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## FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LEGUME SYSTEMS RESEARCH

March 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*

#### **"The future of legumes is bright" Messages from the Annual Global Convening**



*"There is a lot of good to be done in the world, and with your contributions of intelligence, time, and effort, we will achieve it. This will be our legacy and this will be our reward."*

Dr. John Medendorp, Deputy Director of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research shared inspiring words on the lasting impact and the importance of legume systems research during the opening session of the final day of the Lab's Annual Global Convening held February 16-18.

In discussing the evolving changes that have taken place since entering a 'new millennium and the electronic age,' John shared that he believes legumes will play a crucial role as we face expanding populations and environmental concerns that stretch our land resources. Legumes with their nutrient rich source of healthy protein, nitrogen fixing capabilities, and resilient cropping systems, *"have the potential to deliver immediate solutions to hunger and nutrition issues. And this is why we work as a Lab, to bring sustainable solutions to our global family so that the future is better than our past."*

To view John's full address click on the youtube link below of the Global Convening February 18 Public Session. The remarks begin at approximately 3:20.

Dr. Medendorp's Introductory Remarks

## ***From the Field***

### **Legume Lab researcher featured in plant breeding news magazine**

Celestina Jochua, is a Mozambican researcher and common bean breeder working for the Agricultural Research Institute of Mozambique (IIAM). She is also a co-principle investigator on the Legume Systems Innovation Lab project, "Genetic Improvement of Dry Beans for Bruchid Resistance for Southern Africa" led by Juan Osorno at North Dakota State University.

Jochua was recently featured in the January 2021 CSA News magazine article, "Breeding Beans for Better Roots" originally shared by the [Crops Science Society of America \(CSSA\)](#).



## ***Featured Legume of the Month***

### **PINK BEANS**

According to the [US Dry Bean Council](#), *pink beans are small, pale-pink in appearance and turn reddish-brown when cooked. Their flavor is meaty with a slightly powdery texture. They are related to kidney beans and are often*



*used in chili and a favorite in Old West (U.S.) recipes.*

## Cooking with Pink Beans...

## Caribbean Pink Beans

Legumes provide protein and nutrients for good health. Pink beans, which are popular in Caribbean countries and Puerto Rico, contain folate (B9), thiamin (B1), iron, and magnesium are a few micronutrients found in the legume.



[Caribbean pink beans](#) is a vegetarian dish that combines the pink beans with cilantro, parsley, tomatoes, red bell pepper, onion, and garlic. The result? A heart healthy side dish or main course. This recipe, along with other legume recipes can be found on the [American Heart Association website](#). Give it a try this week!

[Get recipe here](#)

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

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