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## FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LEGUME SYSTEMS RESEARCH

January 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 Systems Innovation Lab Announces Grant Writers Workshops and Seed Grant Competition

### REQUEST FOR CONCEPT NOTES

Learn effective strategies on communicating your science to donors and decision makers and receive individualized expert feedback on how to write winning proposals while competing for seed grant research funds.

This unique opportunity combines a two-week virtual grant writers workshop followed by a proposal writing competition. A total of six seed grants will be

awarded for research in any aspect of the legume value chain specific to cowpea, pigeon pea, or common bean for work in any of the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Zambia.

### **About the Workshops and Grant Competition**

- One workshop will be held for the Southern Africa region and one workshop will be held for the West African region
- Workshops limited to 20 participants each
- Eligible researchers will submit a concept note describing their proposed research
- The top 20 concept notes from each region will be selected for participation in the grant writing workshop
- During the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to turn their concept notes into full proposals
- The top five proposals from each region will be selected for external review
- Three of the top five proposals will be chosen from each region to receive a \$5,000 seed grant



The workshops will be led by science communication expert, Mark Bayer of Bayer Strategic Concepts and host of the weekly podcast [When Science Speaks](#). Bayer, has developed the RISE System (Raising the Influence of Scientists and Engineers), a unique blend of proven rhetorical tools, persuasion principles, and communications techniques to help scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs get funding and advance their careers.

Mark empowers and teaches technical professionals to boil down their work into jargon-free, accurate, and engaging narratives that advance their priorities with key decision makers.

### **Important Dates**

- February 28, 2022 Application and Concept Notes Deadline
- March 28, 2022 Participants Selected
- May 9-18, 2022 West Africa Grant Writers Workshop

- May 11-19, 2022 Southern Africa Grant Writers Workshop
- June 15, 2022 Proposal Competition Winners Selected



For More Information or to Apply Scan the QR Code

[Or Click Here](#)

## ANNUAL GLOBAL CONVENING



Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research

Third Annual Global Convening  
Public Forum  
February 15-16, 2022



The banner features a background image of a lush green legume field with yellow flowers. On the left, a woman and a child are visible, and on the right, a basket of dark legumes is shown.

[Register Here](#)

Attention Legume Lab Researchers: Please also save Feb 17 for internal project meetings

### *In the News*

#### **Legume Lab Researcher Named AAEA Fellow**

The Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) has named [Professor Melinda Smale](#) in the Department of Agriculture, Food, and Resource Economics in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University an AAEA Fellow.

The AAEA bestows its highest honor of Fellow upon members of the organization who have demonstrated excellence in research, teaching,

extension, administration, and/or contributions to public or private sector decision making throughout their career.

Dr. Smale leads the Legume Systems Innovation Lab project, "[How Input Subsidy Policies Change the Legume Farming Landscape](#)". Congratulations Melinda!

[Read More](#)

## *Featured Legume of the Month*

### **World Pulses Day**

February 10th is [World Pulses Day](#), and for us here at the Legume Systems Innovation Lab we can't pick just one favorite to feature this month, so we are celebrating them all!

Pulses provide affordable protein and are important for food security, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2016 as the [International Year of Pulses](#) and thereafter, established February 10 as World Pulses Day. Celebrate by trying a new pulse recipe like the one featured below.

### **Cooking on World Pulses Day...**

#### **WINTER VEGETABLE SOUP WITH LENTILS & CHICKPEAS**

This recipe from [Pulses.org](#) is gluten free and vegan, but best of all it includes two favorite legumes, lentils and chickpeas. But why stop there? Try adding some white beans as well, or crushed peanuts on top.

We also love the yellow, green, and red colors of this soup and bet this will become a favorite with everyone you share it with.



[Get the 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.



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