CGIAR
BREEDING FOR
TOMORROW

Knowledge Exchange Program

THE PATH TO EXCELLENCE FOR BREEDERS

About

IMPROVEMENT STARTS WITH PEOPLE.

To boost performance, quality, and ROI, organizations need more than training.

What truly drives change is training the right people to be changed agents.

That's the mission of CGIAR Breeding Resources' Knowledge Exchange Program (KEP): reimagining how knowledge flows, so CGIAR and partners lead modernization from within.

How does it work?

TARGETED, EFFECTIVE TRAINING DRIVES MODERNIZATION

KEP facilitates short-term exchanges by pairing mentees with expert mentors to address real-world technical and operational challenges in breeding programs.

Each exchange delivers **practical, shareable outputs** - such as Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), templates, training materials, or prototypes - that support broader adoption across the breeding community.

Once participants complete the program, they return to their CGIAR Center or National Research Organization **equipped to share and scale what they've learned**, training their own teams, partners, and stakeholders.

The result is a powerful multiplier effect, where knowledge spreads well beyond the individual, accelerating change across organizations and networks.

KEP has a multiplier effect, beyond inviduals

Why KEP?

While conventional training builds individual skills, KEP goes beyond by embedding participants in live environments, fostering contextual learning and systemic impact.

For innovation

Accelerates adoption of innovations and tools across organisations

For improvement

Enhances institutional workflows through hands-on problem solving

For collaboration

Builds long-term collaborations across CGIAR and partners

For replication

Leaves behind public goods that others can adopt and adapt

Duration

1 to 2 weeks

Focus

Defined challenge or skill area, co-designed by mentor and mentee via a structured proposal

Sustainability

Yields outputs useful to the broader CGIAR–NARES ecosystem

Framing

The program is supported by CGIAR Breeding Resources

PROGRAM

Design

Each exchange follows a consistent structure, with CGIAR Breeding Resources overseeing the entire program, ensuring it is intellectually rigorous and designed for maximum impact for both mentees & mentors.

ARMAND YAMBISA
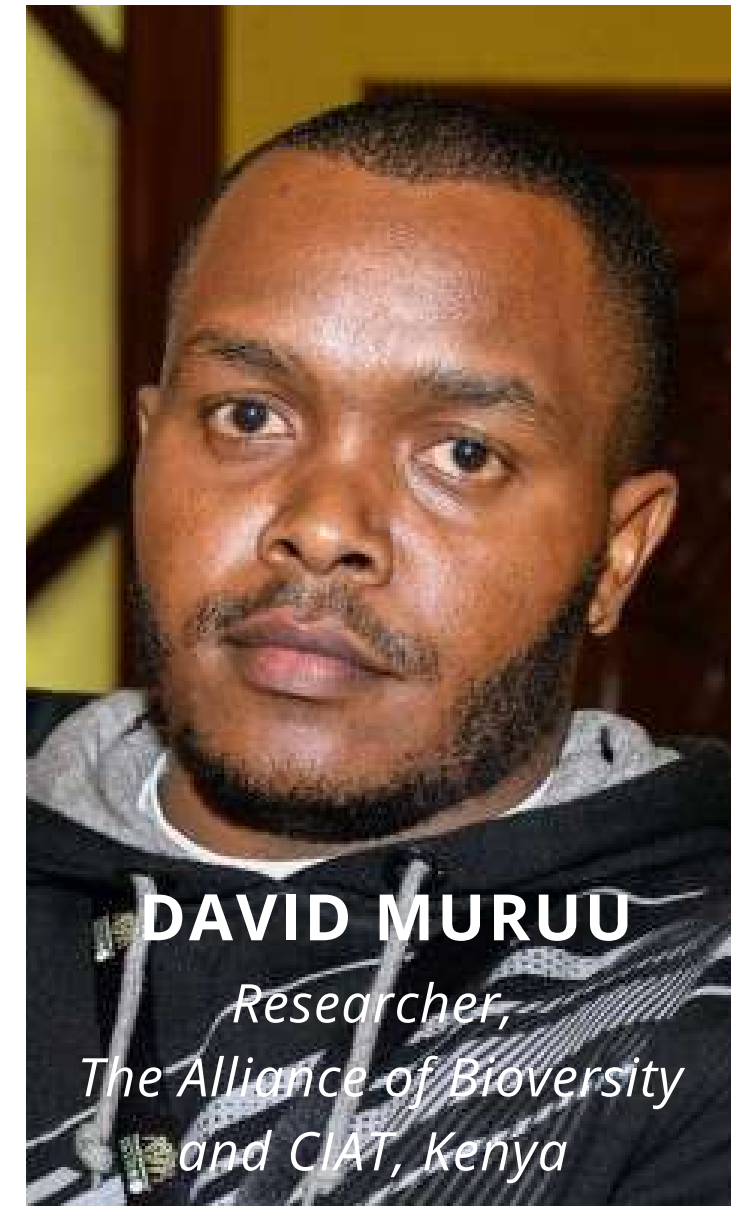*Research Associate,
IITA Zambia*

SHEILAH LIMO
*Nursery and Trial
Coordinator,
CIMMYT Kenya*

**REVATHI
PONNUSWAMY**
*Senior Scientist
ICAR-Indian Institute of
Rice Research, India*

DAVID MURUU
*Researcher,
The Alliance of Bioversity
and CIAT, Kenya*

KEP first batch

Mentees' testimonials

Armand Yambisa

Research Associate,
IITA, Zambia

"IITA recently came onboard the EBS ship and (…) I have acquired adequate knowledge on vital topics that will make my work and our transition smooth. The content created - new templates, catalogues and updating of userguides - will not only benefit IITA, but all the EBS users worldwide. The knowledge acquired will not only stay with me but be passed on to other colleagues through various trainings I will conduct. This to me is success. All the objectives of the program were met!"

David Muruu

Researcher,
The Alliance of Bioversity
and CIAT

"The knowledge exchange program taught me how to be able to explain our use cases to have them factored in the Enterprise Breeding System (EBS). CIAT Forages is now using EBS for data management."

Selection process

Some text, about BR added value in the process. What do we do exactly?

PHASE	DESCRIPTION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	Q4
Launch & outreach	Info sessions & open nominations	████					
Initial review	Shortlisting by Breeding Resources		████				
Proposal development	Selected nominees co-develop detailed proposals with support			████			
Technical review & matching	Mentors and reviewers assess feasibility and alignments				████		
Final selection & logistics	Confirmed matches prepared for travel, coordination begins					████	
Exchange implementation	Exchanges occur and outputs produced						████

Why contribute?

Contributing to KEP package means:

- Covering basic logistics for participants during these exchanges
- Contributing to a program that has a broad ripple and multiplication effect
- Helping mentees become more successful and agents of change in their organization
- Helping mentors rise

We need you

Help us grow. We are looking for financial support to bring KEP to new geography's, new crops, and areas where knowledge gaps exist. Don't miss your chance to shape breeding capacity from the inside out!

Thank you

Contact

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