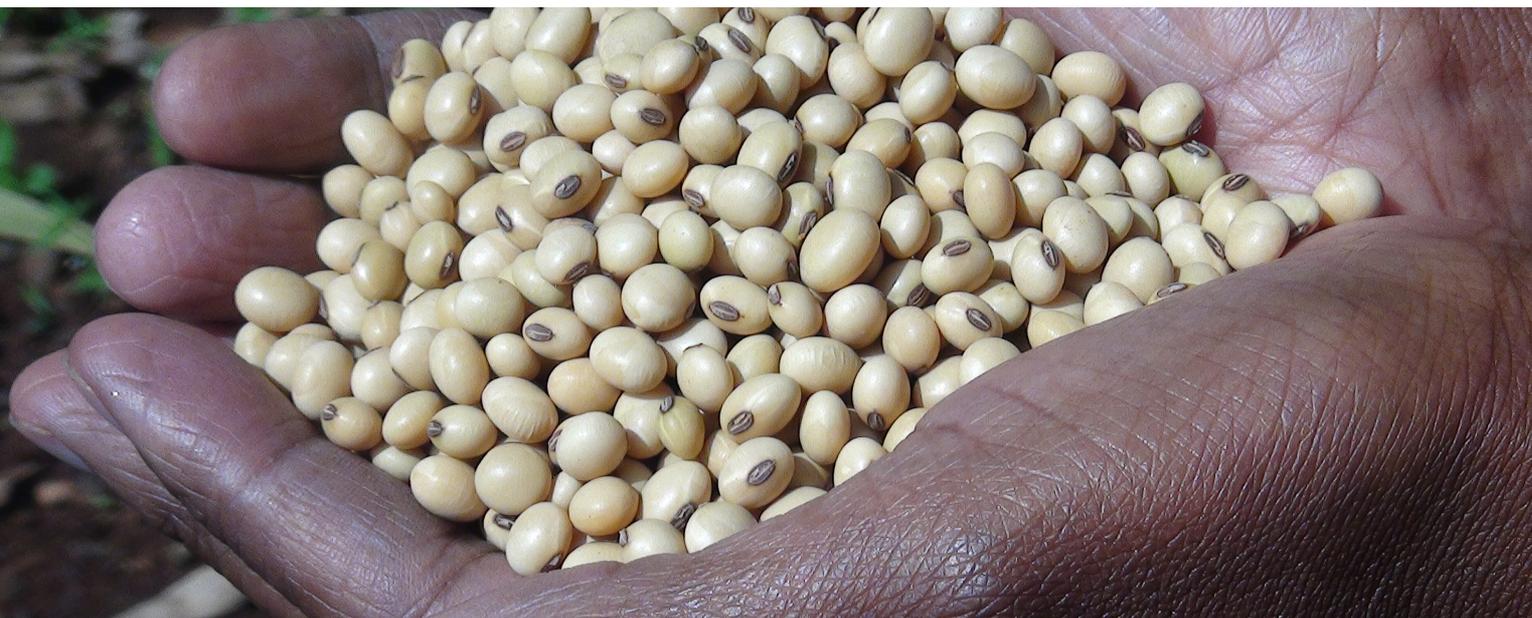


GENDER AND THE LEGUME ALLIANCE

Integrating multi-media communication approaches and input brokerage

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Issue 1



An action research project seeking to address the current opportunities for improving access to and capacity to use information and knowledge by poor smallholders to achieve sustainable intensification.

What is this project doing?

The project seeks to address the current opportunities for improving access to and capacity to use information and knowledge by poor smallholders to achieve sustainable intensification.

The project will generate research findings in Tanzania and Ghana and will focus on beans and soybean in Tanzania and soybean in Ghana. The project aims to answer the following research question: what strategies are most effective for improving access to and capacity to use market, agronomic and other information and knowledge by poorer smallholders, especially women and youth, to achieve sustainable intensification?

In doing so, the GALA project will test the hypotheses that: i) different communication channels are more suited to different gender groups. ii) brokering linkages between input supply and demand through provision of information can address the link between supply and demand.

So what's the problem?

Sustainable agricultural intensification (SAI) can make a positive contribution in addressing food security by reducing environmental impact. Furthermore, proven and scalable SAI legume practices already exist.

However, the extent to which smallholder farmers can implement new practices for sustainable agricultural intensification is limited by many factors including: lack of access to actionable information; inadequate incentives for adoption; lack of capacity to implement; lack of necessary inputs; poor public/private sector policies; and lack of capacity of farmers to communicate household needs for inputs and services.

The lack of access to actionable information and the lack of appropriate linkages to factor markets (markets in which services such as labour, capital and resources are purchased and sold) are two of the major constraints.

Moreover, another obstacle is targeting information on SAI to different gender groups.

What approach will the project use?

The project will carry out action research, while implementing pilots of integrated communication campaigns linked to an input brokerage system. Quantitative data will be collected through household surveys.

These surveys will be complemented with Computer Aided Telephone Interviews (CATIs). Furthermore, focus group discussions will be conducted at the community level and family interviews will capture the complexity of local gendered dynamics. Key informants interview with value chain actors will complement the set of tools used by the projects.



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Theory of change

Inputs

- DFID funding
- Funding from B&MGF to support delivery of scale-up campaigns on legumes
- Funding from N2Africa to cover staff

Outputs

- Output 1:** Partner networks established in Ghana and Tanzania around campaign activities
- Output 2:** Information flows within households mapped vis a vis gender and SAI legumes practices
- Output 3:** Recommendations for the strategy and design of value chain development initiatives consolidated
- Output 4:** Evidence on the effectiveness of integrated scale up campaigns generated
- Output 5:** Evidence made available to decision makers

Outcomes

Public, private and NGO sectors have increased opportunity to engage with evidence on which communication channels work and which support strengthening value chains and enabling poor smallholders in Tanzania and Ghana, particularly women and youth, to profit from legume technologies that allow intensification without further land degradation

Medium term impacts

Improved gender sensitive upscaling of information on SAI and value chains delivered in scale-up campaigns for legume practices in Ghana and Tanzania leading to benefits for smallholders, especially women and youth

Long term impacts

- Food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture (SDG 2).
- Gender equality (SDG 5)
- Sustainable production patterns (SDG 12)
- Efficient use of natural resources (12.a, 12.2)

Project time-frame:
2016-2019

Assumption

- Smallholder farming households include: men and women and youth of both sexes
- Farmers delivering to existing and emerging markets can increase productivity by putting in place SAI practices promoted through the scale-up campaigns
- Integration of legume technologies in farming systems leads to sustainable intensification of land use

Assumption

Public, private and NGO sectors use evidence to inform policy makers and/or agricultural investments and to better target information to smallholder farmers. Private sector willing to pay for commercial information brokerage once established.

Lead and collaborating organizations

The GALA project is led by CAB International. The project is developed in collaboration with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania, and the University for Development Studies in Ghana.

The project approach assumes that stakeholder confidence in research findings is increased if they are included in the processes of establishing research and have oversight of the emerging data, information and lessons.

In this sense the project builds on a range of partner clusters spanning: knowledge, delivery, value-chain, and communication and research.

About the funders

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<https://africasoilhealth.cabi.org/about-ashc/ashc/gender-and-the-legume-alliance/>