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FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LEGUME SYSTEMS RESEARCH

April 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

Researchers Selected for Grant Writing Workshop *40 Researchers from West and Southern Africa to attend workshop and vie for starter research grants*

The Legume Systems Innovation Lab is pleased to announce the 40 researchers selected for the upcoming Grant Writers Workshop and Starter Grant Competition. Selection of the participants was competitive based on short concept notes detailing proposed legume systems research to be conducted in any of the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal in West Africa; and Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia in Southern Africa.

The two-week virtual grant writers workshop will incorporate a proposal writing competition with up to six start-up grants awarded for research in any aspect of the legume value chain specific to cowpea, pigeon pea, or common bean in the focus countries listed above.

The workshops will be held in May and will be led by science communication expert, Mark Bayer of Bayer Strategic Concepts and host of the weekly podcast, [When Science Speaks](#).

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

The selected participants, including 11 females, represent five countries in West Africa and three countries in Southern Africa. For a complete list of winners, please click on the link below.

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GLOBAL VIRTUAL CONVENING 2022

Over 100 global legume researchers and stakeholders attended the two-day public forum virtual event which featured Legume Systems Innovation Lab project research updates.

Each month we will feature a recorded presentation from one of these research projects.

This month we feature the project, **"Science-Driven and Farmer-Oriented Insect Pest Management for Cowpea Agro-Ecosystems in West Africa."** The project is led by Dr. Manuel Tamo, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture - Benin and works in Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria. **Click on the image below to view the presentation on YouTube.**

AOI 1.2: Science-driven and farmer-oriented insect pest management for cowpea agro-ecosystems in West Africa

February 15-17, 2022



In the Field

Legume Systems Innovation Lab Announces New Project to Explore Legume-Based Processed Products in Malawi and Zambia

Improving Incomes and Nutritional Security Through Development and Commercialization of Consumer Preferred Processed Legume-Based Products in Malawi and Zambia, is a new project of the Legume Systems Innovation Lab.



The project will work to support the development of legume-based agro-processing operations through understanding factors that drive and constrain the demand for nutrient rich legumes, as well as identifying relevant interventions to alleviate these constraints, in Malawi and Zambia.

Dr. Robert Fungo, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT is the principal investigator collaborating with the Feed the Future Agriculture Diversification (AgDiv) Activity, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the National Bean Program, DARS all in Malawi; the National Bean Program, ZARI-Misamfu Regional Research Station, Trinity Super Foods, and University of Zambia all in Zambia; and Virginia Tech University, U.S.

The project recently held an inception workshop in Lilongwe, Malawi. Look for a full summary of the workshop in the May newsletter.

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In the News

Legume Systems Innovation Lab Research Manager Looks Ahead to New Opportunities



Deepa Thiagarajan, Michigan State University Assistant Professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Legume Systems Innovation Lab Research Manager and Nutrition Advisor has recently accepted a new position outside of MSU. Although we will miss her expertise and contributions to the Legume Lab, we are excited as she embarks on a food safety and sustainability leadership role in the food industry private sector.

Legume Lab Director, Barry Pittendrigh reflects on Deepa's impact, "Deepa has been a tremendous asset and she will be truly missed. Her knowledge and leadership have been invaluable. We wish her the best of luck."

Deepa served first, as the Nutrition Advisor as part of the Resilience Resource Team for the Legume Lab where she worked with projects on integration of nutrition components. Soon, Deepa's role expanded to include the title of Research Manager. In this capacity she worked closely with both Director, Barry Pittendrigh and Deputy Director, John Medendorp to ensure project research aligned with the Lab's overall program goals using a systems approach.

"It has been a great pleasure to be associated with a tremendous team at the Legume Lab and I wish the Lab great success in the year ahead," shares Deepa.

Much luck Deepa! We know you will find great success!

Featured Legume of the Month

Chickpeas



National Chickpea Day is celebrated annually on April 21, so it seems only appropriate to make chickpeas our featured legume of the month.

Often called garbanzo beans, these legumes are a protein powerhouse and a great alternative to meat dishes.

Cooking with Chickpeas...

Here's a tasty and healthy recipe for meatless Monday. The fresh mango, tomatoes, red onion, cilantro and mint marinate with the chickpeas in a light refreshing lime dressing. It's a flavor explosion!

The recipe for these Chickpea Lettuce Wraps can be found on the [Love Pulses](#) website.

Chickpea Lettuce Wraps



[Get the recipe here](#)

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

[Visit our website](#)



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