



**Memoranda of Understanding are formalized
with key partners along the legume value
chains in the impact zones**

Milestone 4.1.1

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Submission date: 25 October 2011

N2Africa

**Putting nitrogen fixation to work
for smallholder farmers in Africa**



N2Africa is a project funded by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation by a grant to Plant Production Systems, Wageningen University who lead the project together with CIAT-TSBF, IITA and many partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

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Odhiambo, L., Abaidoo, R., Turner, A., Baijukya, F., Bala, A., Woomer, P., de Wolf, J. and Dashiell, K., 2011. Memoranda of Understanding are formalized with key partners along the legume value chains in the impact zones, www.N2Africa.org, 8 pp.



Disclaimer:

This publication has been funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through a grant to Wageningen University entitled "Putting nitrogen fixation to work for smallholder farmers in Africa". Its content does not represent the official position of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wageningen University or any of the other partner organisations within the project and is entirely the responsibility of the authors.

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Table of contents

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Introduction..... | 4 |
| 2 | List of Partners with MoUs | 4 |
| 3 | Challenges..... | 6 |



1 Introduction

The project has developed numerous Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with partners in the specific impact zones. There are a total of 40 partners in seven of the Countries that have signed MoUs and are implementing work in Delivery and Dissemination (D&D), Agronomy, Rhizobiology and Baseline activities (excluding Mozambique). Mozambique has been collaborating with IIAAM on Agronomy, TechnoServe on D&D and no partner on Rhizobiology but at this time no MoUs have been signed. The majority of the agronomy work in Mozambique is implemented by IITA. The list of partners in the respective countries with their main area of work is shown below. Twenty-eight of the 40 partners are engaged in D&D with an average of about four partners in each Country. In most countries each D&D partner is responsible for D&D in a specific area of the country. Three countries have one partner doing all the agronomy work, In Nigeria one partner is responsible for the Sudan savannah and the other is responsible for Northern Guinea savannah while in DR Congo and Kenya TSBF-CIAT is doing the work. All seven Countries have one partner responsible for all the Rhizobiology work. In three of the Countries (Nigeria, Ghana and Malawi) MoUs were developed to do the Baseline Study and in five of the Countries there were contracts with individuals to do the work.

The majority of the partnerships developed in the seven Countries have been successful. The evidence for this is in the progress that N2Africa is making on the milestones. The projects milestone reports and other documents on the N2Africa website can be reviewed for more specific information. One weakness that has been noted is that most reports do not clearly state the partners that are responsible for the progress in the project and only demonstrate that the project has achieved the milestone.

2 List of Partners with MoUs

| No. | Description | Sub-grant period | Country | Subject |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| 1 | Programme d'appui au développement durable (PAD) | Nov 1, 2010 - Oct 31, 2011 | DRC | D&D |
| 2 | Plate Forme diobass Au Kivu (DIOBASS) | Nov 1, 2010 - Oct 31, 2011 | DRC | D&D |
| 3 | Service d'Accompagnement et de Renforcement des Capacités d'Auto promotion de la Femme en sigle (SARCAF) | Nov 1, 2010 - Oct 31, 2011 | DRC | D&D |
| 4 | Universite de Bukavu (UCB) | Mar 1, 2011 - Oct 31, 2011 | DRC | Rhizo. |
| 5 | Rwanda Agricultural Research Institute (ISAR) | Nov 1, 2010 - Oct 31, 2011 | Rwanda | Agron and Rhizo |
| 6 | CARITAS | Dec 1, 2010 - Oct 31, 2011 | Rwanda | D&D |
| 7 | Eglise Presbyterienne au Rwanda / Presbyterian Church of Rwanda (EPR) | Dec 1, 2010 - Oct 31, 2011 | Rwanda | D&D |
| 8 | Conseil Consultatif Des Femmes (COCOF) | Nov 1, 2010 - Oct 31, 2011 | Rwanda | D&D |
| 9 | Development Rural Durable (DERD) | Nov 1, 2010 - Oct 31, 2011 | Rwanda | D&D |
| 10 | Kleenhomes & Gardens (KHG) | Jan 1, 2010 - Oct 31, 2011 | Kenya | D&D |
| 11 | Kenya Soyabean Farmers' Association (KESOFA) | Jan 1, 2010 - Oct 31, 2011 | Kenya | D&D |
| 12 | Appropriate Rural Development Agriculture Programme (ARDAP) | Jan 1, 2010 - Oct 31, 2011 | Kenya | D&D |
| 13 | Resource Projects Kenya (RPK) | Jan 1, 2010 - Oct 31, 2011 | Kenya | D&D |
| 14 | MEA | Feb 4, 2011 - Oct 31, 2013 | Kenya | D&D |
| 15 | University of Nairobi (UoN) | July 1, 2010 - Oct 31, 2011 | Kenya | Rhizo |
| 16 | Community Technology Development Trust | Oct 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011 | Zimbabwe | D&D |



| | (CTDT) | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| 17 | University of Zimbabwe – Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Engineering (UZ) | Oct 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011 | Zimbabwe | Agron & D&D |
| 18 | Cluster Agricultural Development Services (CADS) | Oct 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011 | Zimbabwe | D&D |
| 19 | CLUSA - ZAPAD | Oct 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011 | Zimbabwe | D&D |
| 20 | Department of Research and Specialist Services (DR&SS) | Oct 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011 | Zimbabwe | D&D and Rhizo |
| 21 | Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR) Zaria | July 16, 2011 – Nov 30, 2011 | Nigeria | Agron and Rhizo |
| 22 | Kaduna State Agricultural Development Project (KADP) | June 1, 2011 - Mar 31, 2012 | Nigeria | D&D |
| 23 | Sasakawa Global 2000 (Sasakawa Global 2000) | June 1, 2011 - Mar 31, 2012 | Nigeria | D&D |
| 24 | Bayero University Kano (BUK) | July 15, 2010 to Nov 30, 2011 | Nigeria | Agron |
| 25 | Association of Church Development Projects (ACDEP) | May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012 | Ghana | D&D |
| 26 | Urban Agriculture Network (URBANET), Northern Region, GHANA | May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012 | Ghana | D&D |
| 27 | Savanna Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) (SARI- GHANA) | May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012 | Ghana | D&D & Agronomy |
| 28 | Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) | May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012 | Ghana | Baseline |
| 29 | Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) | Nov 1, 2010 to July 31, 2011 | Malawi | D&D |
| 30 | Bunda College of Agriculture (BUNDA) | Nov 1, 2010 to July 31, 2011 | Malawi | Agron |
| 31 | WORLD VISION (WORLD VISION) | Nov 1, 2010 to July 31, 2012 | Malawi | D&D |
| 32 | National Association of Smallholder Farmers of Malawi (NASFAM) | 1 August 2011 – 31 July 2012. | Malawi | D&D |
| 33 | Agri-Input Suppliers Association of Malawi, | 27 September 2011 – 30 June 2012 | Malawi | D&D |
| 34 | African Soil Information Service (AfSIS) | 1 August 2011 – 31 July 2013 | Malawi | Agronomy. |
| 35 | Diamond Development Initiatives (DDI) | Jan 15, 2011 to Feb 28, 2011 | Nigeria | Baseline Kaduna |
| 36 | Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN) | Mar 19, 2011 to July 15, 2011 | Nigeria | D&D |
| 37 | Concern Universal Malawi (Concern Universal) | Sept 1, 2010 to July 31, 2012 | Malawi | D&D |
| 38 | Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) | Nov 1, 2010 to July 31, 2011 | Malawi | Agron and Rhizo |
| 39 | Bayero University Kano (BUK) | Feb 14, 2011 to Mar 30, 2011 | Nigeria | Baseline Kano |
| 40 | Soil Research Institute (SRI) | Jan 15, 2011 to July 15, 2011 | Ghana | Rhizo |



3 Challenges and lessons learned

- I. Delay in signing of MoUs hence delay in disbursement of funds. The two main lessons learned were that formal discussions need to be started early and must include the people that have responsibility for approving MoUs.
- II. Delay in submission of reports by partners leading to a delay in disbursement of funds which are pegged to reports as deliverables. Some partners have little or no experience with preparing technical and/or financial reports. N2Africa has responded by having IITA and CIAT visit the staff of partners and train them on the appropriate financial management and financial reporting procedures. Where partners have difficulties preparing technical reports N2Africa has been helping them edit reports so the partners can learn through experience.
- III. Inadequate capacity to carry out the work due to involvement in several other development and research projects. Partners are therefore over-burdened and tend to have divided attention, leading to inadequate supervision of the task they agree to do for the project. The response to this situation has been to reduce the budget and responsibilities of over-burdened partners. Also, as we engage with new partners we try to evaluate the work they are presently engaged in and with their active engagement evaluate how much additional responsibilities they can handle.
- IV. Potential partner's unwillingness to sign agreements. We have not found a solution to this situation and it may not be a major problem. Probably the main causes of this is the potential partner is already fully engaged with other projects and does not want to be over extended by adding another project and/or they may not agree with the terms and conditions being offered by N2Africa. In most situations when a potential partner decides not to have an MoU with N2Africa it is the right decision.



List of project reports

1. N2Africa Steering Committee Terms of Reference
2. Policy on advanced training grants
3. Rhizobia Strain Isolation and Characterisation Protocol
4. Detailed country-by-country access plan for P and other agro-minerals
5. Workshop Report: Training of Master Trainers on Legume and Inoculant Technologies (Kisumu Hotel, Kisumu, Kenya-24-28 May 2010)
6. Plans for interaction with the Tropical Legumes II project (TLII) and for seed increase on a country-by-country basis
7. Implementation Plan for collaboration between N2Africa and the Soil Health and Market Access Programs of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) plan
8. General approaches and country specific dissemination plans
9. Selected soybeans, common beans, cowpeas and groundnuts varieties with proven high BNF potential and sufficient seed availability in target impact zones of N2Africa Project
10. Project launch and workshop report
11. Advancing technical skills in rhizobiology: training report
12. Characterisation of the impact zones and mandate areas in the N2Africa project
13. Production and use of Rhizobial inoculants in Africa
18. Adaptive research in N2Africa impact zones: Principles, guidelines and implemented research campaigns
19. Quality assurance (QA) protocols based on African capacities and international existing standards developed
20. Collection and maintenance of elite rhizobial strains
21. MSc and PhD status report
22. Production of seed for local distribution by farming communities engaged in the project
23. A report documenting the involvement of women in at least 50% of all farmer-related activities
24. Participatory development of indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress with project activities and their impact
25. Suitable multi-purpose forage and tree legumes for intensive smallholder meat and dairy industries in East and Central Africa N2Africa mandate areas
26. A revised manual for rhizobium methods and standard protocols available on the project website
27. Update on Inoculant production by cooperating laboratories
28. Legume Seed Acquired for Dissemination in the Project Impact Zones
29. Advanced technical skills in rhizobiology: East and Central African, West African and South African Hub
30. Memoranda of Understanding are formalized with key partners along the legume value chains in the impact zones



Partners involved in the N2Africa project



Caritas Rwanda



Diobass



Eglise Presbiterienne Rwanda



Resource Projects-Kenya



Université Catholique de Bukavu



University of Zimbabwe

