

Enhancing the Livelihood of Rural Women through Indigenous Vegetable Production Around Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda

Nathan K. Taremwa¹, Dancilla Mukakamari² and Anastase Butera³

¹*University of Rwanda, Rwanda,* ²*Association of Rwandan Ecologists, Rwanda*

³*Independent Institute of Lay Adventists of Kigali, Rwanda*

Telephone: +250(0)788504820, ¹E-mail: nk.taremwa@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT The study used both primary and secondary sources to investigate the enhancement of the livelihood of rural women through indigenous vegetable (IVs) production around Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda. It was found that the major types of IVs grown in the area were *Night shade*, *Gombo*, *Spider plant* and *Pumpkin leaves*. These were preferred by the respondent rural women farmers, over exotic vegetables, due to their higher nutritional value, resistance to pests and diseases, resilience to climatic changes and multiple uses including food and medicine. The major policy implications of the findings of the study is that the cultivation of indigenous vegetables should be encouraged and supported because of the strategic role this would play in enhancing rural livelihoods especially for rural women as the major producers.