



GREAT

GENDER-RESPONSIVE PLANT BREEDING COURSE

WEEK 1 | 22-31
July, 2019

WEEK 2 | 13-17
January, 2020



GREAT

GENDER-RESPONSIVE
RESEARCHERS
EQUIPPED FOR
AGRICULTURAL
TRANSFORMATION

The GREAT Vision

As co-Principal Investigators of the Gender-responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation (GREAT) project, we warmly welcome you to join us in our efforts to elevate gender-responsiveness in the agricultural research community.

We have a GREAT vision:

“To equip researchers to create more inclusive and effective agricultural systems by addressing the priorities of both women and men in sub-Saharan Africa.”

The GREAT vision is based on a premise that agricultural research projects are often designed with little consideration of how the research outputs, technologies and interventions will impact both men and women. Researchers are increasingly expected to design projects that deliver equitable outcomes, yet there is only limited or inappropriate gender training out there for agricultural researchers. Considering gender in research requires thinking differently, and not just applying tools. GREAT will not only teach participants how to use tools, but also how to change the way they look at their research, to be able to identify relevant gender research questions, or potential points of negative or positive impact for women and men, and how to address these.

What we strive for is changing researchers and research systems. If GREAT can change the agricultural research paradigm so that gender is the lens through which all projects are conceptualized

About Gender-responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation (GREAT)

GREAT equips researchers to create more inclusive and effective agricultural systems by addressing the priorities of both women and men in sub-Saharan Africa.

GREAT delivers courses to agricultural researchers from sub-Saharan Africa in the theory and practice of gender-responsive research, seeking to increase opportunities for equitable participation and the sharing of benefits from agricultural research and improve the outcomes for smallholder women farmers, entrepreneurs, and farmer organizations. By building and engaging communities of researchers equipped with the skills, knowledge, and support systems to develop and implement gender-responsive projects, GREAT will advance gender-responsiveness as the norm and standard for agricultural research.

GREAT is a 5-year collaboration between Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, that started in 2016. Funding support is from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

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and implemented, research outputs will be more appropriate to the needs of both women and men farmers, and more widely adopted. Women will gain greater visibility and voice in agricultural research design and implementation.

All of this would culminate in increased benefits from agricultural research for men, women and children together.

The challenge in developing truly applied gender training courses for agricultural researchers bound GREAT proponents together, building a community of passionate supporters. We are indebted to the many visionary voices that have contributed intellectual input into the development of GREAT, and thank everyone who has generously devoted time, thoughts and resources to the GREAT vision.

Rhetoric around gender-responsive research is not new, but action and evidence is what is lacking. With GREAT intervention, we hope that the usual process of paying lip-service to gender without linking it to concrete commitments of time, budgets and personnel will change. Change is our greatest challenge. We hope you will join us as agents of change to implement this new vision of agricultural research to intelligently design research projects that maximize impact for all.

Thank you for joining the GREAT vision!

Hale Ann Tufan

Margaret Mangheni

FIND OUT MORE

GREAT publishes quarterly newsletters, and sends email announcements about new courses. To receive these sign up for our email list at:

tinyurl.com/genderag

The latest information about all things GREAT is available online at the GREAT website:

www.greatagriculture.org

Learn more about the transformative power of our GREAT custom courses:

tinyurl.com/great-custom

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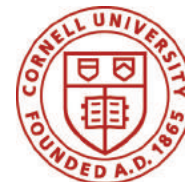
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GET IN TOUCH

GREAT is a collaboration between Makerere University and Cornell University. For general questions please email us at contact@greatagriculture.org. To discuss a custom course for your institution or project, please email Dr. Margaret Mangheni (Makerere) at mnmangheni@gmail.com.

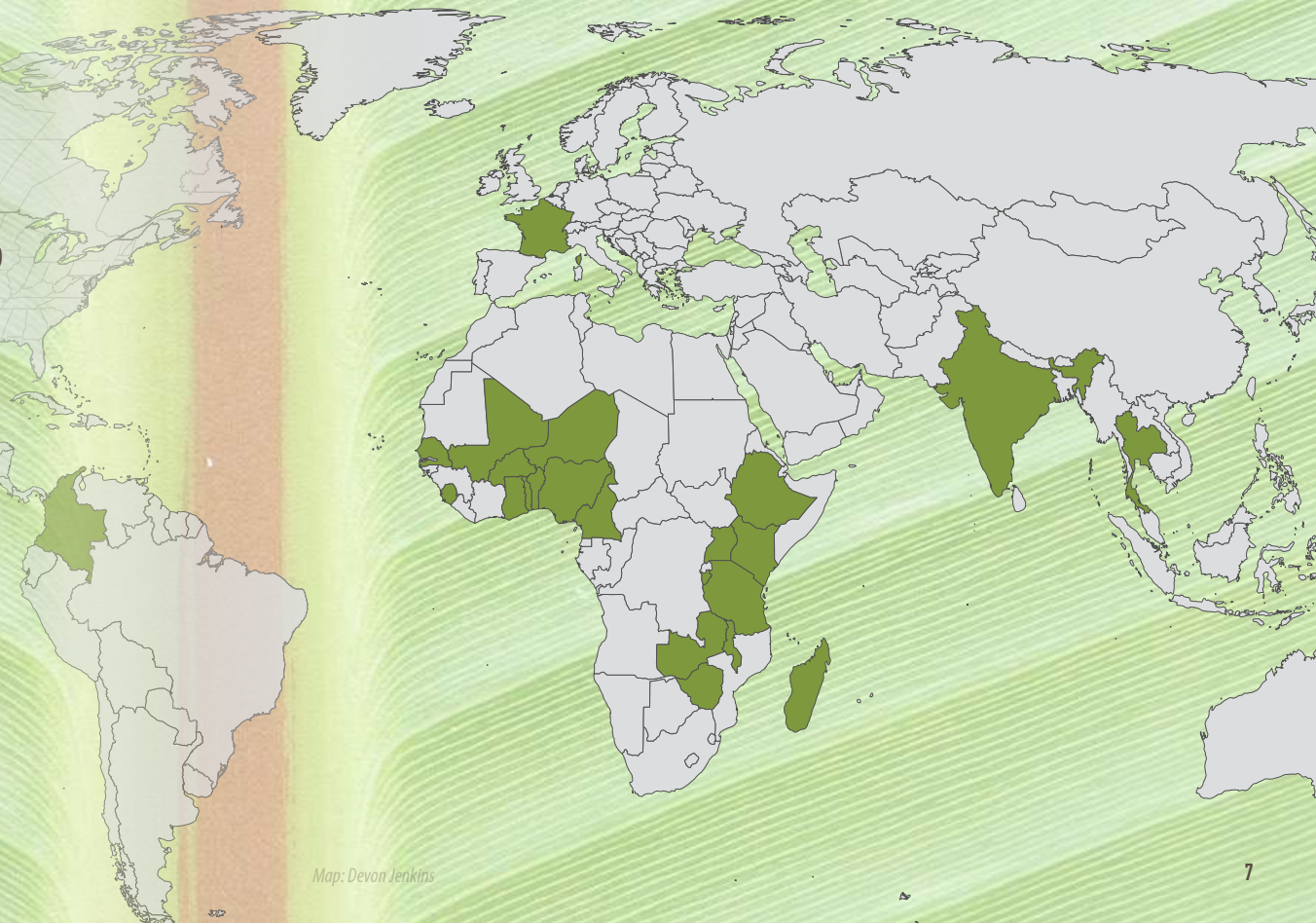
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Since the first GREAT course in 2016, 136 researchers from 24 institutions and 23 countries have attended GREAT trainings.

GREAT participants have come from both national and international research institutions, including:

- AfricaRice
- Bioversity International
- Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD)
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR, Ghana)
- Crop Breeding Institute (CBI, Zimbabwe)
- Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX, Zimbabwe)
- Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research (EIAR)
- Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER, Mali)
- Institut de l'Environnement et Recherches Agricoles (INERA, Burkina Faso)
- Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi (ISABU)
- Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique du Niger (INRAN)
- Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA)
- Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique (ITRA)
- Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD, Cameroon)
- Institute for Agricultural Research, Ahmadu Bello University (Nigeria)
- International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
- International Potato Center (CIP)
- Kenyan Agricultural and Livestock Research Institute (KALRO)
- Lake Chad Research Institute (LCRI, Nigeria)

- Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Malawi)
- Makerere University (Uganda)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MALF, Tanzania)
- Mulungushi University (Zambia)
- National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO, Uganda)
- Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI)
- SOJAGNON-NGO
- Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI)
- Uganda Christian University
- University of Abomey-Calavi
- West Africa Center for Crop Improvement (WACCI, Ghana)
- World Vegetable Center



"At the beginning when I joined the course I was a bit skeptical, because I assumed I would be getting only theoretical knowledge. 'Why are women in Sub-Saharan Africa not being addressed in our project activities?' Developing the technology is one side of the story, but in our project we'd also involved women's participation; was it enough? Does it have an impact?"

"Through this training I was able to gain knowledge about how to consider the gender aspect in every stage of the project."

— Negussie Zenna

*GREAT Fellow, Cereal Grains Cohort Course
Rice Breeder, AfricaRice, Madagascar*

Intensive, Applied, Effective.

The GREAT Project is centered around intensive, interdisciplinary training courses.

GREAT courses are not like other gender trainings. Through a rigorous, three-part course we equip participants with applied theory and hands-on skills to incorporate gender-responsive research into existing projects, and backstop this with dedicated field trainer support.

What is the GREAT Approach?

GREAT combines theory and practice into a dynamic package, ensuring that learning is practical, grounded and applied. To do this, our cohort courses are split into three parts:



PART ONE

Week 1 Training: Nine days of hands on training in applied gender theory and mixed methods research at Makerere University



PART TWO

Field Work Phase: Four months of field trainer-supported field practice, testing out mixed methods tools with participant team's own projects

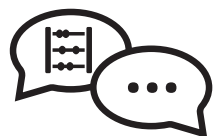


PART THREE

Week 2 Training: Five days of follow-up training covering mixed methods data analysis and writing, communications and institutional change

To broaden learning and deepen understanding, participants attend in **interdisciplinary teams**, combining biophysical scientists, like plant or animal breeders, with social scientists, like sociologists and economists. Sessions on mixed methods approaches are designed to strengthen skills for researchers from all backgrounds, and enable Fellows to fluidly communicate across qualitative and quantitative research disciplines. This enables more effective project management and development of more inclusive and effective technologies, which leads to **better adoption** and **enhanced outcomes** for farmers and consumers—both women and men.

For research programs to be gender-responsive, researchers need to be effectively equipped to work in interdisciplinary settings. This doesn't mean that biophysical scientists need to become gender experts, or vice versa, but it does require a basic understanding of the gender research tools used for both qualitative and quantitative research.



The result: both groups are better able to speak each other's language, and develop technologies that are more inclusive and effective of everyone's needs, resulting in better adoption rates and greater impact.

GREAT Offerings | Cohort Courses

"The training has enriched my understanding of the practice of gender inclusion. It is not merely having women and men participating, it is considering the interaction between the two outside of the project, and identifying potential opportunities that we can use to achieve the goals of the project."

—Aman Bonaventure Omondi
GREAT Fellow, RTB Cohort Course
Epidemiologist, IITA, Burundi

The GREAT Course Roadmap

PART ONE

Week 1 Training Makerere University

1. Self realization, conceptual clarity, and interdisciplinarity
2. Methodology: qualitative and quantitative
3. Research question and case study
4. Impact assessment and participatory methods

Gender-responsive research design

PART THREE

Week 2 Training Makerere University

6. Data analysis and reporting
7. Communication to policy makers and the communities
8. Institutional transformation
9. Community of Practice

Gender-responsive research analysis

Gender-responsive research communication

Gender-responsive research community building

Seed Grants

GREAT Offerings | Cohort Courses



In Week 1 of the GREAT course, participants learn applied gender theory and develop their own mixed-methods research plans at Makerere University, in preparation for heading out to the field.

PART TWO

Field Work Phase Participant Field Sites

5. Research planning and field data collection

Gender-responsive research application

In Week 2, participants learn how to analyze and write up data collected from mixed methods research, and GREAT works with participants in strategies for effective communications, institutional transformation and building a community of practice.



At the close of Week 2, participant teams compete for seed grant funding to further data collection and publish case studies. Two Fellows from each course are also selected to receive further training and take on training roles with future GREAT courses.

New crops, new places.

For our fourth cohort course we're opening up to any crop, and to new geographies.

After three cohort courses focused on specific value chains, the next GREAT course will bring researchers together from across crops and value chains, allowing researchers to discover how to understand gender dynamics in all new ways. We're excited to grow our impact to new audiences, and to expand our reach to new countries and continents.

Enhancing Kersting's groundnut (*Macrotyloma geocarpum*) production and marketability in Benin (Projet Doyiwé)

Donor:

The Netherlands Organisation for
Scientific Research (NWO)

Project Description:

The project aims to establish the availability of quality Kersting's groundnut (KG) grains in rural and urban markets in Benin. Overall the project will provide Knowledge on stakeholder structure among the value chain (market characteristics, preference criteria) and select improved cultivars to meet their demand, also the project will establish a contract-farming to boost marketability of produces.



Martin Agboton is currently the coordinator of the transdisciplinary research and development project "Enhancing Kersting's groundnut production-marketability in Benin" at SOJAGNON-NGO. The project is aimed at co-creating quality seeds of consumer-preferred KG varieties and enhance market linkages in Benin. Martin is interested in socioeconomic data collection and analysis. He holds a master's degree in Rural Economics, Sociology and Extension obtained from the University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin and an Advanced Master in International and Development Economics, from the University of Namur and Université Catholique de Louvain (UC Louvain), Belgium.



Eric Etchikinto Agoyi, from Benin, is a lecturer-researcher at the Non-Timber Forest Product & Orphan Crops Unit, Laboratory of Applied Ecology, at the University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin. He holds a PhD in Plant Breeding, Biotechnology & Seed Systems, obtained at the University of Makerere in Uganda. He has keen interest in making significant impacts towards nutritional and food security in Africa. Eric focuses his strategy on breeding orphan crops, developing improved and more nutritious cultivars of food crops with high importance, introducing new food crops or more nutritious varieties of mainly grown food crops.

Participant Team | Cameroon

Determinants of Haricot Beans Commercialization by Smallholder Farmers in the Western Highlands of Cameroon

Donor:

The Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA)

Project Description:

Cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* L. Walp) is a multi-purpose crop grown in the Sudano-sahelian zone of Cameroon for its grains and leaves which contribute to food security. It is second in importance after groundnut in West and Central Africa (Singh et al., 2004). In Cameroon, cowpea is the third most important legume after groundnut and common bean (Taffouo et al., 2004). Despite the high yields potentials of cowpea and its ability to withstand poor conditions, yields at farmers' level is still low. Past work led to the released of several improved varieties. However, only few of these varieties were taken up by farmers, which raised questions on how the adoption of improved bean varieties could be enhanced. Therefore, for an equitable uptake of improved cowpea varieties, gender issues need to be identified and examined to inform breeding activities for gender-responsive new varieties.



Gonne Sobda, from Cameroon, is employed by the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD). He is the regional scientific coordinator for Maroua Research Centre, based in the Sudano-Sahelian Zone. Sobda has worked as a plant breeder focused on cowpeas since 2002. His research activities focus on the development of high-yielding and well-adapted cowpea varieties for farmers in northern Cameroon to increase cowpea production and contribute to food security. Sobda Gonné has a PhD in Plant Breeding, obtained from the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), at the University of Ghana in 2016. He has no prior gender training.



Siri Bella Ngoh, from Cameroon, is currently employed by the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) and based in Cameroon. Siri has for the past 11 years been involved in bean research in partnership with the Pan Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA) and the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD). Her works focuses largely on food crop production, marketing and gender aspects, and her goal is to bridge the gender gaps in these areas as well as to improve women's livelihoods. Siri is currently a PhD student in Gender and Integrated Rural Development at the University of Dschang-Cameroon.

Participant Team | Ethiopia

Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat (DGGW), Ethiopia

Donor:

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Project Description:

The project develops varieties that incorporate climate resiliency as well as improved disease resistance. DGGW project mainly focuses on delivering genetic gains in terms of mitigating serious threats to wheat brought about by climate change, developing new strains of heat-tolerant wheat, developing rust and disease resistant, monitoring spread of stem rust and other wind borne wheat diseases.



Yewbdar Tadesse Andarga, from Ethiopia, has worked for the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) since 2016. After completing her BA in Economics she served as a project officer and human resource expert in public sector for eight years. While working in EIAR Yewbdar has developed her skills in managing and analyzing socio-economic survey data using different statistical tools, and she believes that gender is the most important variable that should be considered in most of socio-economic studies. She is looking to learn strategies at GREAT to better mainstream gender in her projects.



Worknesh Terefe, from Ethiopia, works for the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), based at the Holeta Agricultural Research Center. She has worked in national maize breeding since October 2011 in collaboration with CIMMYT and others partnership scientists. Worknesh's research focuses on breeding for high yield, disease resistance and adaptability of highland maize varieties to improve the livelihood of small-scale farmers. She received her MSc in Applied Genetics from Addis Ababa University in 2016.



Lemlem Abebe, Lemlem Abebe, from Ethiopia, is currently employed by the Ethiopian Institution Agricultural Research (EIAR) and based at the EIAR headquarters. Lemlem has more than 9 years of ample experience in the national research system participating in agricultural technology demonstration and participatory variety selection, coordination and Conducting of in-site and centralized farmers training and gender related researches. Gender mainstreaming and analysis, social inclusion, agricultural extension, agricultural policy analysis, impact studies, gendered agricultural value chain development and gender monitoring, evaluation and learning are among her roles. She has an MSc in Rural Development and Agricultural Extension.

Participant Team | Ghana

Development of Rainy-Season Tomato Varieties for the Guinea Savannah Agro-Ecological Zone of Ghana

Donor:

CSIR-Savanna Agricultural Research Institute

Project Description:

The primary objective of this project is to characterize and assess genotypic variability for fruit yield and other agronomic traits among tomato accessions under rain-fed conditions. The main expectation of this project is to identify and select desirable rainy-season tomato accessions for promotion and initiation of specific varietal development programs.



Abdul-Razak Mohammed, from Ghana, currently works with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research-Savanna Agricultural Research (CSIR-SARI), at the Tamale station. He has worked as an agribusiness and Monitoring, evaluation and learning specialist with both national and international scientists and collaborators. His work focuses on value chain development, establishment of Innovation Platforms for dissemination and adoption of improved technologies, with a particular interest in improving the livelihoods women farmers. Abdul-Razak received his MPhil in 2013 in Agribusiness from the University of Ghana, Legon, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Innovation Communications.



Richard Yaw Agyare, from Ghana, is a plant breeder working on vegetable crops at the CSIR-Savanna Agricultural Research Institute, based in Nyankpala-Tamale. He has an MSc in Agronomy (plant breeding) from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana. Richard's research focuses on developing tomato cultivars for resistance or tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses.

Participant Team | Kenya

PIL – Gender and Fodder Seed Systems / CGIAR Excellence in Breeding Platform

Donor:

The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) / The CGIAR Excellence in Breeding Platform

Project Descriptions:

A project on gender dimensions of fodder technology adoption in EA which aimed to investigate gendered considerations in the demand for, and uptake of, innovative fodder solutions: developed an understanding of the gendered fodder dissemination pathways; informed forage researchers/ breeders of the outcomes of the research in order to guide future improvements.

Excellence in Breeding Platform, Module 1 is the Product (Varieties) Design and Management Module. The primary objective is to guide CGIAR Breeding programs on how to design market driven crop varieties so as to increase the rate of released varieties adoption. And increase the rate of replacing old varieties.



Nelly Njiru, from Kenya, works at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), at the Nairobi campus. She joined ILRI in November 2014, and has an MSc in Agricultural and Applied Economics from Egerton University and the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She has more than seven years of research experience including: value chain analysis, training and capacity building, project sub-component coordination, livestock research, and gender studies. Nelly works closely with scientists on several livestock-related projects.



Tawanda Reginald Mashonganyika is a Zimbabwean national who is currently engaged with the CGIAR Excellence in Breeding Platform as a Product Manager - Market Researcher for Breeding Product Development and Uptake. He is based in Nairobi, Kenya, and hosted at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). For the past seven years Tawanda has worked on agribusiness, agricultural value chains and markets in Africa. In the breeding space, his work is focused on helping breeding programs design market-driven varieties for successful adoption and variety replacement. Tawanda has an MSc in Agricultural Economics from the University of Reading, UK, and has no prior gender training.

Mechanized Mungbean Harvesting in Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Pakistan

Donor:

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

Project Description:

The project's aims are to establish and validate a practical and economically viable system to mechanically harvest mungbeans; develop a package of cropping practices to facilitate mechanical mungbean harvesting, including safe and effective use of crop desiccants; develop and evaluate adapted combine harvesters for use with mungbeans; and to evaluate likely impacts of change in harvesting practices on livelihoods of women.



Ramakrishnan Nair, works as Global Plant Breeder - Legumes, at the World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) South Asia/Central Asia, based in Hyderabad, India. Ram leads the International Mung bean Improvement Network project. In addition to this he leads a project on improved harvesting and seed production systems in mung beans. Ram holds a PhD in Plant Breeding from Kerala Agricultural University, India, and also has completed the Professional Management Program from the School of Business, University of Adelaide, Australia. Addressing poverty and malnutrition through crop improvement is his passion.



Lutz Depenbusch, works as postdoctoral scientist for Impact Evaluation at the East and Southeast Asia Regional Office of the World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) in Thailand. He is a German national and has been working for the last 5 years in development economics. His work focuses around the measurement of project impact with quantitative methods. He aims to support his colleagues in the improvement of the production and consumption of a diverse set of nutritious vegetables, to support human and economic development. Lutz obtained his PhD in Economics from the University of Goettingen in 2017, focused on gender-based discrimination.

Participant Team | Malawi

Promotion of production, conservation, utilization and commercialization of African Indigenous vegetables in Malawi

Donor:
The Norwegian Government

Project Description:

The project's objectives are to establish diversity of Amaranthus in Malawi; to characterize amaranthus at agro-morphology level; and to characterize amaranthus at molecular genetic level. Outputs include: phenotypic data available for preliminary breeding; molecular data produced and accessed by breeders.



Charity Chonde, a Malawian, is a senior lecturer at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources. She has a PhD in International and Rural Development from University of Reading, UK, and for the past 13 years has been involved in research and outreach activities in agricultural extension, food security, sustainable livelihoods land tenure and gender studies. Her work focuses on improving food security and livelihoods of rural men and women. Charity also lectures a number of courses and supervises undergraduate and postgraduate students' research in gender and development. She has no formal training in gender.



Abel Sefasi works for Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Malawi, as a Senior Lecturer in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. His research mainly involves the application of plant tissue culture and molecular diagnostics for improvement of banana, cassava, sweet potato and potato. He also leads a project on conservation of indigenous vegetables. His teaching is in molecular biology and genetic engineering. Abel has a PhD in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology from Makerere University, Uganda, attained in 2014. He is the current head of the Horticulture Department at LUANAR.

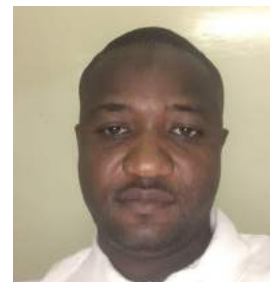
"Bani Bani" – Developing Striga-Tolerant Sorghum Genotypes

Donor:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Project Description:

The main objective is to develop striga tolerant sorghum genotypes for poor farmers by using documented striga resistant lines and a local one from Niger.



Ardaly Abdou Ousseini, from Niger, is presently a fourth year PhD student at the West African Centre of Crop Improvement (WACCI), at the University of Ghana, where he is working on impacts of striga hermonthica of sorghum. Since August, 2009, he has been involved in sorghum breeding programs for variety development for poor smallholders farmers in Niger through the National Institute of Agronomic Research of Niger (INRAN). His interest in gender stems from his work with breeding product profiles (BPP), where gender implications have been neglected despite their presence in the value chain. This will be his first gender training.



Boureima Hamani Issaka, from Niger, is currently employed at the National Institute of Agronomic Research of Niger INRAN in the department of rural economics, sociology and technology transfer. He has worked for the past 5 years in studies of rice value chain, a national impact study on use of the microdose fertilizers, a baseline study for a research project on food security and climate change, and a study on empowering women. He has a master's degree in Monitoring and Evaluation from Abdou Moumouni University, Niger.

Participant Team | Sierra Leone

Understanding Consumer Cassava Preferences in Sierra Leone / NextGen Cassava

Donor:

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
/ The Government of Sierra Leone

Project Description:

In Sierra Leone, cultivated and processed varieties/genotypes of cassava comprise: white or cream/light yellow roots and high dry matter content developed by IITA, SLARI and other research partners, but information on consumer acceptability and preference for each product of those cassava varieties is limited. Therefore, the project aims to identify the key processors involved in cassava product(s) production, determine the most CD and efficient varieties/genotypes for processing each of these products (boiled roots, gari, cassava flour, fufu and starch), and the most preferred product (s) by consumers (men, women and children) in Sierra Leone. Hence, this will enhance breeders' ability to breed/develop high-yielding cassava varieties/genotypes with processor-preferred traits, and end-use preferences in Sierra Leone.



Isata Kamanda is a plant breeder/biotechnologist at the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI). She's the newly appointed Project Development and Management Officer coordinating and supervising all scientific research. Isata also a focal scientist for the HarvestPlus project and the Next Generation Cassava (NextGen Cassava) project for the community of practice in Sierra Leone, and a lead scientist for the project 'Involving women in participatory selection of biofortified cassava germplasm in Sierra Leone.' Her research interests include the development and applications of innovative techniques for the genetic improvement of crop plants.



Osman Nabay, from Sierra Leone, obtained a BSc and an MSc in Agricultural Economics at Njala University, Sierra Leone. Osman's presently works as part of a team engaged in the fight against poverty in Africa, and particular Sierra Leone. He has worked with Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) using randomized controlled trials, and presently works for the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI), Njala Agricultural Research Centre as a Research Officer (socio-economist) and the current Acting Programme Head of the Socioeconomic, Policy Research and Outreach Unit.

Participant Team | Tanzania

Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat (DGGW) / Tanzania

Donor:

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Project Description:

Stem and stripe rusts have been contributing to the low productivity of the wheat crop while the demands of the wheat products is increasing rapidly due to the change in food preferences, high rate of urbanization and increase in income especially in towns and cities.



Emmanuel Michael Kadogholo, from Tanzania, is currently employed by Tanzania's Ministry of Agriculture under the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), based at the Kifyulilo Sub Centre. Emmanuel has for the past six years been involved in wheat breeding in partnership with national scientists. His work focuses largely on consumer preferences and his aim is to increase wheat production for small-holder farmers in Tanzania. Emmanuel obtained his MSc in Soil Science and Land Management from Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania, in 2001.



Rose Mongi, from Tanzania, is a plant breeder currently working with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) and based at Uyole Centre. For the past 25 years she has been working as a wheat breeder in collaboration with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), and national and regional scientists. Her work involves developing demand-led wheat varieties with traits that are preferred by actors in the wheat value chain. The aim of her work is to increase wheat production, reduce imports, and thereby improve livelihoods. Rose obtained her PhD in plant breeding from the University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa, in 2016. She has little previous exposure to gender issues.



Juliana Andagile Mwakasendo, from Tanzania, employed by the Ministry of Agriculture working under the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI). For the past 14 years she has worked as an agricultural research officer and socio-economist, focusing mainly on: adoption and impact assessment; capacity building to farmers and extension staff; undertaking value chain analysis; identification of constraints to agricultural technology transfer; economic analysis of different technologies; research on farm budgets with the aim of improving food and income for smallholder farmers. She has previously attended in-house gender trainings. Juliana has an Msc in Tropical Animal Science and Production and a PhD in Rural Development, both from Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania.

Participant Team | Togo

Improving Sorghum Adaptation in West Africa with a Genomics-Enabled Breeding Network

Donor:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Project Description:

The project aims to select high yield potential varieties adapted to the different agro-ecological zones of the country based on constraints of production and varietal preferences identification. At the end of the project, new high yielding lines will be available and adopted by farmers.



Akata Atchozou Eyanawa has worked at the Togolese Institute of Agricultural Research (Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique - ITRA) as a sorghum breeder since 2009, and is currently the scientific coordinator of plant production. His academic background is in agronomy, biotechnology and plant breeding, with a PhD obtained in 2018 at University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar in Senegal, and received his master's degree in 2013 at the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. His research interests include the use of conventional and marker-assisted plant breeding in a participatory approach to develop new and improved varieties to impact smallholder farmers.



Soule Bifai Aboudoulaye, from Togo is currently employed by the Togolese Agricultural Research Institute (ITRA) and based at Agricultural Research Center of the Dry Savannah (CRASS). Aboudoulaye has for the past 6 years been involved in socioeconomics studies with national scientists. He attended a previous gender training through the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP). He is trained as an agricultural economist.

Participant Team | Uganda / Kenya

Improving Bean Production and Marketing in Africa (IBPMA) and Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT)

Donor:

Global Affairs Canada / The African Development Bank

Project Description:

The project's objective is to identify the processes and mechanisms that both enable and inhibit gender considerations in the Ugandan breeding program. To achieve this the project's anticipated output is a gender-responsive breeding program that contributes to increased bean productivity and income for men and female farmers. The desired outcomes are inclusive farming system, food and nutrition security and increased livelihood benefits for households.



Wilber Ssekandi, from Uganda, works with the National Legumes Research and Development Program of National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCCRI). His research focuses on crop breeding and integrated crop management, with a focus on contributing to sustainable agricultural productivity while conserving both crop diversity and the environment. His aim is to generate knowledge and gender-responsive crop technologies for increased productivity of nutritious foods for the present and future generations of Uganda. To accomplish this, he is motivated by the need for participatory research approaches and gender training. He has an MSc in Crop Science from Makerere University, Uganda.



Eileen Bogweh Nchanji is a gender specialist in the African Regional Office at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the Pan-African Bean Alliance, and is passionate about achieving gender equality and inclusive growth for all. Her mantra is 'lifting women out of poverty by providing them with opportunities to jointly build their homes and the nation with their partners.' She provides technical backstopping to ongoing gender-related activities on breeding, ICM, nutrition, markets, seeds and Knowledge management in 30 countries across Africa. She has an MA in Anthropology of Development from the University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon, and a PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology from Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany.

Participant Team | Uganda

Development of a Gender-Responsive Commercial Seed System for Indigenous Vegetables in Uganda

Donor:

The Government of the Netherlands

Project Description:

The project's goal is to establish a gender-responsive, functional African indigenous vegetable (AIV) seed system in Uganda, which will enhance uptake and utilization of AIV seed and related innovations for sustainable production of indigenous vegetables. The main outputs are enhanced capacity for production of AIV quality seeds in women and youth groups, and increased decision-making among women / youth in the value chain.



Godfrey Sseremba, from Uganda, is currently employed as a part-time Lecturer by the Department of Agricultural and Biological Sciences, Uganda Christian University in Mukono. Godfrey has for the past three years been involved in breeding *Solanum aethiopicum* (African Eggplant), Shum group, for drought tolerance. He obtained his PhD in Plant Breeding from West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), University of Ghana, Legon in 2019. He works towards contributing towards alleviation of poverty and hidden hunger in Uganda, and he is passionate about research in cowpea and other vegetables.



Elizabeth Balyejusa Kizito, from Uganda, is currently employed by Uganda Christian University, Mukono as an Associate Professor in Plant Breeding. Elizabeth has been involved with breeding indigenous vegetables (*Solanum aethiopicum* and *Amaranthus* sp.) since 2010. She has used a participatory approach working with farmers mainly from Central and Eastern Uganda. She has worked also on improving tolerance to drought, understanding farmers' preferences and selection criteria, and the seed systems for these vegetables. She received a PhD from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, in 2006.



Brenda Nakyewa, from Uganda, is currently employed by Uganda Christian University as an Assistant Lecturer. Brenda is currently working toward an MSc in Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship at Uganda Christian University, where her research is focused on gender participation in indigenous vegetable marketing. Her work focuses largely on empowering women in decision-making, adoption of more profitable ventures, and how to sustain them. Brenda obtained a BSc in Education, majoring in Mathematics and Economics, from Kyambogo University in 2012. She has no prior gender training.

Wheat Breeding in Zimbabwe

Donor:

The African Development Bank

Project Description:

The objective of the project is to increase wheat production and productivity through the engagement of multi-stakeholder approach as well as involving communities in gender responsive wheat breeding activities at farmer level. The expected outputs are; sustainable wheat research and production among smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe and improved livelihoods through gender based community projects.



Peter Mavindidze is currently employed as a Wheat Breeder by the Crop Breeding Institute (CBI), part of the Crop Research Services Division in the Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services of Zimbabwe's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. His work for the past five years has involved cultivar development, evaluation and final release of wheat cultivars. During the same period, he has been involved in technology dissemination working with farmers to validate CBI's research work. The work has been implemented through an innovation platform approach in which gender and youth inclusivity were of paramount importance. Peter is currently working toward an MSc in Crop Science at the University of Fort Hare in South Africa, and has no previous gender training.



Nzara Yvonne, from Zimbabwe, is currently employed by the Crop Breeding Institute and based at Harare Research Centre. Yvonne has for the past 13 years been involved in wheat, rice and potato breeding in partnership with national, regional and international scientists. Her work focuses mainly on trial establishment and management, data collection and participatory variety release. Her goal is to improve resource challenged communities to use certified seed as good production starts with the right seed. Yvonne is currently studying Agriculture Management at Zimbabwe Open University, having obtained her Diploma in Agriculture in 2016.

Improved Beans for Zimbabwe

Donor:

Crop Breeding Institute (CBI)

Project Description:

The project's objective is to improve economic growth, food security, nutrition status, gender equity and the natural resource base for better livelihoods of smallholder households in Zimbabwe, with two intended outcomes: increased and gender equitable access to high yielding dry bean varieties and productive ICM technologies; and increased access to industrial bean based products in a gender equitable manner.



Walter Makotore, is a Socio-Economist working with Zimbabwe's Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX) as an Agribusiness and Marketing Specialist with 10 years of extensive experience. His work entails socio-economic research, staff capacity building and value chain/ business development for farmers. Walter holds a BSc hon Agricultural Economics and is in the final year of an MSc in Economics. Currently Walter is the focal person of AGRITEX in a Pan Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA)/ International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) bean project.



Bruce Mutari, from Zimbabwe, is currently employed as a Bean Breeder by the Crop Breeding Institute (CBI) in Zimbabwe. Bruce has for the past seven years been involved in bean breeding in collaborative research projects with the Pan Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA). His work focuses on the development and release of bio-fortified bean cultivars of different market classes that address the needs and preferences of various bean value chain actors. His goal is to improve food, nutrition and income security of smallholder households in Zimbabwe. Bruce is currently studying for a PhD in Plant Breeding at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

"[GREAT has] this unique combination of qualitative trainers, quantitative trainers and even the analytical thinking is actually quite unique....dealing with many teams over time, they've gained a competency around contextualizing gender issues that is quite unique that we should tap to as a community in development.

"Work with the GREAT trainers so that they understand your project and then now they can contextualize the training to fit your needs. There is a lot of value."

*—Esther Njuguna-Mungai
GREAT Client, Tropical Legumes III Custom Course
Gender Specialist, ICRISAT, Kenya*

True mainstreaming.

Designed for projects and institutions, our custom courses bring GREAT to you.

With capacity building to create a critical mass, GREAT custom courses allow your organization or project to train larger groups of researchers in a cost-effective manner, helping effective gender-responsive research become the norm, not the exception. We'll work with you to design the course that fits your needs.

Find out what GREAT can bring to your institution or project

Is your institution or project ready to make effective, gender-responsive research the norm? GREAT custom courses are a cost-effective approach to providing high quality, applied gender training to larger groups of researchers.

This investment in researcher capacity can provide short- and long-term returns through **enhanced collaboration** between social and biophysical researchers, **increased grant competitiveness** through more informed project planning and budgeting, more **successful varietal adoption** through greater understanding of what all community members' needs, and **better outcomes** for men, women and children.

GREAT custom courses have key elements of the GREAT cohort course, i.e., they target scientists conducting ongoing research into which they will immediately apply the gender skills they have acquired; a mix of social scientists and biophysical scientists; and, they are split into two phases:

Phase 1: Five to six days of face-to-face training in applied gender theory, mixed methods data collection and analysis plans, and communications

Phase 2: Two months of application of skills acquired in participants' on-going research projects with online virtual trainer support/mentoring

"My mindset prior to this training was that it will be either impossible or too difficult to relate specific breeding programs or activities to desired societal goals, considering different market segments and agro-ecologies. However, the GREAT course has generated impressive results by converging social scientists, breeders and gender specialists to discuss and understand a common language. With the rigorous training we had this week, I have a better understanding of the need to integrate gender into our breeding activities from pre-breeding to variety release stages. This will really help me come up with different crop varieties that will satisfy different market segments and increase the adoption rate of the future varieties. This kind of workshop is going to transform African plant breeding programmes and make Africa more food secure."

– Umar Mohammad Lawan
GREAT Fellow, Tropical Legumes III Custom Course
Plant Breeder, Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria

GREAT Offerings | Custom Courses



Photo: Devon Jenkins

The GREAT Community of Practice



Welcome to the family.

The GREAT CoP connects you to an international network of agricultural researchers.

Making gender-responsive research the norm takes more than just training researchers, it takes changing research and cultural norms within respective fields. Through the GREAT CoP our Fellows are able to draw on the group's expertise, share resources, provide peer review, and collaborate on proposals.

A community dedicated to creating more impactful research

With a growing network of Fellows, trainers, and practitioners across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond, the Community of Practice (CoP) is the true spirit of GREAT, connecting the GREAT family across disciplines, roles, institutions and national borders. Through the CoP GREAT Fellows collaborate on project proposals, peer review articles, and share resources and job opportunities. Beyond this, the CoP brings the transformative power of the GREAT course into institutions across Africa, laying the groundwork for institutional change.

“ That ‘no one is an island’ is a common African adage, with the implication that nobody can achieve anything by working on their own. Multi-disciplinary research is key to achieving the GREAT vision of enabling researchers to undertake more inclusive research projects in order to create effective agricultural systems that address the priorities of men and women throughout Africa. ”

*— Bernice Waweru
GREAT Fellow, Cereal Grains Cohort Course
Molecular Breeder, KALRO, Kenya*



The GREAT Community of Practice

The GREAT Community of Practice Advisory Board

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Diversity is our strength.

GREAT brings together experts from a wide array of disciplinary backgrounds and professional experience.

Having such a rich diversity of knowledge, skills and experiences together on one team allows us to offer GREAT course participants a truly unique training, and provide top-notch mentoring and support during the field research portion of the GREAT program.

The GREAT External Project Advisory Committee

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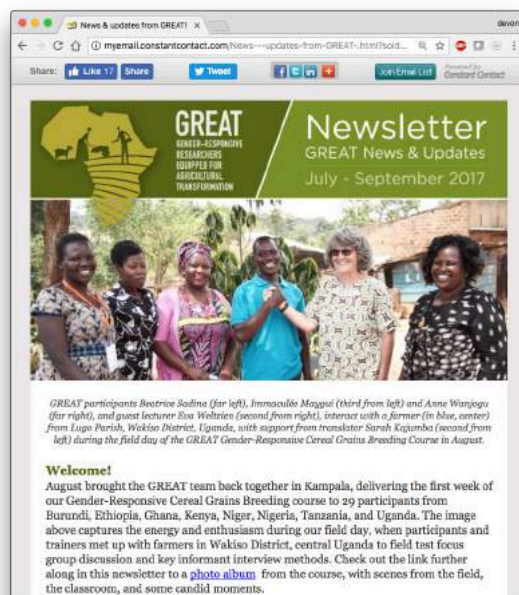
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GREAT receives monitoring, learning and evaluation support from Aline Impact, Ltd.

ONLINE Resources

Providing access to curated resources for gender-responsive agricultural research



Staying Connected:

The GREAT Quarterly Newsletter

Four times per year GREAT sends out an email newsletter to hundreds of recipients around Sub-Saharan Africa and globally, with updates from the project, spotlights on upcoming events and important resources, and the latest blog entries. If you'd like to stay in the know, and be aware of what's new in the gender and agricultural research world, sign up to get the newsletter delivered to your inbox, too!

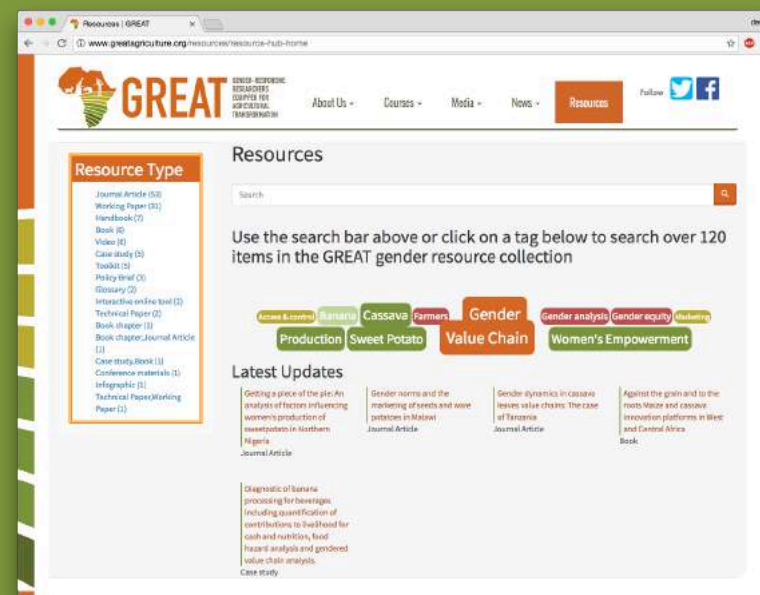
See previous newsletters: <https://www.greatagriculture.org/content/news>
To sign up visit: tinyurl.com/great-updates

Finding Resources: The GREAT Resource Hub

Complementing the training and mentoring components of the project, GREAT also curates a collection of gender resources for agricultural researchers. This resource is freely available to anyone via the GREAT website, at www.greatagriculture.org/resources/resource-hub-home.

Resources cover gender-responsiveness for agricultural research for a broad range of crops and come from a diverse array of sources. As each themed GREAT cohort training takes place new resources will be added that are tailored to the respective crops and value chains of the cohorts.

If you have a specific resource you can't find, or would like to contribute something to the GREAT Resource Hub, please use the integrated form on the website to contact the GREAT web team.





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@GREATAgResearch

#GREATGenderAg

“As an entomologist, I would be biased towards: ‘Control the insects, and the problem is solved,’ or, ‘Bring in new material, and the problem is solved.’ But now it’s becoming more and more clear that I have to also withdraw from entomology, enter the household, and imagine that I’m making decisions with them, and then try to respond back to my recommendations, and see which ones of them work and which ones of them don’t work.”

*- Aman Bonaventure Omondi
GREAT Fellow, RTB Cohort Course
Epidemiologist, IITA, Burundi*



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