

ETHNOBOTANICAL COMPARISON OF BANANA AND ENSET AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN AFRICA

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We compared the ethnobotany of bananas (*Musa* spp.) and enset (*Ensete ventricosum*) in Africa, focusing on agricultural practices in the East African Great Lakes region and the Ethiopian highlands, where the livelihood of local agricultural societies is closely tied to these two crops. Although bananas and enset differ in their botanical characteristics, geographical distribution, and artificial propagation methods, they share husbandry practices, such as 1) individual plant recognition, 2) long-term, continuous management and harvest, and 3) small-scale cultivation near residential areas, using family labor. The longevity of the person-plant interactions is an essential feature of banana/enset agriculture in these areas.

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