

FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LEGUME SYSTEMS RESEARCH

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research fosters dynamic, profitable, and environmentally sustainable legume systems approaches with common beans, cowpeas, and other legumes that contribute to resilience, productivity, and better nutrition and economic opportunities, especially for women and youth. The program, managed by Michigan State University.

Legumes are a nutrient-dense staple crop that have multifunctional roles in smallholder farm systems in developing countries including food and nutrition security, generating income, providing livestock feed and fodder, and contributing to the sustainability of soil systems through their nitrogen-fixing capabilities. Cowpea and common bean are the focal crops of the Legume Systems Innovation Lab.



Second phase Legume Systems Innovation Lab goals



Best agronomic practices & services



Targeted varietal scaling & development



Inclusive inputs & market systems



Climate change adaptation & mitigation

Where we work



CENTRAL AMERICA

- Guatemala
- Honduras



AFRICA

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- DR Congo
- Ghana
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Tanzania
- Zambia

Research for Development

The strength of the Legume Systems Innovation Lab's design lies in its innovative and vibrant research to scaling strategy using a demand driven multi-stakeholder (MSP) platform approach. MSPs provide a space where stakeholders throughout each region can work together in a coordinated and participatory manner, mutually learning about opportunities in the legume value chain, and taking up their roles at each stage to capitalize on these opportunities.

The MSP will intensify interventions to achieve mutual goals such as adoption of new varieties, access to clean and improved seed, best agronomic practices, production of value-added products, distribution, consumption, and other inputs to deliver high quality and nutritious legumes at competitive prices to benefit each member of the MSP.



Multi-Stakeholder Platform



Malawian cowpea offtaker and her extension specialist talks with the leader of the farming cooperative and a smallholder farmer who are all part of an MSP in Central Malawi. The MSP drives quality seeds and inputs to ensure offtakers can meet their commercial demand.

The use of the product life cycle as an evaluative framework for all projects will concentrate efforts on responding to demands within the system. On the commercialization side, the PLC will drive toward creating demand-responsive production systems.

In addition, the Legume Systems Innovation Lab will focus on opportunities that address nutrition; the unique needs of women and youth; ensure greater resilience of people and systems under stress and shocks; and contribute to the development of human and institutional capacity for a resilient agricultural innovation system.

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www.feedthefuture.gov

www.canr.msu.edu/legumelab



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