



## Improving legume productivity in Africa

### Background

In 2007, GCP initiated a three-year research project entitled *Improving tropical legume productivity for marginal environments in Africa*. The project is dubbed Tropical Legumes I (TLI) because it has a twin project – TLII. The focus of TLII is seed multiplication and distribution.

TLI partners jointly work on molecular markers for groundnuts, cowpeas, beans and chickpeas. Once validated, these markers will be used to

accelerate the development of stress-tolerant legume varieties that meet the needs of smallholder farmers.

TLI is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. GCP complements this funding with support for capacity development, as well as a project to screen drought tolerance in Mozambique, in partnership with the University of Eduardo Mondlane.



### Partners

The TLI project brings together advanced molecular research labs and research partners from the following countries and networks:

- Burkina Faso – INERA
- Cameroon – IRAD
- Ethiopia – EIAR, SARI
- Kenya – Egerton University
- Tanzania – ARI Naliendele, ART, LZARDI
- Niger – INRAN
- Senegal – ISRA
- Malawi – Chitedze Research Station
- Zimbabwe – Crop Breeding Institute
- the regional networks
- Eastern and Central Africa Bean Research Network (ECABREN), and
- Southern Africa Bean Research Network (SABRN)