SHARE:

FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LEGUME SYSTEMS RESEARCH

July 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 shares report on the future of lentil systems in Nepal

Women working in lentil field in Nepal. Photo courtesy of Bandana Pradham, CIMMYT

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research, in partnership with the Nepal USAID Mission, held a two-day exploration of lentil systems in Nepal late last year. The interactive workshop featured global and local experts exploring current and future global lentil system innovations while delving into the current state of the crop in Nepal.

A report by the Legume Systems Innovation Lab is now available which details recommendations from the participants on how future investments in six areas of lentil systems in Nepal can provide the greatest impact. The six areas include agronomy, integrated pest management, genetics and breeding, seed systems, markets and trade, and nutrition and gender.

Read the Report

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, **"Development of Market-Driven Improved Cowpea Varieties Using Mature Markers."** The project is led by Dr. Philip Roberts, University of California - Riverside and works in Senegal, Ghana, and Burkina Faso.

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

In the Field
Legume Lab cross-cutting project trains Nigerian youth on KasuwaGo mobile application

Participants of the KasuwaGo youth training program held in Ilrorin, Nigeria

Legume Systems Innovation Lab project, ["Promoting Trade Integration in Regional Legume Markets with Mobile Technology,"](#) led by Dr. Michael Olabisi from Michigan State University, recently held a "train-the-trainer" youth event in Ilorin, Nigeria for the project's KasuwaGo mobile application.

Farmers in West Africa often make long and difficult treks to distant markets to sell their cowpeas and grains to wholesale buyers and consumers. KasuwaGo works to move the market process to a 100% virtual format. The application not only saves buyers and sellers time and money, it also provides a safe and secure trading environment.

Although the app was designed to be used without formal training for the average user, the project is testing if adoption can be enhanced and accelerated through hands-on training of local youth who are often more engaged with mobile technology. The youth then serve as "digital extension agents" training application users on the technology of the service.

Funding for this youth training was provided by the Legume Systems Innovation Lab through grants designed to support capacity development activities. A video report of the training was captured by SAFA TV1 independent television. Click below to view the report.

View News Clip

In the News

Legume Lab researcher meets with USAID Administrator Samantha Power during visit to Zambia's Good Nature Agro
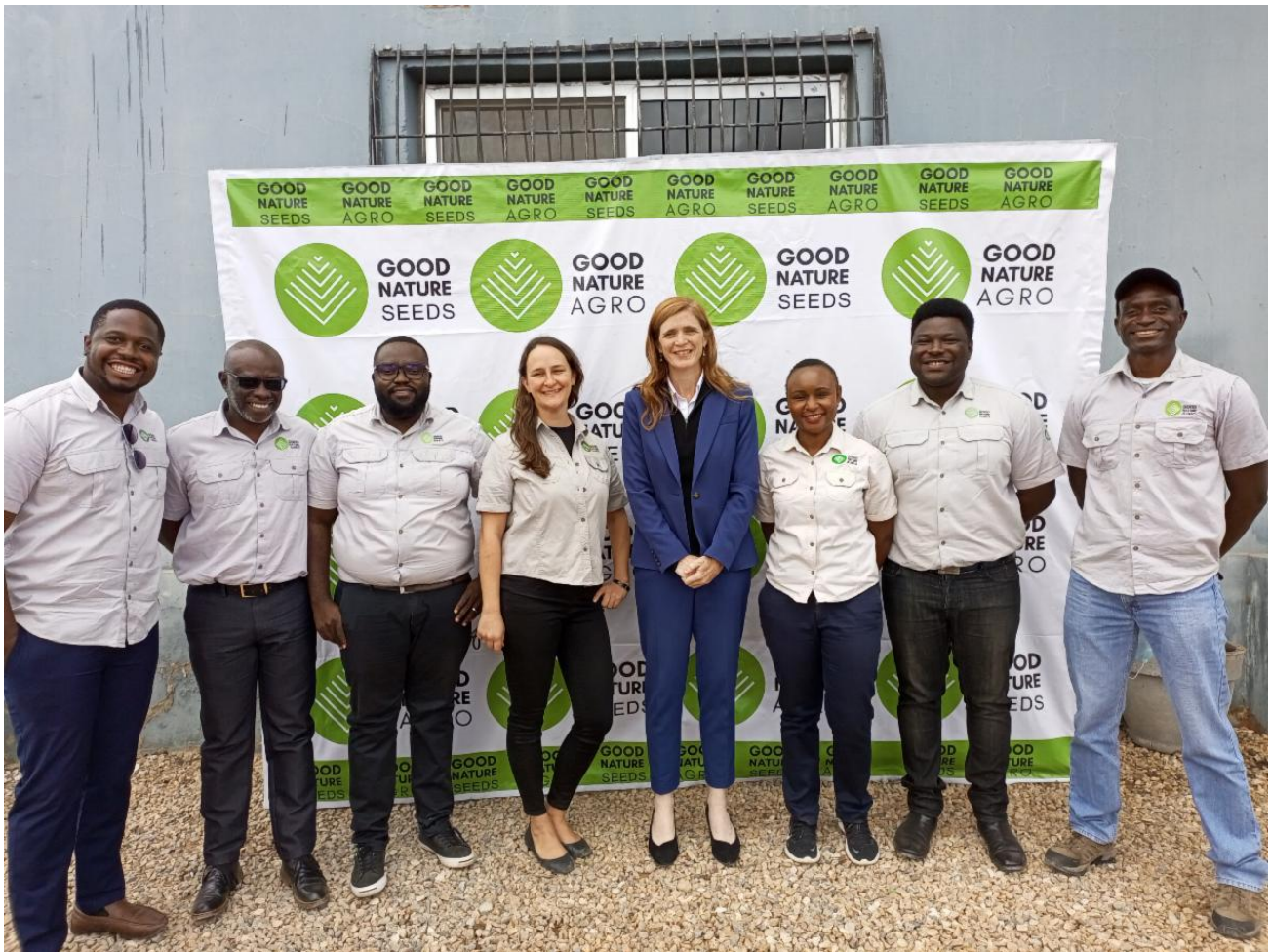
Dr. Kelvin Kamfwa, Legume Lab Researcher and Zambian bean breeder (pictured far right) meets with USAID Administrator, Samantha Power (pictured fourth from right).

USAID Administrator, Samantha Power, visited Good Nature Agro during her recent travels in Zambia. She received a presentation by the legume seed company which works to lift smallholder famers out of poverty across the country.

Attending the presentation and meeting with Ms. Power, was Dr. Kelvin Kamfwa, Legume Systems Innovation Lab researcher and Zambia bean breeder. Dr. Kamfwa, who works in the University of Zambia Bean Breeding Program, is collaborating with Dr. Juan Osorno of North Dakota State University on the Legume Systems Innovation Lab project titled, Genetic Improvement of Dry Beans for Bruchid Resistance for Southern Africa.

Bean bruchids are a post-harvest pest responsible for over 48% loss in quality and quantity of common bean in storage. The project is working to develop new bruchid-resistant varieties. The project has also partnered with Good Nature Agro for distribution of selected varieties to small-holder farmers.

Read more on Administrator Power's visit to Good Nature Agro by clicking the button below.

Featured Legume of the Month

Light Red Kidney Beans

Both light red and dark red kidney beans are often found in chilis, soups, and stews as their thicker skins allow them to keep their shape during longer cooking times.

Nutritionally, a half cup serving of light red kidney beans provides 8 grams of protein with just 110 calories. They also provide 4 grams of dietary fiber and 58 milligrams of calcium.

Cooking with Light Red Kidney Beans...

Eight Treasure Congee

Congee is a traditional Chinese rice pudding. This recipe from Pulses.org includes three types of beans, peanuts, and dried fruit.

Ingredients are soaked for several hours then cooked in an electric cooker.

Eight treasure congee is also known as Laba congee, as it is often served during the Chinese Laba festival. Laba is celebrated on the eighth day of the last lunar month. However, eight treasure congee is a treat that can be enjoyed year round!

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

Visit our website