TAAT High Iron Beans (HIB) Compact

Highlights

- More than 5,000 MT of seed of HIB varieties has been produced and disseminated through public-private partnerships
- The introduction of high yielding bean varieties that are rich in iron and zinc combined with good agricultural practices have increased yields by more than 50% from a baseline of 0.8 t/ha to 1.25 t/ha for bush beans
- More than 65,000 people have been trained by the HIB Compact to improve their skills in agriculture enterprise development
- Approximately 900,000 beneficiaries have been reached in 8 countries through various awareness creation events on HIBs

What is the problem?

Micronutrient deficiency, especially anemia (deficiency in iron) is a major burden to families in many African countries. Since micronutrient deficiencies are related to diet, good nutrition is of great public health and socioeconomic importance. Beans are a major source of protein and iron for most rural and urban households and can contribute to reducing iron deficiency especially in women and children under the age of 5 years. High iron beans are biofortified to increase the iron and zinc content. Iron and zinc help to reduce blood disorders such as anemia (especially in women of reproductive ages), impaired physical and mental development (especially among children under 5 years), delayed maturation, poor appetite, poor reproductive health in men, and impaired immune function.

Compact description

High Iron Beans (HIBs) are a major source of protein and iron and can contribute to reducing iron deficiency especially in women and children under the age of 5 years. The HIB Compact presents opportunities to improve food, nutrition security, and health. In additions, improved yields results to better incomes of bean growers (most of whom are women) and other actors along the value chain. The focus of the HIB Compact is disseminating biofortified and yield-enhanced varieties that are resilient to drought and root rot disease. HIB interventions build on Pan African Bean Research Alliance (PABRA) model that brings together a wide range of stakeholders at country level. PABRA uses the “Bean Corridor” approach as a market-driven approach for transformation that goes beyond demonstrations to reach desired impact at scale.

One of the HIB varieties promoted by TAAT.
What are the TAAT HIB Technologies?
- High yielding bean varieties rich in iron and zinc.
- Good agricultural practices for beans: seed dressers, organic and inorganic fertilizer use, cropping systems, bean threshers, solar bubble driers, hermitic storage.
- Post-harvest processing of high iron bean products (precooked beans and bean flour)

What have we achieved?
The HIB Compact has deployed a total of 31 HIB varieties, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and four processed products (precooked beans, bean flour, confectionaries, canned beans). The HIB Compact has produced and disseminated over 5,000 MT of seed of HIB varieties. Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) have been deployed in over 8,000 on-farm demonstrations in partnership with national extension services continuing to engage farmers on new HIB technologies. Close to 100,000 information, visibility and learning materials have been produced and have been disseminated to various stakeholders. These are; fliers, pamphlets, leaflets, brochures, video, booklets, policy briefs, guidelines, media talks, wide-scale farmer extension, technical reports, outcome reports, and extension training manual. As a result of the awareness creation initiatives and farmer hand on training, approximately 860,000 households are benefitting from HIB technology solutions.

Were there any key challenges or lessons learned?
- Awareness creation on improved bean varieties must go hand-in-hand with facilitating a functional seed system with incentives for private sector engagement into the legume seed business
- Deployment of the bean corridor model that provides a framework for structuring markets for grain and seed with offtakers (traders) pulling demand for market-preferred varieties needs to be accelerated

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