NutriHAF-Africa project launched successfully

The NutriHAF-Africa project carried out its kick-off workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from July 6-9, 2015. NutriHAF-Africa is a research and capacity building project that explores options to integrate appropriate fruit and vegetable crops into multi-storey cropping systems with the aim of increasing (micro-) nutrition security, diversifying and intensifying agriculture and thus reducing pressure on natural habitats in biodiversity hotspots.

The workshop participants were representatives of the project’s partners in Germany (ZEF, GlobalHort, KoGa), Ethiopia (ECFF, Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute (EEFRI)) and Madagascar (FOFIFA, University of Antananarivo, Welthungerhilfe), as well as from regional organisations (ASARECA, FANRPAN) and international partners (AVRDC, Horticulture Innovation Lab).

The workshop was opened with presentations by Ms. Laketch Mikael (Agricultural Transformation Agency), Mr. Samuel Bwalya (United Nations Development Programme) and Dr. Mohamad Yesuf (Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research). Representatives of the World Agroforestry Centre and GIZ were also attending parts of the workshop.

During the workshop, the participants had the opportunity to develop a detailed work plan for the first six months of the project and to outline the activities and responsibilities for the entire project time span. Criteria for selecting research sites and for benchmarking were also developed. Being a trans- and interdisciplinary project, internal communication and exchange were identified as key elements of success.

Ten postdoctoral fellows at ZEF, GlobalHort, KoGa, EECF, EEFRI, ASARECA, FANRPAN and FOFIFA together with 54 MSc students will carry out the project in Ethiopia and Madagascar during the next three years.