



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

Global Program

Scaling supply of precooked beans for food and nutrition security



Overview

Unprocessed, dry beans are a traditional subsistence crop in Eastern and Central Africa. They are popular and nutritious and a key source of protein in low-income households, but are a slow-cooking food.

Between 1994 and 2008, consumption of these beans increased by 1.67% per capita, per year in sub-Saharan Africa, which shows their importance to the region.

In recent years, rapid expansion of urban populations, rising incomes and high energy costs have driven heightened demand for fast-cooking processed foods. Canned or frozen beans are sometimes available, but generally only to a minority of wealthy consumers.

Phase 1 of this project saw precooked bean products released into the market in 2016, but the products have not been fully exploited or commercialised, due to the limited supply of beans for processing. Increased supply, availability and accessibility of precooked bean products, which reduce bean cooking times, would reduce women's time on kitchen tasks, improve environmental outcomes due to the reduced use of fuel, and transform spot and ad hoc dry bean markets into structured, industrial-driven markets, and contribute to dietary diversity for consumers.

KEY FACTS

ACIAR Project No. GP-2019-115

Duration: December 2018 to November 2020 (2 years)

Target areas: Kenya and Uganda

Budget: A\$788,872

Project Leader

Dr Michael Ugen, National Agricultural Research Organisation

Key partners

- Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation
- International Centre for Tropical Agriculture
- Community Enterprises Development Organisation, Lasting Solutions Ltd

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Anna Okello

Objective

The project's goal is to promote the use of precooked bean products to improve food and nutrition security, support income generation for smallholder farmers and support environmental conservation practices, by leveraging public-private partnerships in Kenya and Uganda.

The objectives are to:

- Scale-up the supply of raw beans by boosting production among farmers, especially women.
- Improve the existing public-private partnerships to hasten the supply of precooked beans to meet consumer demand.
- Improve the income, nutrition and health of households along the bean value chain, through increased bean production and consumption.

Expected scientific results

- Assessment of the performance of the public-private partnership models.
- Analysis of the impacts of social, gender and economic trade-offs in market-driven production and supply models, on household consumption patterns, food security, nutrition and social and economic welfare among households.

Expected impact/outcomes

- Precooked beans will reach 1.2 million consumers.
- Increased income for 8,700 smallholder farmers (60% women).
- Improved bean production and supply, and business models for precooked beans, including financial inclusion of women, men and youth.
- Increased decision making among women and youth in the production and marketing of beans.
- Production of public-private partnership case study management models.
- Enhanced gender equity and household bean consumption patterns.

