

**Leading Bean research and Science through
effective partnerships:**

**The Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA)
Approach**

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Why **COMMON BEAN**?



Grown by over **150** million (mostly women) on over **7** million hectares



A key food for over **400** million Africans



Crucial source of **protein** and **micro-nutrients**; complimentary to rice, maize, & tubers



Major source of **incomes**, particularly for women (farmers, retailers, and processors)



Environmentally friendly crop (less carbon/water footprint)

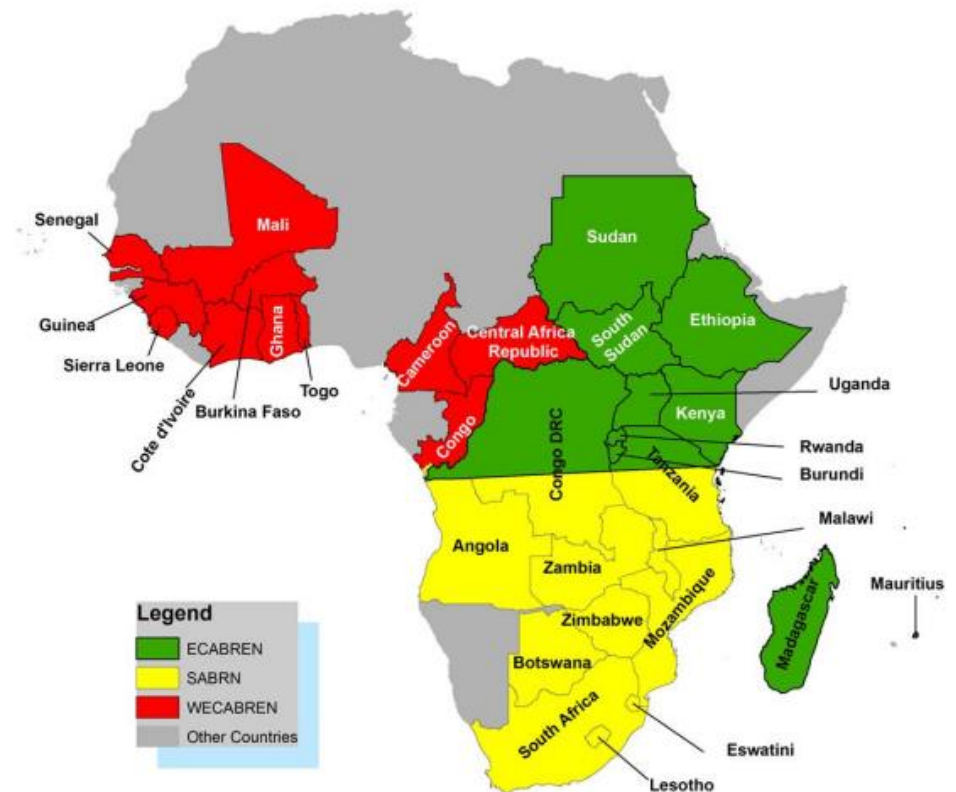
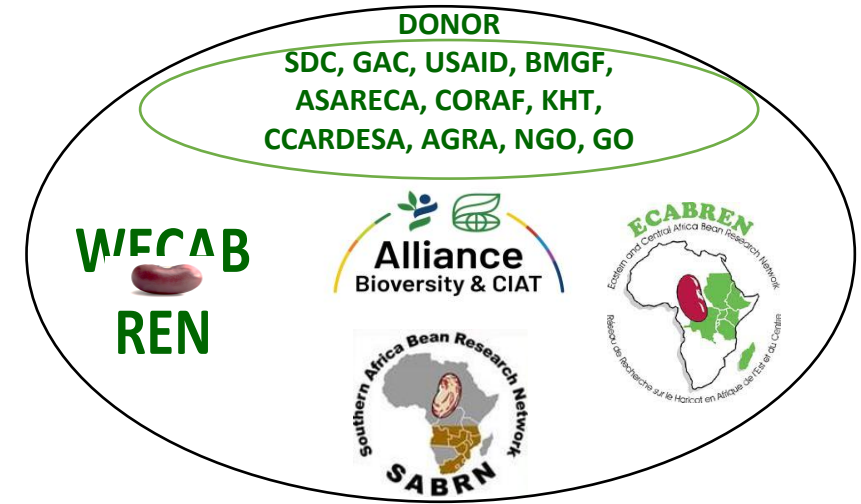
The Challenge At The Time Of The PABRA's Establishment (Why PABRA?)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Regional stresses to bean productivity | 1 Regional efficient and client oriented breeding approach |
| 2 Limited crosscutting local capacity | 2 Platform for Knowledge exchange, sharing, and capacity building |
| 3 Narrow local investment and resource base | 3 Shared and coordinated investment and resource mobilization |

PABRA addresses the complex food systems challenge with long term view which is reflected in the PABRA and Alliance Bean Programme missions: **“resilient bean-based food systems that improve people’s health, incomes and access to food in an environmentally safe and gender equitable manner.”**

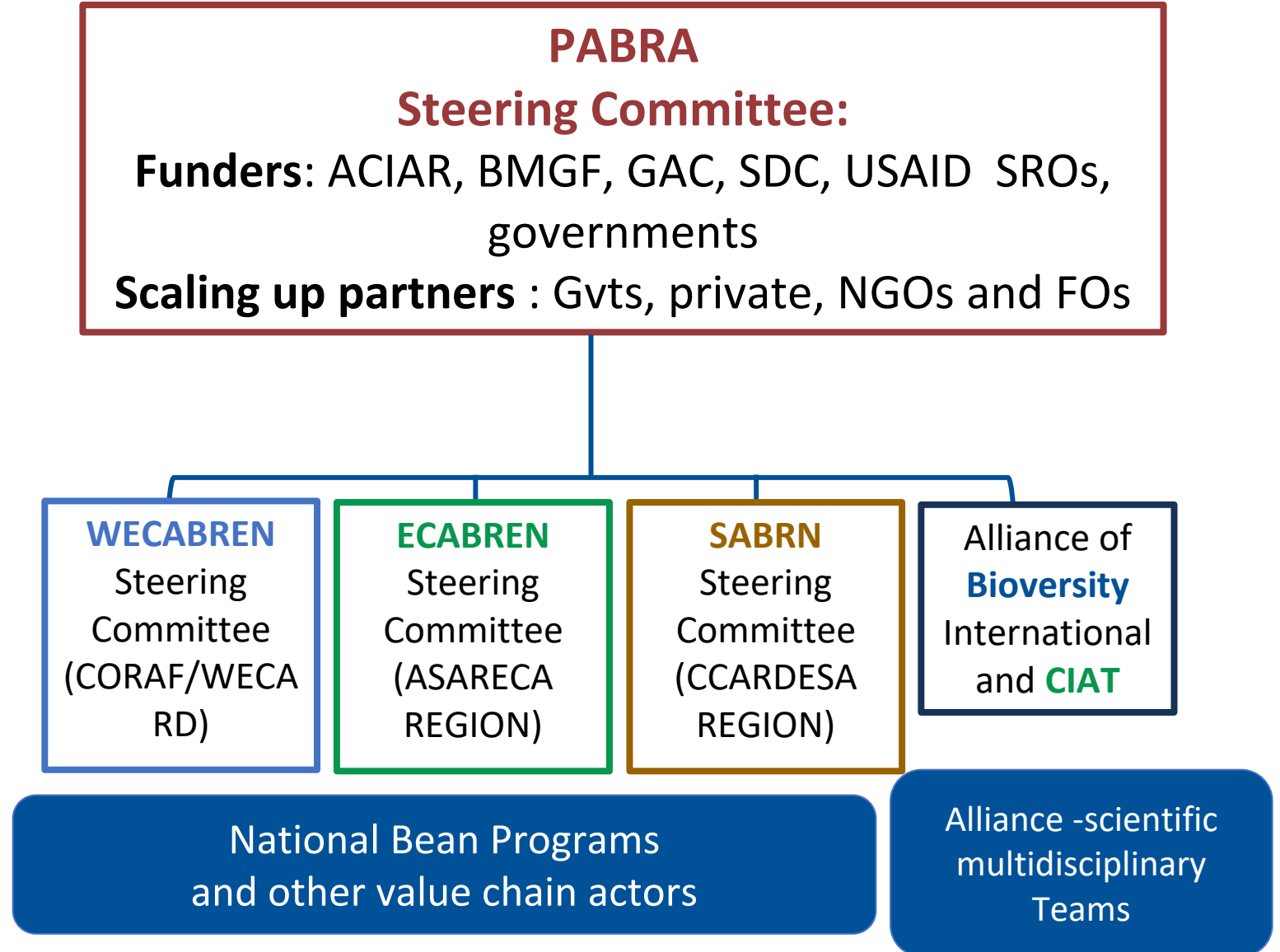
What is PABRA

- An alliance of **31** National Agricultural Research Systems
- A consortium of **3** bean networks + CIAT + Donors established in **1996**
- **630+** partners including farmer associations, NGOs, private sector, financial services providers e.g. **Equity Bank and Foundation**
- A coordinated institutional framework of bean R&D / investments in Africa
- ABC -Facilitator (catalyzer) of partnership and member of the research team



Current PABRA Governance Structure

- ✓ Facilitates co-creation and co-development
- ✓ Guides implementation of framework & multidisciplinary innovations
- ✓ Facilitates resource allocation
- ✓ Ensures balance and fairness



PABRA Governance and mode of operations

- Unique governance engaging national and regional perspectives
 - PABRA is network facilitated by the Alliance but **owned by 31 national bean value chain actors** (NARS bean researchers and their management, private sector, producers organizations, NGOs) and sub-regional organizations
 - Problem identified at country and regional level
 - Regional interventions
 - Alliance of BI & CIAT (any other research organizations) innovations contributes to sub- regional and national priorities along the value chain
 - Synergy among various countries and organizations
 - Donors agenda integration
 - Donor funding / leverage and transparency
 - Coordinated teams and interventions
 - PABRA provides a coordinated research & Development platform e.g. with advanced research Impact through partnerships (Advanced institutions and local partners (NARS, private sector etc.)

The evolution of PABRA's transformative agenda

1996 – 2003

Building **partnerships**
(ECABREN & SABREN)

Strengthening bean
breeding & new
variety releases

Participatory variety
selection
(**gender lens**)

Farm agronomy

2003 - 2009

Consolidating
market-led breeding
approach

Seed systems for
wider impact e.g.,
Ethiopia white pea
bean

Climate resilience

Bio-fortification

2009 -2013

Extending to **value
chain approach**
across regions

Improving **nutrition**
(high iron & zinc)

Geographic
expansion
WECABREN (2010)

2014 - 2023

**Bean Corridor
approach**
generating multiple
& inclusive benefits

Investment
platform for
enterprise
development along
value chains

**Food system &
policy** perspective

Policy & investment strategy for SDGs and targets 2023- 2030



15 million farmers increasing income by 30% through the adoption and marketing of improved beans



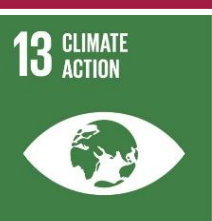
60 million Africans diversifying their diet through the consumption of high-nutrient beans



2 million women engaging with profitable market opportunities via the bean value chains



1,000 SMEs take-up bean business opportunities providing 10 million farmers (60% women) with new market opportunities



60 million farmers accessing climate-smart varieties that are pest, disease, and drought tolerant



1,000 partnerships: including 600 farmer organizations, 230 public and private seed enterprises, 50 grain trading organizations, 20 bean processing businesses, 20 support service providers

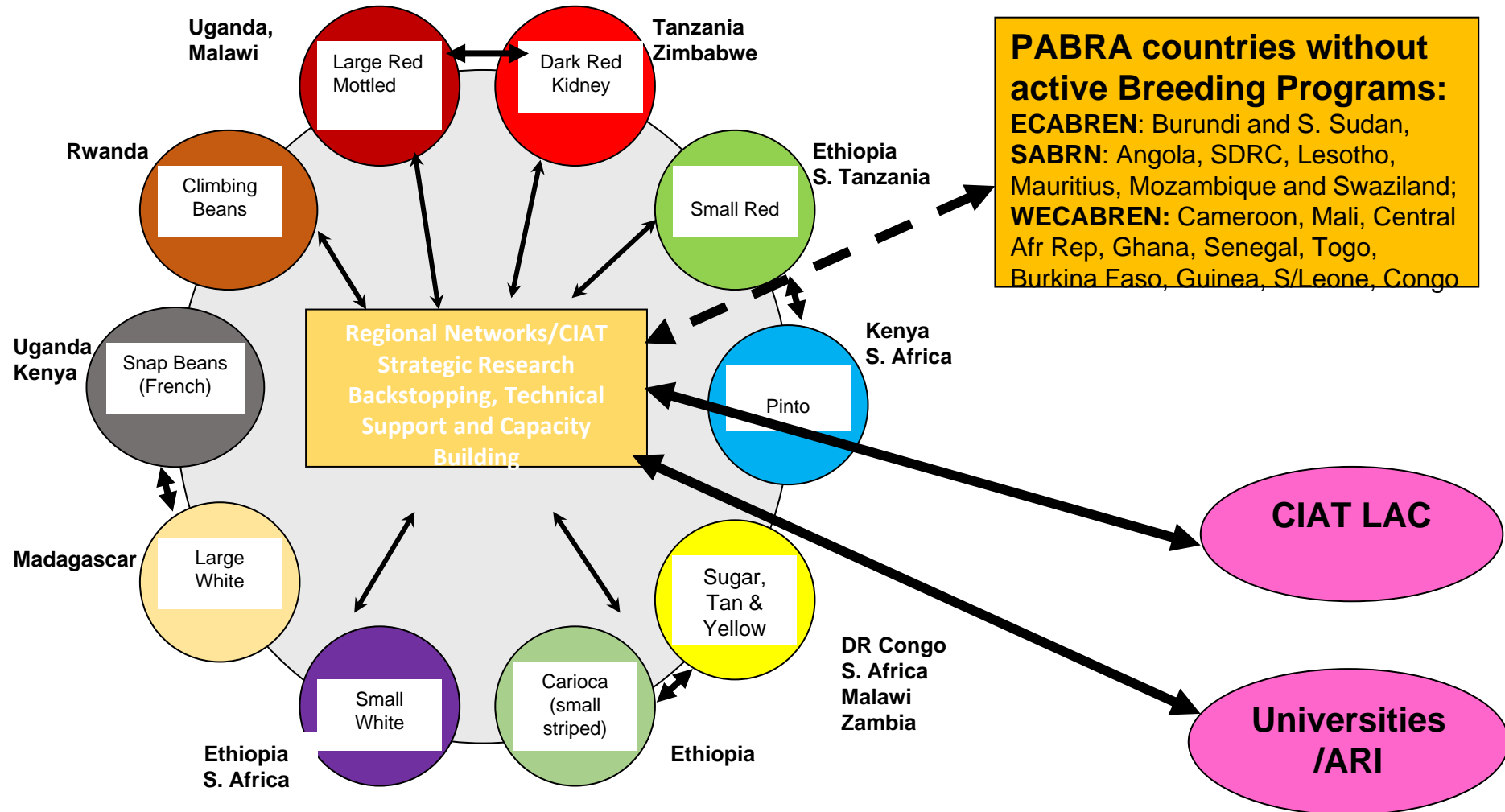
Policy action

1. Demand led and precision breeding , capable national bean breeding programs
2. Capacity building all actors across bean corridors
3. Multi-agency action and coordination (e.g. agriculture, health, education, and environment/conservation)

Investment strategy

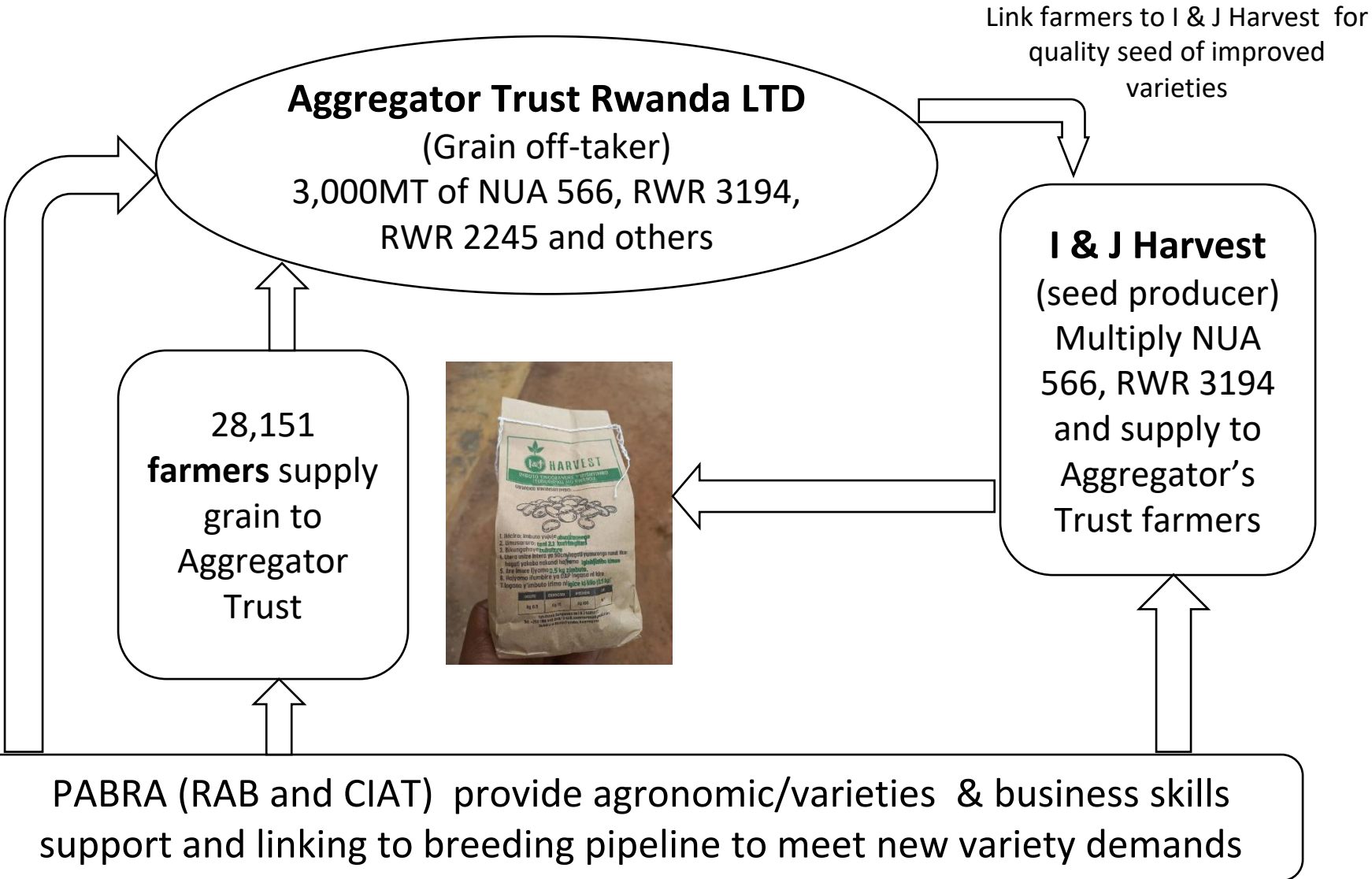
1. National government & private sector investment
2. ESG impact investors

Market-Class led breeding strategy and sharing breeding



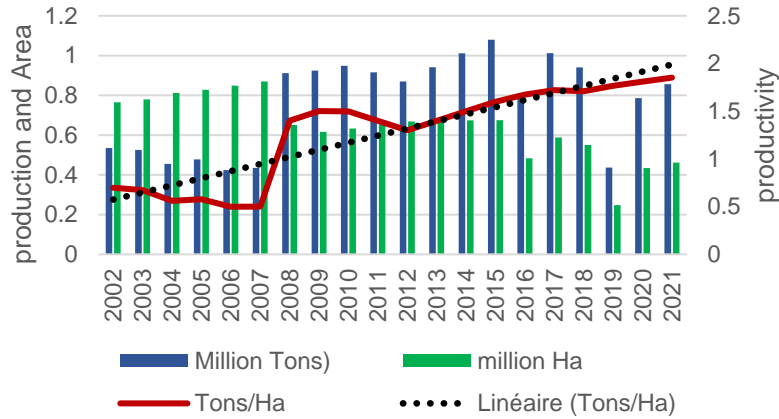
Some countries have no breeding programs– but have released bean varieties. Some varieties are released in more than one country- “Nets that work for all”

Adoption of demand –led systems and cultivating partnership along the bean value chain e.g. Rwanda

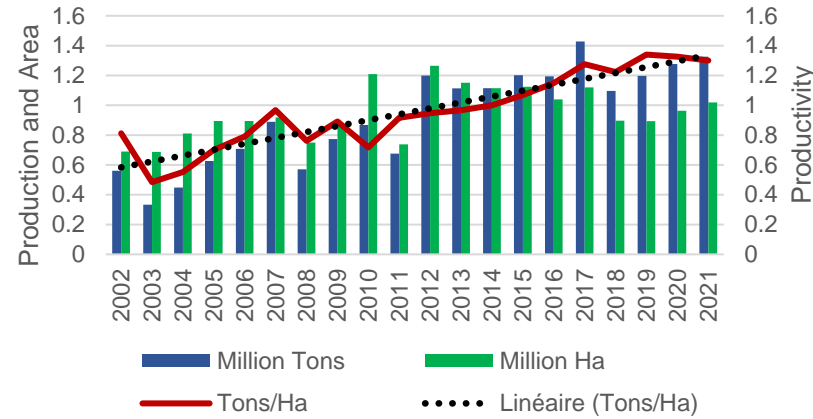


Positive trend in bean productivity growth, (2002-2021)

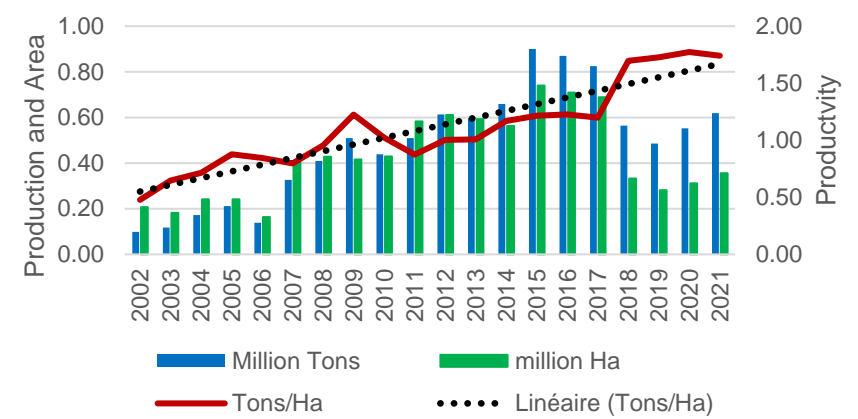
Uganda



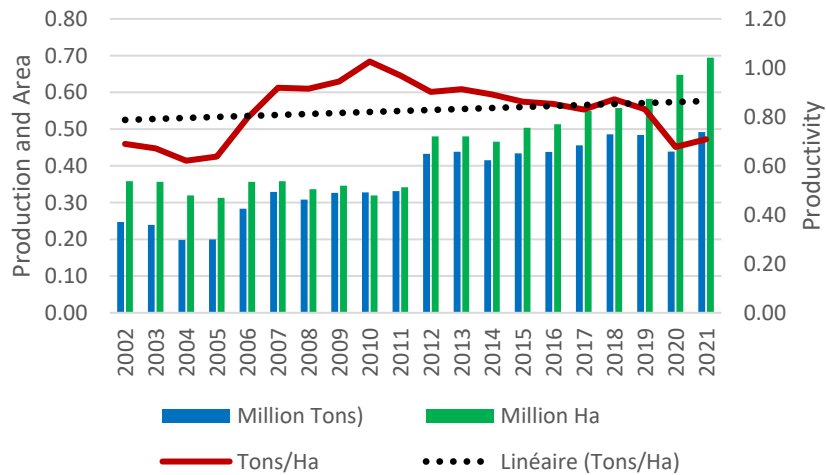
Tanzania



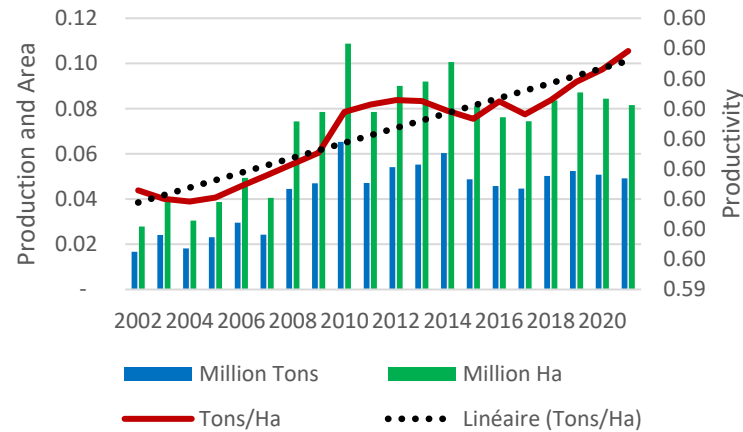
Ethiopia



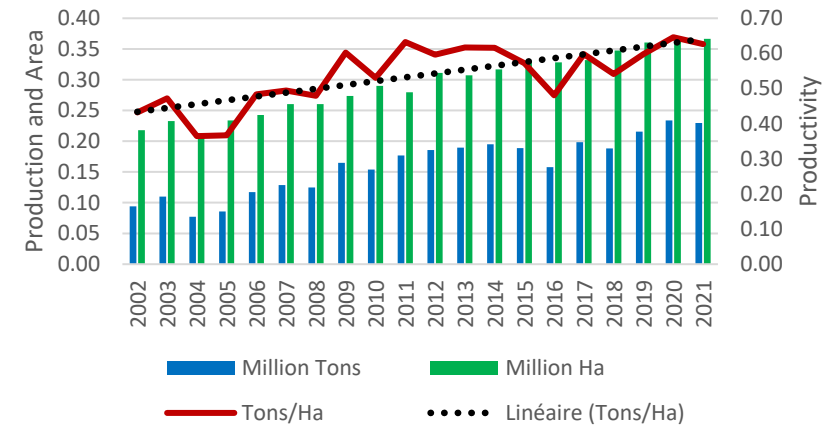
Rwanda



Zambia



Malawi



Impacts from Farm, to Household, Community, Country, and Continent.



657 new varieties reaching 37 million farmers have improved incomes and livelihoods

1



2

13 million households increased non-food expenditure by 54% due to selling improved beans



Release of biofortified beans now mean that over **10 million Africans (53% women)** are consuming high iron beans in 15 countries

3



More than **3.5 million farmers**, half women, with improved market access as a result of PABRA

4

Exports of beans through African bean corridors and also into international markets **are growing significantly, providing revenue** but also enabling more consumers access to beans

5



6

400 million people, especially women and children, in Africa benefit from increased dietary protein, carbohydrates and micro nutrients from beans

PABRA

Partnerships between National Programs and CIAT for impact at scale

What has shaped our approach

- Strengthen and **NOT** replace the National Systems
- Shared vision and co creation between public-private partners for bean in Africa
- Comprehensive activities along the value chain
- Integration and complementary activities
- Inclusive governance ensuring that National Programs priorities are tackled upfront and calibrated over the years

PABRA

Partnerships between National Programs and CIAT for impact at scale

Reasons of the successful partnerships over 25 years

- Trust in CIAT scientific capacities and commitments to technologies transfer
- Transparency in all of CIAT interactions with PABRA partners
- Inclusive governance ensuring that National Programs priorities are tackled upfront and calibrated (sustainability, productivity, gender equity and climate change)
- Complementary funding from multilateral funding in the case of beans
- Continuous capacity building
- Multidisciplinary teams providing solutions
- Partners manage new varieties releases and dissemination ensuring adoption
- A mechanism for the whole stage gate, from product definition to delivery and scaling
- Beyond just a breeding network. Focus on the whole value chain to deliver impact

In 2019 PABRA won the Al-Sumait Prize for African Development



- The price is worthy USD 1 M (shared equally with Africa Rice)

PABRA was awarded the 2023 Africa Food Prize



Key PABRA documents

1. PABRA means Partnership: Transforming Agriculture in Africa Together

[PABRA means partnership: Transforming agriculture in Africa together \(cgiar.org\)](#)

2. PABRA and the Power of Beans in Africa : 25 Years of Transformation

[PABRA and the power of beans in Africa: 25 years of transformation. \(cgiar.org\)](#)

3. Bean Commodity Corridors – Scaling up Production and Market Expansion for Small holders in sub-Saharan Africa

[Bean commodity corridors scaling up production and market expansion for smallholders in Sub-Saharan Africa \(cgiar.org\)](#)

Acknowledgements



Australian Government

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Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Technologies for African
Agricultural Transformation



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

syngenta foundation
for sustainable
agriculture

**NARS -PABRA
members**



INITIATIVE ON
Seed Equal