

Objective 6. Provide training and capacity-building for sub-Saharan African scientists

- The project's launch meeting (18–22 September 2007) took place successfully at the Orion Safari Lodge, Rustenburg Kloof, South Africa. The agenda focused mainly on planning Year1 of work and included the development of delivery plans in collaboration with national programme partners present in the meeting.
- One goal of the meeting was to adequately assess the needs of NARS project partners in terms of bioinformatics, laboratory, and field research equipment. To enable sub-Saharan African researchers to start or continue their work in their respective institutions, a list of equipment needs was compiled in the DPKits for each Objective. Priority was given to informatics and field equipment, and purchases are under way.
- Phenotyping was regarded as the most urgent activity for which capacity was needed in the TLI team, and a course was commissioned from ICRISAT on 'Phenotyping for droughtrelated traits across tropical legumes: concepts and practices' (3–28 March 2008). Twentyfour participants attended the course, which focused on Africa.
- In order to increase the prospects for adoption of TLI results and thus to enhance impact, exchanges with the TLII project team have taken place to identify students that could incorporate TLI research components in their degree programs