

Collaborators and Co-operators

- AGRA, FARA
- EIB platform
- AATF through PASTTA project
- AFSTA
- ASARECA
- CRS through S34D project
- CCARDESA
- PABRA
- TAAT
- CORAF/WE CARD and CERAAS through the FONEWA (DeSIRA) initiative
- IRAD
- IBP
- FtF-IL for Climate-Resilient Cowpea
- FtF-IL for Climate-Resilient Sorghum
- FtF-IL for Grain Legumes
- FtF-IL for Peanut Productivity and Mycotoxin Control
- FtF-IL for Sorghum and Millet
- FAO



Let's get Social...

Facebook: @avisaproject YouTube: Avisaproject Twitter: @AvisaProject LinkedIn: @Avisa Project

Main Hashtag: #AvisaProject

Other Hashtags: #ZeroHunger, #FoodSecurity, #AvisaProject, #Nutrition

Tag us in the conversation on Twitter & Facebook: @ICRISAT, @gatesfoundation, @GatesAfrica, @SyngentaFDN, @CIAT_Africa, @CIAT_, @PABRA, @IITA_CGIAR, @narouganda, @GLDC_CGIAR, @GLDC.CGIAR, @AvisaProject, @avisaproject

Contacts

Email: ICRISAT-AVISACOMMS@cgiar.onmicrosoft.com

Website: www.avisaproject.org

Supported by

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

Led by

ICRISAT
INTERNATIONAL CROPS RESEARCH
INSTITUTE FOR THE SEMI-ARID TROPICS

This work will be undertaken
as part of the

RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Grain Legumes
and Dryland Cereals
CGIAR

In partnership with

CIAT
International Center for Tropical Agriculture
Since 1957 Science to cultivate change

IITA
Transforming African Agriculture

TARI

NARO

INERA

syngenta foundation
for sustainable
agriculture

INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
SAMARU

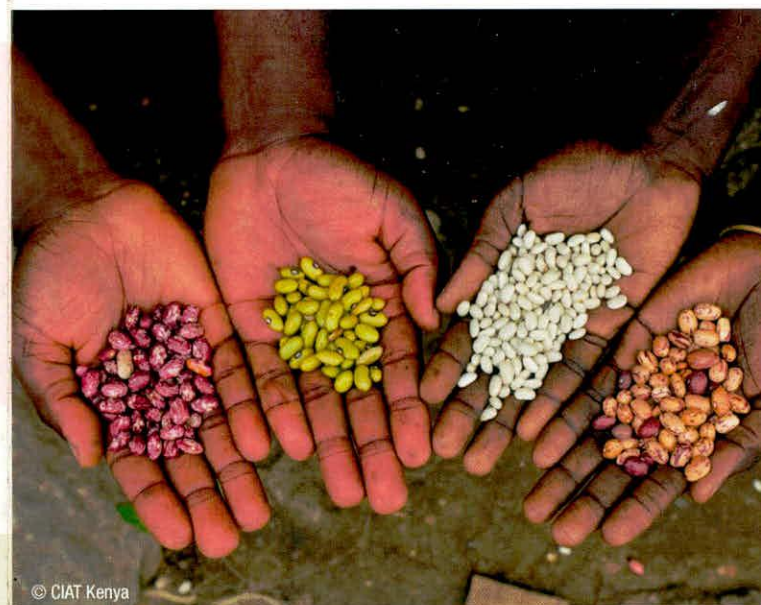
CIAT

INERA

CSIR

AVISA
Healthier and
Prosperous Africa

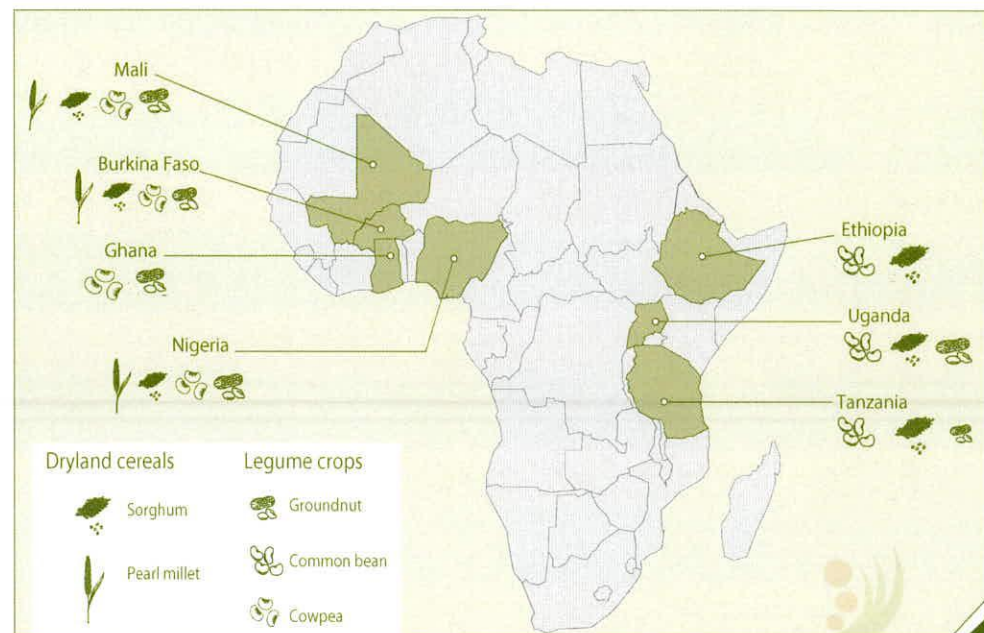
Accelerated Varietal Improvement and Seed Delivery of Legumes and Cereals in Africa (AVISA): Healthier and Prosperous Africa



ICRISAT
INTERNATIONAL CROPS RESEARCH
INSTITUTE FOR THE SEMI-ARID TROPICS

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

The AVISA project was launched in February 2019 to work on the broad agenda of modernizing breeding and increasing incomes for smallholders in seven countries of Africa. Funded by the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#), it builds on gains made by earlier initiatives funded by the Foundation – Tropical Legumes (TL), Harnessing Opportunities for Productivity Enhancement for Sorghum and Millets (HOPE) and HarvestPlus. In partnership with National Agricultural Research Systems, AVISA includes the most important dryland cereals (sorghum and pearl millet) and legume crops (groundnut, common bean and cowpea) in Nigeria, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Mali, Uganda, Ghana and Ethiopia. Across the CGIAR consortium, the [International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics](#) (ICRISAT), the [International Institute of Tropical Agriculture](#) (IITA) and the [International Center for Tropical Agriculture](#) (CIAT) partner to achieve the project objectives including:



Overall use of high quality seed of improved varieties for dryland cereals and legume crops in Africa has been low, though there is emerging interest by the private sector to include these crops in their portfolio. AVISA will help create a robust system to enable the private sector to seize opportunities on commercialization of these crops. The project is committed to gender equity as a guiding principle, ensuring women farmers have equal access to improved seed and exposing women farmers and other value chain actors to the material.

AVISA aims to

- ▶ Accelerate the rate of genetic gain for performance in mandate crops to an estimated 1.5% annually;
- ▶ Integrate CGIAR/NARS Programs through a stage and gate breeding decision and informatics
- ▶ support system; Align legume and cereal crop improvement, seed production and delivery systems for gender-responsiveness and end-user demands and preferences; and
- ▶ Facilitate increased and equitable rate of varietal

Efficient project management and reporting is an important mechanism achieved by a closely governed team with efficient planning, monitoring, evaluation, accountability, learning and scalability of AVISA.

The emphasis for integrating TL, HOPE and HarvestPlus programs in AVISA will pivot on implementing breeding program improvement plans based on recommendations of the breeding program assessments in consultation with the [CGIAR Excellence in Breeding Platform](#).

The institutional leadership of ICRISAT, IITA and CIAT will leverage internal investments by these Centers through their own modernization agendas. Further investment backing will ensue through the [CGIAR Research Program on Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals](#) which shares the AVISA modernization imperative. Existing and new synergies with key downstream partners include [AGRA](#) and the [Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture](#). The European Union and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have committed to work together on a joint initiative to drive research and technical and organizational innovations across agricultural and food systems in developing countries to address some of the most pressing challenges posed by climate change. AVISA is part of the Foundation's contribution to this commitment. It will collaborate with CIRAD, CORAF, and CERAAS on EU-Funded "Fostering breeding networks and institutional breeding capacity in West Africa to develop climate resilient crops for African smallholder farmers" (FONEWA) project under the "Development of Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture" (DeSIRA) initiative.

