10	Opening and welcome	Peggy Poncelet / Festus Kapembe
9:10 - 9:15	Prayer	
9:15 - 9:30	Introduction to the workshop: objectives and programme	Michel Mallet
9:30 - 10:00	Introduction of participants	All
10:00 - 10:30	KMS and KMS oil markets: - Experience from the North Central Regions	Michel Mallet
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Tea break</i>	
11:00 - 12:00	Producing and marketing melon seeds in Caprivi: an opportunity? - Presentation - CEDeP's experience - Discussion	Michel Mallet
12:00 - 13:00	KMS marketing organisation and quality requirements - Presentation and discussion	Michel Mallet
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 - 15:00	Working groups: 1. 2. 3. 4.	
15:00 - 15:30	Presentations WG No 1 & No 2	
15:30 - 15:45	<i>Tea break</i>	
15:45 - 16:15	Presentations WG No 3 & No 4	
16:15 - 16:45	Way forward	M. Mallet & all
16:45 - 17:00	Conclusion and closing	Peggy Poncelet / Festus Kapembe

APPENDIX 2: List of Participants

Names	Position	Organization	Sex	Region
Bennety BL	F/ Officer	IRDNC	M	East Caprivi
Geoffrey Chilinda	Program Coordinator	Likwama Farmers Union	M	East Caprivi
Friedrich Alpers	Project West Caprivi Coordinator	IRDNC	M	West Caprivi
Bernard Lutabile	Grain Marketing Promoter	Likwama Farmers Union	M	East Caprivi
Mukuni Hoster	Forestry	?	M	
Mayumbelo Coster	Vice Chairman	Wuparo Conservancy	M	East Caprivi
Kamwi John	Instit. Coordinator	IRDNC	M	East Caprivi
Dikwi Justina	F/ Officer	IRDNC	F	West Caprivi
Sipiho Ronnicah	Community Resource Monitor	Mashi Conservancy	F	East Caprivi
Albert Zibiso	Chairperson	Balyerwa Conservancy	M	East Caprivi
Robert Sinyambo	Chairperson	Salambala Conservancy	M	East Caprivi
Godfrey Munkutike	Chairperson	Sobbe Conservancy	M	East Caprivi
John-Paul Nkotongo	Camp Manager	Joseph Mbambangandu Conservancy	M	Kavango
Shashipapo Andrew Callard	Coordinator	George Mukoya Conservancy	M	Kavango
Ndango Alexandre	Chairperson	Muduva Nyangana Conservancy	M	Kavango
Jack Goraqwe	Facilitator	IRDNC	M	West Caprivi
Paulus Mende	FMC- secretary	Mbeyo Community Forest	M	East Caprivi
Ndjamba Josef	FMC- vice treasurer	Ncumcara Community Forest	M	Kavango
Muronga Paulinus	FMC- treasurer	Katope Community Forest	M	Kavango
Amutenya Maria	FMC- treasurer	Ncaute Community Forest	F	Kavango
Shivute Christophine	Vice treasurer	Muduva Nyangana Conservancy	F	Kavango
Kavuru Simon	Chairperson	George Mukoya Conservancy	M	Kavango
Asser Kayundu	NNF-EU coordinator	NNF	M	Kavango
Wolfgang Hesse	CFN-Kavango	DED	M	Kavango
Markfaren Mushabati	Facilitator	IRDNC	M	East Caprivi
Roisin Hinds	Volunteer	IRDNC	F	West Caprivi
Mahingi Joseph	Board member	Kyaramacan Association	M	West Caprivi
Sikundja Kimson	Board member	Kyaramacan Association	M	West Caprivi
Mavis Musole	Finance Assistance	IRDNC	F	East Caprivi
Mushaube Thimoth	Honorary Forester	Mayuni Community Forest	M	East Caprivi
Likando Eric	Member	Mayuni Community Forest	M	East Caprivi

Fulei Mishacke	Facilitator	Ngonga Community Forest	M	East Caprivi
Naleli Eric	Vice Chairman	Masida Community Forest	M	East Caprivi
Kumukwake Chicco	Facilitator	Malengalenga Community Forest	M	East Caprivi
Saisai Doreen	Facilitator	Izimwe Community Forest	F	East Caprivi
Shoni Harris	Facilitator	Ngonga Community Forest	M	East Caprivi
Twasenya Adams	Secretary	Lubuta Community Forest	M	East Caprivi
Sepiso Euster	Secretary	Sachona Community Forest	M	East Caprivi
Hanni Huber	CFN advisor	DED	F	East Caprivi
Matengu Reginah	Farmer	Mayuni	F	East Caprivi
Mamonda Mwangu	Farmer	Kayuwo	F	East Caprivi
Sihani Richard	CEE	Kongda and CEDeP rep.	M	East Caprivi
Festus Kapembe	JPO	ICEMA	M	National
Peggy Poncelet	JPO High Value Plant Species	FFEM-ICEMA	F	National
Michel Mallet	Director	CRIAA SA-DC	M	National