



## International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) conducts research for development (R4D) that provides solutions to nourish and transform African agriculture. Our award-winning agricultural research for development focuses on addressing food and nutrition insecurity, poverty and unemployment, and degradation of natural resources in the tropics.

We work with public and private sector partners to help meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for a poverty and hunger-free and prosperous planet that ensures that people fulfill their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

### Mission

To offer leading research partnership that facilitates agricultural solutions to hunger, poverty, and natural resource degradation throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

IITA's mission is in line with CGIAR's and focuses on (1) increase in food security, (2) reduction of rural poverty, (3) reduction of undernutrition, and (4) more sustainable management of natural resources.

IITA is a nonprofit organization created in 1967 in Nigeria and governed by a Board of Trustees. We are a member of the CGIAR System Organization that for more than 50 years, has produced science that has benefited hundreds of millions of the world's poor. With hundreds of partners, CGIAR and its centers like IITA are working to improve food security, increase biodiversity, spur economic growth, and strengthen resilience in the face of the climate crisis.

### What we do: Research for development

One CGIAR mission: "Ending hunger by 2030 through science to transform food, land and water systems in a climate crisis"

Impact areas: (1) One health, nutrition & food security; (2) Poverty reduction, livelihoods & jobs; (3) Gender equality, youth & social inclusion; (4) Climate adaptation & greenhouse gas reduction; and (5) Environmental health & biodiversity.

IITA research for development is grouped into three action areas and aligned with CGIAR priority areas and impact themes.

## 1. Genetic Innovation

The major work in the Genetic Innovation action area is linked to genetic resources and addresses barriers to achieving rapid improvement of varieties of important food crops, and enhancing genetic gain and varietal turnover in farmers' fields.

This is done through:

- Conserving genetic resources in genebanks and facilitating and expanding their use by breeders and other stakeholders;
- Developing new crop varieties that deliver higher rates of genetic gain in farmers' fields;
- Increasing seed sector actors' investments and effectiveness in scaling up access for farmers to new varieties.

At IITA, this is covered by research and collaborative work on biotechnology, breeding, breeding resources, genebank, and seed systems.

## 2. Resilient Agrifood systems

Work in this action area addresses the need to increase sustainable agricultural productivity; increase the availability of safe, nutrient-dense foods; reduce threats to human health; improve the environmental footprint of agrifood systems; increase the resilience of smallholder agriculture; and reduce social inequalities.

This Action Area is looking at outputs including more decent jobs, stable livelihoods, gender equality, and affordable nutritious food, and co-benefits for soil health, water security, biodiversity, and climate change.

At IITA, we are addressing research and delivery work in this action area on agronomy, plant health, farming systems, natural resource management, and mechanization.



## 3. Systems transformation

Agricultural, environmental, energy, health, and societal challenges and risks characterize complex, interconnected sets of systems. Addressing these will require coordinated action across political and organizational boundaries and scales: from local to global levels, and across the private, public, and civil society spheres.

IITA/CGIAR and partners work to generate and use interdisciplinary research to identify transformative, inclusive strategies, innovations, and policies. Partnerships with policymakers, the private sector, and civil society will enable use of CGIAR's innovative tools and data for decision-making.

At IITA, we work on Foresight, impact assessment and scaling; Gender, youth, and social inclusion; Nutrition and health; Resilience and climate adaptation; and Value chains, markets, and agribusiness.

### Research initiatives

IITA is involved in several multidisciplinary CGIAR research initiatives. It leads two—Excellence in Agronomy and Sustainable Intensification in Mixed Farming Systems—and co-leads another two—Genebanks and Transforming Food Systems—West and Central Africa.

#### Excellence in Agronomy

This Initiative aims to deliver an increase in productivity and quality per unit of input (agronomic gain) for millions of smallholder farming households in prioritized farming systems by 2030, with an emphasis on women and young farmers, showing a measurable impact on food and nutrition security, income, resource use, soil health, climate resilience and climate change mitigation.

#### Sustainable Intensification in Mixed Farming Systems

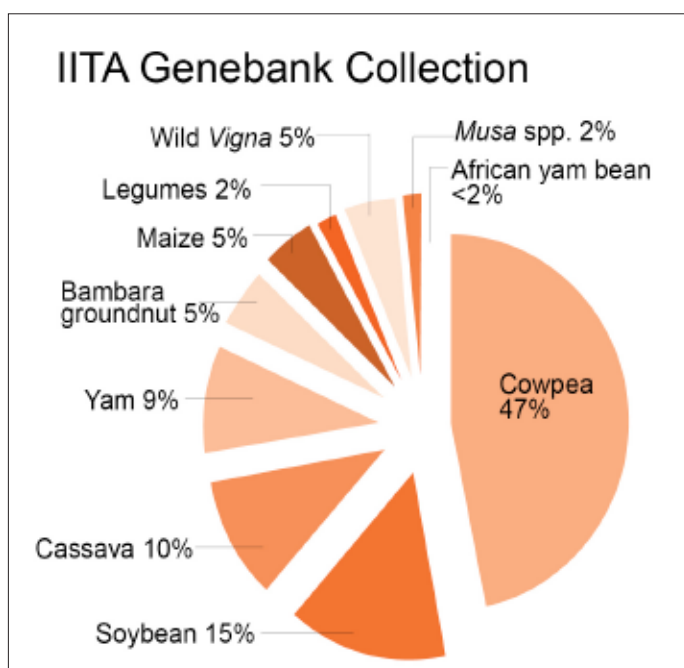
This Initiative aims to provide equitable, transformative pathways for improved livelihoods of actors in mixed farming systems through sustainable intensification within target agroecologies and socioeconomic settings.

## Transforming Food Systems—West and Central Africa

This Initiative aims to improve nutrition, incomes and food security within the context of climate change in West and Central Africa through nutritious, climate-adapted and market-driven food systems.

### Genebanks

CGIAR genebanks manage collections of more than 20 staple crops in 10 locations across five continents. The collections are made freely available upon request to thousands of users worldwide every year.



IITA is also involved in several other initiatives in various capacities, such as: One Health, Diversification in East and Southern Africa, Seed Equal, Plant Health, Market Intelligence, and Accelerated Breeding.

IITA also leads some strategic, multi-partner development initiatives such as Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), ENABLE (Empowering Novel Agri-Business-Led Employment) Youth, and Start Them Early Program (STEP).

### Organizational structure

IITA is structured into three Directorates: Research for Development (R4D); Partnerships for Delivery (P4D); and Corporate Services.

### Partnership, communication, and capacity development

Through creative and innovative partnerships, IITA links up with national agricultural research systems, advanced research institutes, universities, small- and medium-scale enterprises, women's and farmers' organizations, and other grassroots organizations. Productive relationships, partnerships, and networks are built for participatory research, extension, capacity development, communication, and monitoring and evaluation. IITA is committed to developing the capacities of individuals and institutions to share knowledge and experiences, promote adoption and learning, and to scale out innovations with all stakeholders involved in collaborative research programs.



