Improved Cowpea Varieties: Short Duration White Cowpea Varieties for Boiled Grain Market

High-yielding, early maturing, and striga-resistant cowpea varieties for farmers!

IITA's improved cowpea varieties mature in 65–76 days and produce over 1.5 t/ha, far exceeding traditional yields. Resistant to Striga, Alectra, and diseases, they offer stable production in the Guinea, Sahel and Sudan Savanna. With medium to large, fast-cooking white seeds favored by consumers, these varieties provide lucrative opportunities for seed companies and agribusiness to meet growing market demand.

This technology is pre-validated.

9·7 Scaling readiness: idea maturity 9/9; level of use 7/9

IP

No formal IP rights

Problem

- Low productivity from unimproved varieties (≈500 kg/ha)
- Heavy losses from pests, diseases, and parasitic weeds (Striga, Alectra)
- Poor market appeal (seed quality, cooking time, appearance)
- Climate stress: drought and poor soils reducing farmer yields

Solution

- High-yielding varieties increase productivity threefold
- Striga and Alectra resistance reduce crop failure risks
- Attractive, fast-cooking grain enhances consumer demand

Key points to design your business plan

IITA's Improved Cowpea Varieties mature in 65–76 days, yielding 2.5–2.7 t/ha—up to five times more than traditional varieties. They are resistant to Striga, Alectra, and major diseases, drought-tolerant, and adapted to the Sahel and Sudan Savanna. Medium-to-large, white, fast-cooking seeds with >23% protein improve nutrition while providing farmers with higher incomes and a reliable, climate-resilient crop.

Inclusion assessment 5

Climate impact 7

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Commodities

Cowpea

Sustainable Development Goals

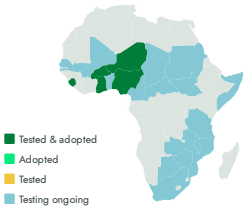
Categories

Pre-production, Improved varieties, Disease resistance, Weed resistance, + 0 more

Best used with

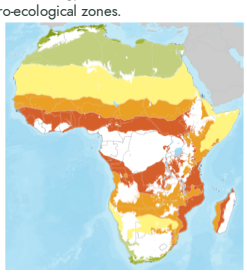
Hermetic Bags for Safe Storage of grain
See all 1 technologies online

Tested/adopted in



Where it can be used

This technology can be used in the colored agro-ecological zones.



Target groups