

Title: Changing Process of Local Knowledge on Genetic Resources of Banana-family Crops, Banana (*Musa spp.*) and Enset (*Ensete Ventricosum*) in East Africa

Field: K village, 5 km from Hagere Salam, Sidama zone, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region, Ethiopia (2700 masl)

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Objective: In parts of the Great Lakes Region of East Africa, people have developed livelihood systems that are based on banana and enset cultivation. The mechanism of the diversification of banana and enset and their maintenances can be understood as continuing processes of interaction between the local community and their crops. In this framework, the purpose of this study is to make clear the locality and the universality of peoples' knowledge on landraces and their attitudes to the plants by means of an ethnobotanical comparison between the two banana-family (Musaceae) crops. It is also a step towards making a breakthrough in illuminating how "traditional knowledge" on the genetic resources of crops is constructed.

Results: I made an ethnobotanical investigation at a village in the Sidama area of Ethiopia in February, 2008. The research focused on enset agricultural system and their mode of the sharing and exchanging of landraces. On the other hand, I have also been conducting research on banana cultivation in Uganda since 2001. I have compared the information from the two case studies. The findings are as follows.

1. More than 30 landraces are recognized by the interviews with 17 households in a village of Sidama. They seem to identify the landraces mainly by pseudostem. While farmers in Buganda identify banana landraces mainly by fruit, finger and bunch. Parts for food are the keys for discrimination of landraces in both cases.
2. Modes of recognition and management of the crops are different in the two cases. Enset in Sidama are treated as "groups" (or "bundles") at lower stages in growth. After repeating transplantations, they can be recognized as individual plants.
3. Farmers in Sidama may exchange and sell suckers of enset more often than bananas in Buganda. They also have various channels of exchange and selling, from neighbors to far places (highland to lowland). Farmers in a village have started a project of sharing enset suckers between more than dozens of households. These

households tend to have a lower number of landraces. On the other hand, the exchange system for bananas in Buganda is relatively simple. People trade suckers mainly between friends and relatives.

4. I could not find correlation between management periods and the number of landraces of enset in Sidama. In contrast, people accumulated various landraces of banana in their homegardens for a number of years in an area of Buganda.

Comparative chart (tentative)

	parts for identification of landraces	unit of crops for management	exchange of suckers	sucker sharing system between households	network
banana	pseudostem	individual plant	yes	no	simple
enset	fruit-bunch	individual plant-group	yes (often)	no- yes	various channels

Presentation and publication:

Yasuaki Sato "The Multi-valued Setting of Banana-based Homegardens among the Baganda, Central Uganda" "International Workshop on Local Knowledge and Its Positive Practices" African Local Knowledge Research Group, Global COE Program of Kyoto University "In search of Sustainable Humanosphere in Asia and Africa", Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Addis Ababa University and Center for African Area Studies, Kyoto University (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14 February 2008)

Yasuaki Sato "Ethnobotanical Comparison of Homegardens based on Banana-family (Musaceae) Crops, Banana and Enset in East African Highland." "46th Annual meeting of Japan Association for African Studies, Ryukoku University, May, 2008. (in Japanese)

Planning to contribute the above articles to journals, *Journal of African Studies* (in Japanese), and *African Study Monographs*.



An enset garden in Sidama, Ethiopia



Food processing of enset