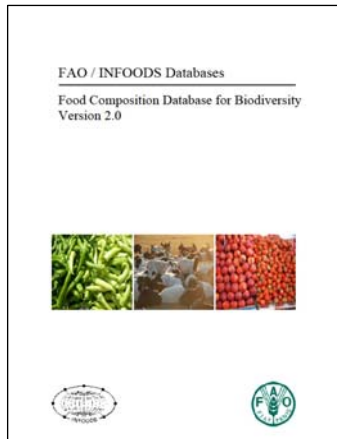


Press Release

FAO/INFOODS Food Composition Database for Biodiversity 2.0 – BioFoodComp2.0



Food biodiversity - the range of plants, animals and other organisms we use for food - is invaluable to a healthy diet as well as for combating hunger and malnutrition.

The *FAO/INFOODS Food Composition Database for Biodiversity (version 2.0)* is a unique and comprehensive repository of analytical data on the nutrient composition of wild and underutilized foods as well as unique varieties and breeds of commonly consumed foods.

This new publication lists the composition of 6411 different food sources, everything from edible insects to fruits from the Brazilian Amazon. The data even shows nutrient content differences of varieties. In fact, there are over 1700 entries for different species and varieties of potatoes from all around the world, as well as 1600 entries for fruits, 1300 for fish, and 500 for edible insects! It also lists the nutrient composition of numerous cattle breeds, milk from underutilized species, green leafy vegetables, and quinoa.

Speaking of quinoa, the United Nations has declared 2013 the International Year of Quinoa. “The *FAO/INFOODS Food Composition Database for Biodiversity* presents the most detailed, highest-quality compositional data for quinoa and thousands of other foods, making it an important tool for promoting and marketing quinoa varieties and other nutritious foods from around the world” said Ruth Charrondiere, FAO’s Nutrition Officer of the Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division.

“The *FAO/INFOODS Food Composition Database for Biodiversity* contributes to the global community’s knowledge and understanding of the range and richness of food biodiversity and the unique characteristics it provides to human kind,” said Modibo Traoré, Assistant Director-General for Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department. “This publication is an essential tool for nutritionists and health professionals, as well for the agriculture sector. For example, farmers can select species and varieties with high nutritional value to help combat hunger and malnutrition and aid human health.”

FAO/INFOODS Food Composition Database for Biodiversity will be periodically updated with additional data and more food sources. Nutritionist, researchers, and other food professions are welcome and encouraged to submit compositional data for inclusion in future versions. Only data that is fully documented will be accepted. The next edition (version 3.0) is expected in mid-2013.

The *FAO/INFOODS Food Composition Database for Biodiversity (version 2.0)* can be downloaded free of charge from the INFOODS webpage: http://www.fao.org/infoods/biodiversity/index_en.stm.

The database is in Microsoft Excel format, and the accompanying publication which explains the methodology, terms, and instructions on how to use the database is in Adobe PDF format. Both publications are in English.