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FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LEGUME SYSTEMS RESEARCH

January 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

Annual Global Convening goes virtual in February 2021



Feed the Future Innovation Lab
for Legume Systems Research

Annual Global **VIRTUAL** Convening
February 16-18, 2021



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JOIN US! The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research invites you to attend our Annual Global Convening 2021. The event will be held virtually February 16-18.

Global Legume Lab researchers will share their research updates and impact on legume systems throughout West and Southern Africa.

Register Now

From the Field

Green revolution déjà vu and gendered impacts on cowpea production in West Africa

by Andrea Allen and Melinda Smale



Cowpea products offer the women of Mali entrepreneurial opportunities.

Photo courtesy of Mamadou Sissoko

During the late 1960s, the Green Revolution in South Asia focused research and development efforts on boosting production of rice and wheat in response to the specter of famine. Though yields of these staple cereals increased phenomenally, the transformation that resulted is thought to have caused the displacement of legumes as an unintended side effect.

A team of researchers led by Dr. Melinda Smale from Michigan State University is investigating the broader question of “How Input Subsidy Policies Change the Cowpea Farming Landscape in West Africa”.

Cowpeas provide an important source of proteins and micronutrients in local diets. What’s more, farmers can harvest, consume, and sell cowpeas during the hungry season, and they are adapted to drought.

Early data analysis indicates that in Mali, fertilizer subsidies targeted specifically to production of rice, millet, sorghum, and cotton have shifted production away from other crops – including cowpea...

Read the complete article by clicking the [Read more](#) button below which continues the discussion on nutritional impact and perceptions on cowpea and gender roles in Mali and Burkina Faso.

Read more

In the News

Stories, blogs, papers & publications by legume lab researchers and their colleagues

[Bulyaba, R., Lenssen, A., Moore, K., Semalulu, O. \(December 31, 2020\) Limestone application effects on common bean \(*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.\) yield and grain iron and zinc concentration on a Ferralsol soil in Uganda, African Journal of Agricultural Research](#)

Featured Legume of the Month

WHITE LIMA BEANS



Lima beans, like many bean varieties, vary in color. The most common color for fresh lima beans is green and pale white when dried. Less popular varieties produce beans that are red, purple, or speckled to name just a few.

Lima beans can be a bush or pole type plant. The pole plants usually produce the larger pods and require a longer growing period.

Nutritionally, lima beans are an excellent source of protein.

Cooking with White Lima Beans...

Giant white beans with greens

Lima beans are commonly referred to as butter beans in the U.S. and are versatile in many recipes.

Michigan State University's [MSU Health4U](#) program offers many recipes featuring legumes. One features giant white lima beans sautéed in olive oil with red onions, tomatoes, and kale. A vinaigrette of lemon juice, olive oil, and fresh chopped dill complete the dish.



Give it a try tonight by following the recipe at the link below.

[Get recipe here](#)

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

[Visit our website](#)



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