

# Entrepreneurial potentials of rural women's groups to process underutilized species in Northern Ghana

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# INTRODUCTION

- Underutilized species are available, but not used to their full potential (Gruère et al., 2019).
- Processing underutilized species has potential
  - for poverty reduction, food insecurity and women empowerment (Padulosi et al., 2013),
  - for adding value that stimulates agrobiodiversity.
- Women are highly involved in Agri-food processing activities, for instance, 95% in Ghana (Scherb et al., 2018).

**Capacity building of women to process underutilized species**

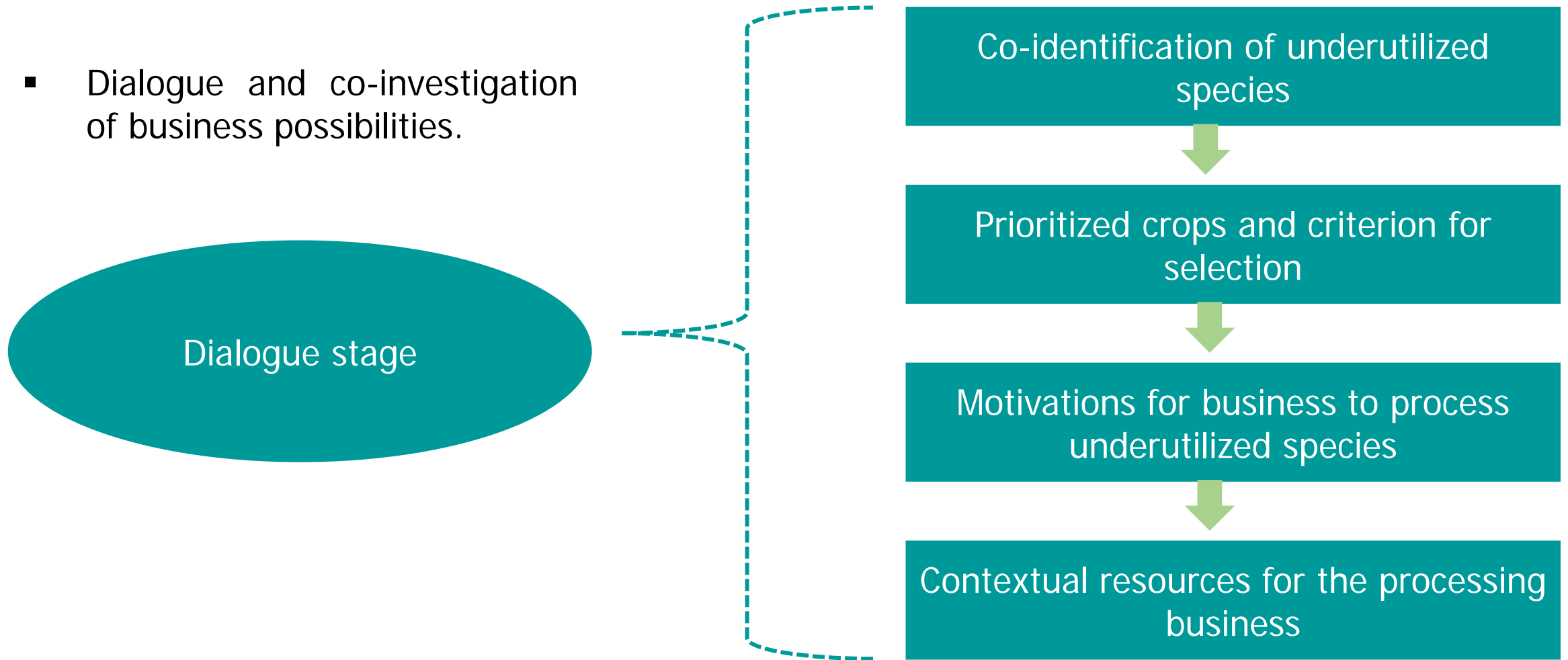
# OBJECTIVES

- To assess the **entrepreneurial potentials of** rural self-help women's groups to process underutilized species by focusing on **context-specific factors related to their processing-related goals, needs and constraints. Specifically:**
  - Which underutilized species are identified by rural women as having potential?
  - What are the motives for business to process underutilized species?
  - What are the resources and constraints for processing these species?

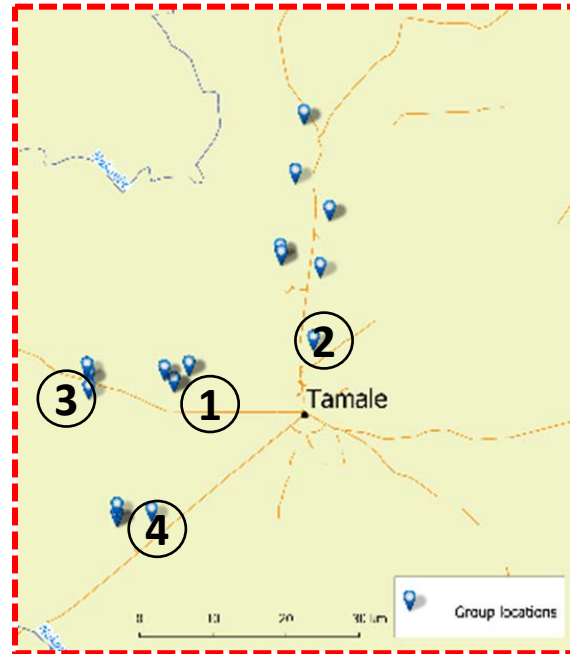


# CAPACITY-BUILDING WITH WOMEN'S GROUPS

- Dialogue and co-investigation of business possibilities.



# MATERIALS AND METHODS



	Name of groups	No. of sessions
1	Suglonboriboni	4
	Puumaya	4
	Bobgunyeyaa	4
2	Maltiti	4
3	Chelinyukabo	4
4	Suhuyini	3
		23

- Data collection methods: Transcripts of audio-recorded group meetings
- Tools: brainstorming, resource mapping, constraint and opportunity analysis
- Average No. of participants per session (8-20)
- Qualitative data analysis using MAXQDA

# RESULTS: UNDERUTILIZED SPECIES



Kapok  
(*Ceiba pentandra*)

Neem tree  
(*Azadirachta indica*)

Roselle  
(*Hibiscus sabdarrifa*)

Orange fleshed  
sweet potatoes  
(*Ipomoea batatas*)

- Criterion for selection
  - Availability
  - Known uses
  - Market possibilities

# AFRICAN LOCUST BEAN

- 3/6 chose *Parkia biglobosa* (dawadawa, African locust bean)
- Multiple uses:
  - Internal pod; fermented beans, flour from fruit pulp, dried tea
  - Pod shell; waxy substance for building
  - Wood; firewood, ash for soap-making



# MOTIVATION FOR PROCESSING UNDERUTILIZED SPECIES

- For income and profits
- Food, medicine, and nutrition
- Learning possibilities

“We didn’t know dawadawa can sell, we used to think that you have to prepare and fill your dawadawa box so that when someone ask, you can give her but now that you have educated us we realized that you can take it outside and sell”  
WG/KS04.



# IDENTIFICATION OF RESOURCES AND CONSTRAINTS

- Resources needed for the processing
  - Land, energy, and **water**
- Water availability
  - Community dug out and taps
  - Restrictions on use and supply
- Measures to navigate constraints
  - Build water storage, buy water containers



“What I think is that we should be conscious of hygiene, if it is hygienic people will buy, but now our problem will be the water because if the water is bad the dawadawa will not look good” WG/KP04.

# CONCLUSION

- Women from half of the groups were motivated to strengthen entrepreneurship related to underutilized species for food, income and ability to fulfil household needs
- Dawadawa preferred
- Water and capital are the main constraints
- Process of establishing the selection, clarifying motivation served to build capacity



# REFERENCES

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- Padulosi, S., Thompson, J., & Rudebjer, P. (2013). Fighting poverty, hunger and malnutrition with neglected and underutilized species (NUS).
- Scherb, B., Weißenhorn, A.-S., & Suglo, M. (2018). From German Rural Women for Rural Women in Ghana.
- OFSP picture on slide 6 source <https://www.sweetpotatoknowledge.org/12143-2/>
- Map of Ghana on slide 5 source: Map by Kathrine Tröger from a poster presentation on “Initializing transdisciplinary engagements with non-academic stakeholders: processes of mutual selection between women's groups and researchers in Ghana Nigeria”, Presented at the Leverage Points for Sustainability Conference in Lüneburg.