



**Afr. J. Agric. Res.**

[Vol. 2 No. 12](#)

Viewing options:

- Abstract
- Full text
- [Reprint \(PDF\)](#) (104k)

Search Pubmed for articles by:

[Ndoro OF](#)  
[Mashingaidze AB](#)

Other links:

PubMed Citation  
Related articles in  
PubMed

African Journal of Agricultural Research Vol. 2(12), pp. 649-655, December, 2007  
ISSN 1991- 637X© 2007 Academic Journals

*Full Length Research Paper*

## Indigenous knowledge of the traditional vegetable pumpkin (*Cucurbita maxima/moschata*) from Zimbabwe

Oswell Farai Ndoro<sup>2</sup>, Rufaro M. Madakadze<sup>1\*</sup>, Susan Kageler<sup>2</sup> and Arnold B. Mashingaidze<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Agriculture, University of Zululand, P Bag X1001, KwaDlangezwa, Empangeni, 3886, South Africa.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Crop Science, University of Zimbabwe, P O. Box MP 167, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe.

\*Corresponding author. E-mail: [rmadakad@pan.uzulu.ac.za](mailto:rmadakad@pan.uzulu.ac.za) Tel: +27 35 902 6062. Fax +27 35 902 6062.

Accepted 1 November, 2007

### Abstract

A survey was conducted in four districts of Manicaland province of Zimbabwe on pumpkin (*Cucurbita maxima* or *Cucurbita moschata*) to document ethnobotanical knowledge of the pumpkin and to identify the local landraces. Informal surveys for key informants, formal surveys and focus group discussions and other participatory rural appraisal approaches were used in the study. Seven distinct landraces of pumpkin were identified by local names as “Nzunzu”, “Ditimanga”, “Ndodo”, “Hokore”, “Musatani”, “Dasanana”, and “Muzwere”. Landrace “Nzunzu” was the most popular followed by “Ditimanga” and “Ndodo”. The most prevalent landraces by area were “Nzunzu” (65% of respondents), followed by “Ditimanga”, “Hokore” and “Musatani”. One landrace (Musatani), was specifically grown by the local people as a leafy vegetable mainly and was available all year round. Landrace “Nzunzu” had large variegated fruit while “Ditimanga” has large creamy yellow to white fruit. Landraces “Nzunzu”, “Hokore” and “Ndodo” have variegated leaves perceived to be resistant to powdery mildew while the rest of the landraces had plain leaves. The pumpkin is grown mostly in intercrops mainly with maize, (85 % respondents) and was planted and grown mainly in summer (67%) as the crop is damaged by frost. Pumpkin is mainly fertilized by cattle manure and most respondents (62%) do not apply an N side dress to the crop. Leaf harvest started 2 - 3 weeks after emergence in landraces such as “Nzunzu” and “Ditimanga” while the other landraces can be started at about 4 weeks after emergence. The pumpkin leaves are consumed 3 - 4 times a week during the rainy season. The main problem during production of pumpkin was insect pests and diseases. Farmers use mainly

retained seed (71.9%) for planting that is stored in any available container in the home. This study highlighted local indigenous knowledge of pumpkins and established a baseline of the cultural practices carried out by smallholder farmers.

**Key words:** Pumpkin, traditional vegetables, landraces, indigenous knowledge, Zimbabwe and participatory approaches.

Powered by  


Search

jn WWW jn AJAR

---

[Email Alerts](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Advertise on AJAR](#) | [Help](#)

**Copyright © 2007 by Academic Journals**