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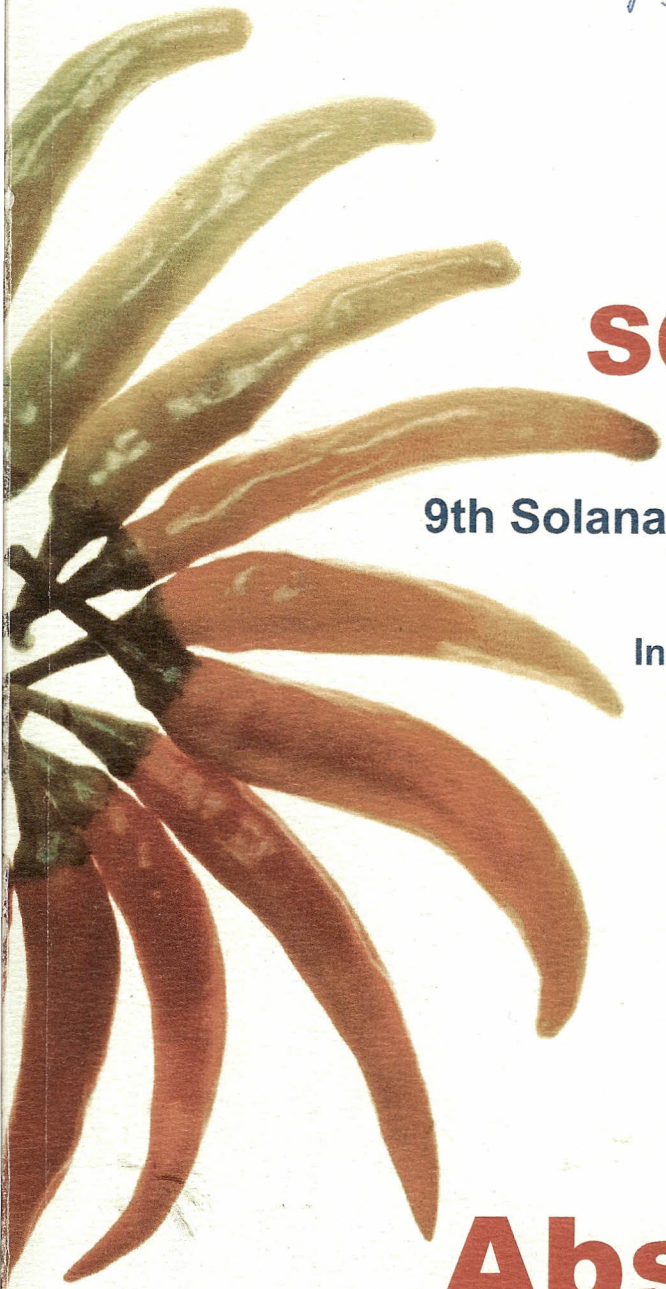
Marie-Christine Daunay, Anne-Laure Girard

Veronique Lefebvre



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Marie-Christine Daunay and Anne Laure Girard

INRA, Génétique et Amélioration des Fruits & légumes, UR 1052, Montfavet, France

Several Solanaceae species are found among the many indigeneous African vegetables. They belong to the wide genus Solanum, and are part either of the Leptostemonum subgenus (e.g. *S. aethiopicum, S. macrocarpon*) to which the common eggplant *S. melongena* belongs to, or to the subgenus Solanum members of which are often referred to as nightshades (e.g. *S. scabrum*, *S. villosum*). Statistical data of surfaces or tonnage for these fruit and/or leafy vegetables are scarce. Most of the material cultivated nowadays still consist of local landraces displaying a wide phenotypic diversity. For most of the species, geneflows occur between the wild native compartment and the cultivated one, with as a result a loose limit between both. Cultivated germplasm and wild relatives, collected as early as in the 1980s under the umbrella of IBPGR, and much more recently by AVRDC, is presently maintained by a few germplasm holders. The main scientific breakthroughs concern (i) the taxonomic treatment of these species, (ii) the investigation of their wild relatives, (iii) inheritance studies and more recently (iv) some molecular insights of their diversity. Breeding targets are numerous and the potential of genetic progress is high given the wide diversity of these species. Genomic knowledge of better known Solanaceous crops can benefit to the breeding of these indigenous vegetables, although the low seed price African peasants can yet afford might limit its use.