

Africa RISING Early Wins Project Proposal

IITA, 16 April 2012

Value chain analysis of grain legumes in eastern and southern Africa: Building partnerships for impact through research on sustainable intensification of farming systems

Introduction

There is compelling evidence that in the maize mixed farming systems in eastern and southern Africa increasing agricultural productivity, food availability, farm incomes and nutrition and reducing poverty requires sustainable agro-ecological intensification. Grain legumes improve soil fertility and increase the yields of subsequent crops in a rotation or in intercropping systems by increasing soil nitrogen; improve systems productivity; generate cash incomes; improve nutrition; enhance the resilience of production systems; and reduce poverty. Grain legumes are therefore critical for enabling households to exploit the comparative advantage of their areas through sustainably intensifying their production systems and permitting diversification into livestock using increased crop residue as feed.

This proposal requests funding to carry out value chain analysis of grain legumes in order to produce some short-term outputs focusing on mapping areas of production and marketing of grain legumes; and cataloguing of the best grain legume crop bets for each cropping system and their applicability in various agro-ecologies. In addition, the project will map out potential partners and networks to support the shift to sustainable intensification through grain legumes; and engage key players across the value chains through innovation platforms, communication, information and knowledge management systems. These will support the longer term objectives of sustainable intensification of farming systems in eastern and southern Africa.

The objectives, outputs and activities

The objective of the proposed project is to support the development of Africa RISING research-for-development project through building partnerships and mobilizing stakeholders in the short term to conduct value chain analyses.

The outputs:

1. Production and marketing of grain legumes by geographical area and trends mapped and quantified
2. End-use markets, structure and dynamics of grain legume value chains mapped and opportunities and constraints on exploiting opportunities identified
3. Best bet system components of technologies for intensification of grain legume crops that are ready to go into identified agro-ecological zones mapped and catalogued
4. Key actors and networks to support the shift to sustainable intensification through grain legumes and points of leverage for targeting research investments to have large-scale impact determined

5. Key stakeholders for innovation platforms galvanized and strategies developed to improve performance of value chains and investments for upgrading the value chains determined.

This will be achieved through activities on research, analysis and information management, communication and knowledge sharing. The activities include:

1. Collecting data from primary and secondary sources. Primary data will be collected through questionnaire interviews surveys with key players along the value chains and key informants. Secondary data will be collected from the Ministries of Agriculture, national statistical offices, farm and agribusiness surveys that have been conducted, farmers' organizations, trade associations and existing databases, such as the Rural Incomes Generating Activities (RIGA) income consumption surveys, FAOSTAT, and Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS).
2. Developing and analyzing spatially disaggregated time series production data bases
3. Compiling value chain maps to organize the data, analyzing data to reveal opportunities and constraints within the chains
4. Compiling catalogues of best bet components to resolve the constraints
5. Determining interventions and points of leverage for targeting research investments to have large-scale impact and designing strategies for sustainable intensification of farming systems through grain legumes
6. Mobilizing and vetting strategies with stakeholders, establishing innovation platforms and communication and knowledge sharing systems and developing a longer term research agenda for sustainable intensification of farming systems through grain legumes

Specific locations, intermediate and ultimate beneficiaries (including numbers of people who will benefit)

The project will focus on common beans, cowpeas, groundnuts, pigeon peas, and soybeans in Tanzania, Malawi, and Zambia. The beneficiaries of the research are grain legume farmers, traders, processors in the surplus producing in Feed the Future (FtF) target areas (Dodoma, Manyara and Morogoro in Tanzania; Balaka, Dedza, Lilongwe, Machinga, Mangochi, Mchinji and Ntcheu districts in Malawi; and Eastern Province in Zambia) and rural and urban consumers in the target countries. The intended benefits of research for the target group are incremental flows in the future that would result from more efficient, profitable and competitive value chains. The numbers of people who will benefit include 120,000 farm households in Tanzania; 150,000 in Malawi and 240,000 households in Zambia.

Timeline

Activity	March -Apr.	April	May	June – Aug.	September
Mobilize stakeholders and establish e-mail communication and information sharing					
Conduct rapid assessment value chain surveys in Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia					
Collect secondary data					
Analysis of production and marketing					

Mapping of value chains and analysis of constraints and opportunities					
Compile catalogues of best bet components					
Report writing					
Stakeholder meetings					

The lead partner (who will be responsible for deliverables, reporting, and financial management) and the role of each partner

IITA-Tanzania will be the lead partner responsible for deliverables, reporting and financial management. The other partners are ICRISAT; CIAT; the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics and Dry Grain Pulses CRSP, Michigan State University; Department of Agricultural Economics, Sokoine University of Agriculture; Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute Selian, Agricultural Research Institute Ilonga; the Department of Crop Science, Bunda College of Agriculture, University of Malawi; the National Smallholders' Farmers Association of Malawi; Zambia Agricultural Research Institute, Msekera; SIMLEZA Project, Eastern Province, Zambia.

The roles of partners are summarized in the table below.

Activity	IITA	ICRI SAT	CIAT	MSU	Sokoine	Tanzania ARI	Bunda	NASFA M	ZARI	SIMLEZA
Mobilize stakeholders and establish e-mail communication	**	*	*	*	**	*	*	**	**	*
Conduct rapid assessment value chain surveys in Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia	**	**	**							*
Collect secondary data	**	*	*	**	*	*	*	*	*	*
Analysis of production	**			**						
Mapping of value chains and analysis of constraints and opportunities	**	**	**	**						*
Compile catalogues of best bet components	*	*	*			**	**	*	**	
Report writing	**	*	*	**	*	*	*	*	*	*
Stakeholder meetings					**			**	**	*

Illustrative list of personnel

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