



**FEED THE FUTURE**

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



# Development and Lessons Learned from a Bean Innovation Platform in Uganda

Rob Mazur<sup>1</sup>, Naboth Bwambale<sup>1</sup>, Richard Miiro<sup>2</sup>, Moses Tenywa<sup>2</sup>, Onesmus Semalulu<sup>3</sup>, and Eric Abbott<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Iowa State University, <sup>2</sup> Makerere University,

<sup>3</sup> National Agricultural Research Laboratories, Uganda



Legume Innovation Lab

**Feed the Future Innovation  
Lab for Collaborative  
Research on Grain Legumes**



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# ***Project Goals***

- Identify strategies to ***increase productivity*** of common beans in farmers' cropping systems
- Identify management practices and technologies to ***improve soil fertility***
- ***Enhance farmers' capabilities*** in diagnosing and finding solutions, and identify solutions to constraints to ***sustainably implementing*** them

# ***Farmers' Goals***

- Improve Household Food and Nutrition Security ('escape' poverty and hunger)
- Address Problems of 'Exhausted' Soils
- Increase Production
- Income – Increase and More Reliable

# ***IP Background & Motivation***

- Known Value of Farmer Associations/Coops
  - Previous CRSP Project (ag. value chain w/ nutrition)
  - Agricultural Extension project experience
  - CGIAR Challenge Programme, African Great Lakes
  - APEP (USAID Ag. Prod. Enhancement Program)
- Farmers' Motivations *(previous slide)*
- Need to Engage Stakeholders in Value Chain
  - Overcome negative attitudes
  - Build trusting business relationships

# ***Evolution and Development***

- Realization of *Constraints and Needs*
  - Participatory Rural Appraisal & Baseline HH Survey
  - Consultative Planning
- *Research Activities*
  - Multiple Trainings
  - Field Trials, Demonstrations, & Field Days
- *Beyond Research Activities*
  - Need for quality seed
  - Need for credit

# ***Impacts - Farmers***

- *Knowledge Gains*
  - Founded on Local/Indigenous Knowledge vis. farming systems and environment
  - Trainings (management practices & technologies, economics of farming as a business)
  - Communication networks (*horizontal & vertical*)
- *Collective Action*
  - Access Inputs
  - Credit
  - Markets

# *Impacts – Private Sector*

- Access to New Markets for *Goods*
  - Inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.)
  - Produce (bean seed)
  - Seed multiplication via contract farming
  - Working capital from foreign private bank
- Access to New Markets for *Services*
  - Additional microcredit loan clients
  - Accurate data for future loan pre-assessment

# ***Innovative Partnerships***

- *Public-Public*
  - Masaka & Rakai Districts (Agric. Prod. & Extension)
  - Makerere University and NARL
  - U.S. Universities (Iowa State, Hawai`i, Michigan St.)
- *Private-Private*
  - CEDO (seed production)
  - MAMIDECOT (microfinance)
  - Bukoola Agro-chemicals
  - Input Supply Retailers
- *Public-Private (per above)*



# ***Enhanced through New Partners***

- Solar Now irrigation (MAMIDECOT = agent)
- Flying Foods (commercial production of crickets for food/flour)
- Operation Wealth Creation (Govt. of Uganda)
- Youth Livelihoods Project (USAID)

# *Sustainability*

- Communication, *social learning*, *collective action*
- Training materials (printed and animated videos)
- Progressive farmers *training others*
- Farmers *initiate* field trials and field days
- *Soil testing services integrated* in local gov't plan
- Farmers (900+), seed producer, agro-input dealers, microfinance org., traders, extension agents
- IP currently developing its own 3-year *strategic plan*

# ***Replication and Scaling Up***

- *Understand* knowledge, attitudes and practices underlying *local* farming systems
- Focus on addressing farmers' *priority* needs
- *Early* engagement of *private sector* businesses
- *Local trials* of mgmt. practices/technologies
- Utilize and build on local resources/institutions
- Environment of *inclusive* communication and *mutual learning* involving every participant

# ***Lessons & Recommendations***

- Provide early trainings about *concept and dimensions of IP formation and operation*
- *Broaden awareness and adoption* of new management practices and technologies beyond those with pre-existing economic ability to take risks and invest
- IP must be *flexible, iterative, responsive* to diverse set of stakeholders' needs – be *inclusive*
- Identify and train *local* partners to take *ownership* of the IP, *mobilize* farmers and *connect* to various IP levels