

Research Fellows and Research Projects

Department of Science and Technology (DST) – National Research Foundation (NRF) Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIKS)

RESEARCH FOCUS AREA: FOOD SECURITY

Image of researcher in action	Image of Community engagement/ research/ knowledge holders
	 

Full Name: Feyisayo Odunitan-wayas

Country of Research: South Africa

Research Topic: Utilisation of Provitamin A Biofortified Maize in Ovambo Chickens to Improve Food and Nutrition Security

Institutional Affiliation: University of KwaZulu-Natal

Research Supervisor: Prof. M. Chimonyo

Research Background/Summary

The most widely consumed food staples in Africa happen to be low in Vitamin A. Maize, which is one of the most common staple foods, is now being biofortified with provitamin A

carotenoids (PABM) to curb vitamin A deficiency. A problem which then arises is that the carotenoid biofortified provitamin A maize is orange in colour, has its own specific taste, aroma and flavour and is perceived as poor man's food and for those reasons is largely unacceptable to most South African consumers who display a widespread prejudice in favour of the less nutritious white maize. Further avenues therefore need to be explored for boosting consumption of the more nutritious PABM especially in rural areas where VAD is widespread if the benefits of biofortification are to be realized. Therefore it was suggested that the indigenous chicken which are numerous in the rural areas and well liked and consumed in Africa be fed with the PABM to improve growth performance, immunity, meat quality and nutritional value, especially vitamin A in the meat to curb VAD and improve food nutrition security status of the resource poor,

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