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## FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LEGUME SYSTEMS RESEARCH

September 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 Lab Director Leads Innovation Labs Meeting in Washington D.C.**

Legume Systems Innovation Lab Director and Innovation Lab Council Chair, Barry Pittendrigh led the Feed the Future Innovation Labs Annual Meeting held Wednesday, September 21 at the National Press Club in Washington D.C.

The purpose of the public meeting titled, "Harnessing the Power of Agricultural Research to Transform Food Systems" was to: (a) demonstrate how the Innovation Labs are



strengthening food systems to withstand shocks and stresses, (b) identify game-changing research that has significant potential to address food insecurity, and (c) show how the Innovation Labs are inclusive and work at the local level to translate their research into scalable solutions.

Researchers representing the Innovation Labs presented in the following panel sessions:

- *Food Systems Research: A look at the current state of global food systems, gaps in the system, and future directions for food systems and food systems research*
- *Game-Changing Innovations: Breakthroughs in technologies, processes, or both that have the potential to transform food systems*
- *Expanding and Promoting Localization: How the Innovation Labs support locally led development, local capacity strengthening, and local systems practices.*
- *Building Inclusive Innovation for Development: How the Innovation Labs integrate gender and social equity considerations into research for development*
- *Translating Science for Measurable Impact: Innovative ways in which Innovation Labs are translating innovation into scalable solutions*

USAID, who provides support for the Feed the Future initiative, opened the meeting by providing the agency's research and development priorities. The event was attended by over 100 participants.

## 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, "**Sustainable Intensification of Dual-Purpose Cowpea Varieties for Enhanced Food and Fodder in Senegal.**" The project is led by Dr. Augustine Obour, Kansas State University and works in Senegal.

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

# Sustainable Intensification of Dual-Purpose Cowpea Varieties for Enhanced Food and Fodder in Senegal

Augustine Obour, Vara Prasad, Aliou Faye, Min Doohong, Bineta Mbengue, Mouhamad Moussa Diangar, Assane Beye, Dioumacor Fall, Ibrahim Sarr, & Amadou Diallo



## *In the Field*

### **Project Study Examines Mali Fertilizer Subsidy Policy Changes Using Kaleidoscope Model**



The 2007 global food crisis led to soaring food prices and riots in a number of countries around the world. In response to the crisis, the government of Mali instituted an input subsidy program called "Initiative Riz" to boost rice productivity and support national food self-sufficiency. Over the years, the program has been expanded to include maize, sorghum, millet, wheat, and in some years, cotton. In 2016, the program entered a new transformation with the launch of the pilot program for the electronic distribution of fertilizers (e-voucher).

Policymaking is a complex process and there is growing interest among decision makers and donors to better understand policy systems in developing

agricultural economies like Mali's. In this study, researchers apply the Kaleidoscope Model (KM) to explore the key drivers of change and better understand the decision-making context that led to the three main changes in the history of Mali's fertilizer subsidy. The diagnostic tools of the KM are a chronology of events, stakeholder inventory, and circles of influence, which are diagrams depicting political perspectives of key actors. The project conducted a literature review, semi-structured interviews with knowledgeable stakeholders, and an in-person workshop with stakeholders to discuss and validate findings then employed qualitative methods (QDA Miner) to analyze interview results.

The consensus of stakeholders and authors is that decision-makers should ensure a more rigorous policy design and engage in more regular assessment of the subsidy program. Open communications and debate should be encouraged before new directions are undertaken. Means should be found to better adapt solutions to local farming conditions and farmer types, which could lead to a shift in priorities toward addressing the needs of more vulnerable farmers. The grant process should be more inclusive. Several avenues of reflection on the future of the fertilizer subsidy policy in Mali are proposed.

The study titled, *Analyse Des Changements Intervenues Dans La Politique De Subvention Des Engrais Au Mali En Utilisant Le Modele Kaleidoscope* (Analysis of Changes in the Fertilizer Subsidy Policy in Mali Using the Kaleidoscope Model) is currently available in French and is authored by Mamadou Sissoko, Amidou Assima, Melinda Smale, Yénizié Koné, and Bouréma Koné.

The research is part of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research project, "How Input Subsidy Policies Change the Legume Farming Landscape" led by Melinda Smale of Michigan State University.

[Read Paper in French](#)

## *Featured Legume of the Month*

### **Black Bean Flour**

As one might expect, black bean flour is made simply by grinding dried black beans into a fine powder. Compared to all-purpose flour, the ground black bean flour is higher in protein and fiber.

Black bean flour is also gluten free making it an excellent choice in baking.



The flour does contain dark specks and is best used in recipes that include chocolate.

Several companies sell packaged black bean flour or you can grind your own. Try this legume-based ingredient swap and enjoy the additional nutritional benefits that legumes provide.

## Cooking with Black Bean Flour... Cranberry Chocolate Almond Biscotti

Who knew you could bake delicious biscotti using black bean flour?

This recipe from [Pulses.org](https://pulses.org) incorporates black bean flour with more traditional baking ingredients to deliver a unique cranberry chocolate almond biscotti.



This baked treat pairs well with coffee, tea or simply on its own to satisfy any sweet craving. Bake some this week to share with family and friends.

[Get recipe here](#)

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

[Visit our website](#)



This newsletter is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Feed the Future initiative. The contents are the responsibility of Michigan State University and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.



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Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research | Michigan State University,  
Justin S. Morrill Hall, 446 West Circle Dr. Room 321, East Lansing, MI 48824

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