

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)



## FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LEGUME SYSTEMS RESEARCH

October 2022



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*

## Legume Lab Receives Funding from USAID Niger Mission to Improve Cowpea Production

A new project, *Improving Cowpea Production in Niger* will be managed by the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research led by Michigan State University. The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Niger Mission.



One activity of the project focuses on integrated pest management (IPM) solutions for cowpea farmers. Over the past decade, the National Agricultural Research Institute of Niger (INRAN), the University of Maradi, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and Scientific Animations Without Borders (SAWBO) have created and tested the use of animations in local languages to train farmers on better

strategies for controlling insect pests without the need for second-generation chemical pesticide sprays. Published research has demonstrated that integration of animations into IPM training efforts has highly positive impacts on farmer learning and adoption of the techniques ([e.g., 89% adoption rates by farmers for post-harvest loss prevention techniques; Bello-Bravo et al., 2020](#)).

The project will use these creative tools towards development of a pan-Niger deployment network using a systems approach that can be used to continually scale other content beyond the scope of the project.

The second activity of the project will develop a cowpea variety process map based on the cowpea variety product life cycle with a main focus on identifying varieties carrying key traits as outlined by the Niger USAID Mission for scaling over the next three years.

The product development map will serve downstream varietal scaling release assessments for use after the end of the project while the varietal recommendations will serve the immediate need for scaling recommendations. Having identified stakeholders in the cowpea product development lifecycle, the project will also initiate a Cowpea '*Community of Practice*' with the aim of building longer-term capacity in cowpea product development.

Project partners include Niger National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRAN), the University of Maradi, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and Scientific Animations Without Borders (SAWBO).

## **GLOBAL VIRTUAL CONVENING 2022**

Over 100 global legume researchers and stakeholders attended the two-day public forum virtual event in March which featured Legume Systems Innovation Lab project research updates.

Each month we will highlight a recorded presentation from one of these research projects.

This month we feature the project, "**Genetic Improvement of Dry Beans for Bruchid Resistance for Southern Africa.**" The project is led by Dr. Juan Osorno, North Dakota State University and works in Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique. The presentation is given by Dr. Kelvin Kamfwa, Co-PI from the University of Zambia.

**Click on the image below to view the presentation on YouTube.**



## *In the Field*

### **KasuwaGo Co-Sponsors the Future of Commerce 2022 Conference**



Michigan State University Assistant Professor, Michael Olabisi during the TechCabal Future of Commerce 2022 conference.

The KasuwaGo booth attracted many visitors during TechCabal 2022.

KasuwaGo is proud to have co-sponsored The Future of Commerce 2022 conference which was organized by TechCabal. The well-attended event, which happened in Lagos, Nigeria on September 23rd, brought together influential business leaders from across the world to share experiences on how commerce is evolving and shaping up across the African continent, and how stakeholders can adequately prepare for these changes. It created an excellent opportunity to meet stakeholders across-many sectors to network and find potential partners.

The Future of Commerce conference was centered on tech and commerce, which fits the purpose for KasuwaGo, a trading app created in response to conversations with legumes farmers and sellers seeking better market connections and economic opportunities within a resilient food system, using mobile-phone technology.

The KasuwaGo app is the flagship of the research project titled, *Promoting Trade Integration in Regional Legume Markets with Mobile Technology* which is led by Dr Michael Olabisi from Michigan State University and is funded by the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research.

[Learn More](#)

## ***In the News***

### **Michigan State University Welcomes Visiting Legume Scholars**

The Legume Lab recently welcomed Nigerian researchers, Dr. Toyin Benedict Ajibade, pictured far right, and Dr. Hakeem Ajeigbe, pictured far left, to our Michigan State University offices.

The two are working on the project, *Promoting Trade Integration in Regional Legume Markets with Mobile Technology*, which is led by MSU professor Michael Olabisi, pictured middle.





## Peer Reviewed Publication

Smale, Melinda & Theriault, Veronique & Allen, Andrea & Sissoko, Mamadou. (2022). [Is cowpea a 'women's crop' in Mali? Implications for value chain development](#). 17. 157-170. 10.53936/afjare.2022.17(2).11.

## *Featured Legume of the Month*

### Common Green Bean



Common beans are best known as green beans, string beans, or french beans. They can be eaten fresh with the pods or the beans can be dried and stored.

They are an easy crop to grow and are often found in many home gardens. Varieties either grow as a bush or as a vine (pole beans). Common bean originated in South and Central America but are globally grown today as an inexpensive protein source and for their nitrogen-fixing capabilities.

### Cooking with Green Beans...

### Three Bean Pasta Salad

This recipe from [Pulses.org](https://pulses.org) for three bean pasta salad features not only

green beans but also chickpeas and kidney beans providing supercharged protein.

The pasta and beans are mixed with chopped red bell pepper and red onion, then tossed in a light dressing made with dijon mustard, red wine vinegar, olive oil and fresh parsley.



[Get recipe here](#)

## **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

[Unsubscribe \[abr.legumesystems@msu.edu\]\(mailto:abr.legumesystems@msu.edu\)](mailto:abr.legumesystems@msu.edu)

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

Sent by [abr.legumesystems@msu.edu](mailto:abr.legumesystems@msu.edu) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!

