Putting nitrogen fixation to work for smallholder farmers in Africa

Biological Nitrogen Fixation and Grain Legume Enterprise: Guidelines for N2Africa Master Farmers

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Front cover photographs: top row, left to right, untreated soybean seed, two-step seed inoculation, soybean seed inoculated with rhizobia; middle row, N2Africa demonstration package of BNF technologies, healthy soybean plants, Master Farmer trainers field visit; bottom row, a well-nodulated bean root, farmers receiving a N2Africa demonstration package, improved legume seed and inoculants offered for sale. Photographs by K.E. Giller, S. Koala and P.L. Woomer.
N2Africa is a large scale, research and development project focused on putting nitrogen fixation to work for smallholder farmers growing legume crops in Africa. N2Africa is funded by ‘The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’ through a grant to Plant Production Systems, Wageningen University, in the Netherlands. It is led by Wageningen University together with CIAT-TSBF, IITA and has many partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. At the end of the 4-year project we will have: identified niches for targeting nitrogen fixing legumes; tested multi-purpose legumes to provide food, animal feed, and improved soil fertility; promoted the adoption of improved legume varieties; supported the development of inoculum production capacity through collaboration with private sector partners; developed and strengthened capacity for legumes research and technology dissemination; and delivered improved varieties of legumes and inoculant technologies to more than 225,000 smallholder farmers through our Master Farmer Network. For more information on the project, please visit our website at www.N2Africa.org.