

# 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 yield over 1.5 t/ha, three times more than traditional varieties. Resistant to Striga, Alectra, and major diseases, they are drought-tolerant and adapted to the Guinea, Sahel and Sudan Savanna. With medium to large, fast-cooking white seeds rich in protein (>23%) and micronutrients, they enhance nutrition and provide smallholder farmers with reliable income.

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This technology is **pre-validated**. Scaling readiness: idea maturity 9/9; level of use 7/9

Inclusion assessment 5

Climate impact 7

### Problem

- Widespread low yields and income from traditional varieties
- High vulnerability of smallholders to pests, weeds, and climate shocks
- Limited access to nutrient-rich food sources
- Weak market opportunities for rural farmers

### Solution

- Climate-smart technology reducing vulnerability to shocks
- Enhanced food and nutrition security through protein-rich cowpeas
- Increased farmer income and livelihood resilience

### Key points to design your program

IITA's Improved Cowpea Varieties mature in 65–76 days and yield 2.5–2.7 t/ha, overcoming Striga, Alectra, drought, and major diseases. Adapted to the Sahel and Sudan Savanna, these medium-to-large, white, fast-cooking seeds improve nutrition and farmer incomes while building climate resilience. Ideal for smallholders, development programs, and agribusinesses aiming to enhance food security, livelihoods, and sustainable cowpea production in Africa.

IP  
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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  
Farmers, Seed companies, Sellers, Advisory and Extension Services, Seed Regulators,