

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)



FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LEGUME SYSTEMS RESEARCH

June 2024



The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research fosters dynamic, profitable, and environmentally sustainable approaches that contribute to resilience, productivity, and better nutrition and economic opportunities. The lab is managed by Michigan State University.

From the Management Office

Concept note deadline closes as review process begins

Thank you to everyone who submitted a concept note during the Legume Systems Innovation Lab open call which closed on June 17. The Management Entity has begun the review process and tentatively expects to request full proposals from selected concept notes by July 15.

Seeds2B joins Legume Lab technical leadership team



Access to quality seed has always been a challenge to smallholder farmers across developing continents. It was out of this need that the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture created Seeds2B.

The group's goal of bringing quality seed in desired varieties to smallholders is echoed by the Legume Systems Innovation Lab, making them the perfect collaborator for transforming legume seed systems. As the *Seed Systems and Varietal Development Lead* for the Legume Systems Innovation Lab, Seeds2B will provide guidance and support to the Lab's portfolio of research projects.

"Seeds2B is the perfect fit. Their expertise in seed system development, especially its focus on the private sector, will provide invaluable support to our projects working to improve the lives of smallholder legume farmers in Africa and Central America," shares John Medendorp, Legume Systems Innovation Lab Deputy Director.

As the management entity, providing support to Legume Systems Innovation Lab projects is the main priority. John shares, "we have established a Technical Leadership Team (TLT) that focuses in the areas of seed, gender, climate, and value chains to guide our investments and to develop research around legume systems. Experts from each of these areas will work with each other and directly with our projects to ensure a systems approach that is focused on our core objectives."

"There have been many advances in legume seed development, including many that have come out of research supported by the Legume Lab, that can offer tremendous benefits to smallholder farmers. However, lack of access often keeps the seed from making it to the growers. Seeds2B is poised to help lead our legume projects in pioneering seed system growth in developing nations."

For more information on Seeds2B visit their [website](#).

In the Field

Project Final Reports

The Legume Systems Innovation Lab awarded competitive and commissioned project grants to support research activity during the first five years of the lab. These projects, now concluded, have submitted final technical reports which we will feature in our monthly newsletter. This month we feature a project that worked to evaluate agronomic management strategies for sustainable intensification and integration of dual-purpose cowpea into farming systems across the peanut basin in Senegal.



Sustainable Intensification of Dual-Purpose Cowpea Varieties for Enhanced Food and Fodder in Senegal

Led by Dr. Augustine Obour, Kansas State University

Livestock is an integral part of the farming systems in semi-arid regions of west Africa (mostly agropastoral). Approximately 40% of the total ruminant livestock in SSA are raised in agropastoral systems of the savannas in west Africa. A major constraint in this farming system is limited availability of fodder to support livestock particularly in the dry season. When available, the nutritive value of native rangeland forages is very low. In regions with livestock, cowpea residues are removed as a high value and a tradable commodity in fodder markets to complement residue of cereal crop.

Therefore, integrating dual-purpose cowpea cultivars for grain and fodder has the potential to improve quality forage availability for regional livestock. Substantial research has been conducted to develop dual-purpose (i.e. grain and fodder), nutrient dense, cowpea cultivars (e.g. Lizard, Leona, Kelle, and Sam). The new cultivars have “stay green” properties at maturity for improved fodder quality and are tolerant to heat stress which is ideal for production in the targeted regions of this research.

Project objectives included:

1. Evaluate the dual benefits of cowpea varieties to increase both grain and fodder quantity and quality.
2. Conduct a tradeoff assessment for cowpea markets with particular focus on tradeoffs and synergies between grain and fodder production in areas

that are traditionally pastoralists compared to areas that traditionally grow cowpea.

The project collaborated with scientists working at the Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA); Senegal National Agency for Extension and Advising (ANCAR), Feed the Future Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab; Faculté des Sciences Economiques et de Gestion (FASEG), and Université Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar.

Click the link below to read the project achievements and complete final technical report.

[Read the full report](#)

Featured Legume of the Month

Pigeon Pea



Pigeon peas are a good source of many vitamins and minerals.

A one cup serving includes 110% of the recommended daily intake of folate. A vitamin that is essential in the early stages of pregnancy to reduce the risks of birth defects of the brain and spine.

Want to learn more about the health benefits of pigeon pea? Visit the [Smartfood.org pigeon pea webpage](http://Smartfood.org/pigeon-pea-webpage).

Cooking with Pigeon Pea...

PIGEON PEAS AND RICE

This recipe by Jehan at jehancancook.com combines pigeon peas with spices, scallions, coconut milk, and rice to create a side dish with a Caribbean flare.

Perfect with stews or other proteins, this easy side is versatile. The recipe also could be adapted to add in other flavor favorites as beans and rice is a great base to let your cooking creativity soar. See what you can create!



Get the Recipe

**For More Information on the
Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research**

Visit our website



This newsletter is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Feed the Future initiative. The contents are the responsibility of Michigan State University and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research | Michigan State University,
Justin S. Morrill Hall 446 West Circle Dr. Room 321 | East Lansing, MI 48824 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!