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FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LEGUME SYSTEMS RESEARCH

April 2021



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 Systems Innovation Lab updates strategy 'Whitepaper' during Annual Global Convening

"Leveraging Technology for Effective Systematic Change" is a collective 'living' vision strategy identified and updated annually during the Legume Systems Innovation Lab annual meeting. The goal of the document is to ensure the Legume Lab stays focused on relevant projects aimed at achieving the greatest possible impact and scaling outcomes for global legume research utilizing a systems approach.

The document was first developed during the inaugural global convening held in Senegal in 2020 pre-COVID. During the 'virtual' 2021 global convening, the group updated the strategy and expanded focus to include Southern Africa to reflect the growing geographic focus of the Legume Lab.



The photo at left shows members of the global Legume Lab community engaged in small group discussions on the strategy whitepaper during the 2020 global convening held in Senegal pre-COVID.

Lab Strategy Paper

From the Field

Congratulations to Legume Lab researchers on 'outstanding articles' award

North Dakota State University researchers Dr. Juan Orsorno and Dr. Phil McClean along with colleagues, were recently awarded the Editor's choice award in Molecular Genetics by the journal, GENETICS.



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The winning paper, published in the May 1, 2020 issue is titled, "[Genetic Associations in Four Decades of Multienvironment Trials Reveal Agronomic Trait Evolution in Common Bean](#)".

The pair co-authored the winning article with colleagues Alice MacQueen, Jeffrey White, Rian Lee, Jeremy Schmutz, Phillip Miklas, Jim Myers and Thomas Juenger.

Both Orsorno and McClean have led Legume Systems Innovation Lab projects. "[Selection and Release of Climate Resilient Common Bean Germplasm for the Highlands and Dry Corridor of Central America](#)" was a Legume Lab initial activity led by McClean.

Orsorno currently leads, "[Genetic Improvement of Dry Beans for Bruchid Resistance for Southern Africa](#)".

Juan Orsorno, *fourth from left*, and Phil McClean, *third from right*, pose



with members of their team in the highlands of Guatemala. Orsono and McClean have lead many bean improvement projects while at North Dakota State University.

Dr. Osorno also serves as the PI Representative on the Legume Lab's Technical Management Advisory Committee (TMAC).

Featured Legume of the Month

CRANBERRY BEANS



According to the [US Dry Bean Council](#), cranberry beans are small rounded beans with an ivory color and red markings. These red markings disappear when cooked.

The bean is popular in Italian and Portuguese recipes. It has a creamy texture and slightly nutty flavor.

Cooking with Cranberry Beans...

Shakshuka with Fresh Cranberry Beans

[Shakshura with fresh cranberry beans](#) is a vegetarian dish that simmers the beans with tomatoes and lots of spices in a skillet. Once the tomatoes become soft and the flavors meld together, eggs are cracked into small wells made with the back of a spoon. Baste the eggs with the simmering sauce and cook to your preference. Serve with some crusty bread and you have a filling and tasty meal.

This recipe, along with other legume recipes can be found on the [Pulses.org website](#). Adding legumes to your weekly meal plan provides affordable protein, vitamins and minerals for healthy living.



[Get recipe here](#)

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Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research**

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