

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



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

The early-maturing IITA cowpea varieties can be harvested within 65–76 days, enabling multiple cropping cycles per season. With high yields above 1.5 t/ha, resistance to Striga, Alectra, and major diseases, and drought tolerance, they support food security. Their attractive, fast-cooking, nutrient-rich seeds contribute to improved nutrition and national agricultural productivity.

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

Inclusion assessment 5

Climate impact 7

Problem


- Persistently low productivity (500 kg/ha) among smallholder farmers
- Crop losses from parasitic weeds (Striga, Alectra) and diseases
- Climate change effects: drought, declining soil fertility
- High malnutrition rates due to limited protein intake

Solution

- Increased national cowpea output to boost food availability and reduce imports
- Enhanced farmer resilience to climate variability
- Improved nutrition through high-protein cowpeas

Key points to design your project

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**
No formal IP rights



Commodities
Cowpea

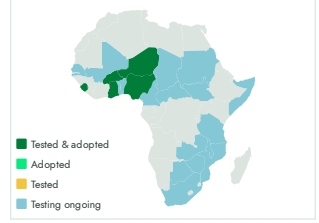
Sustainable Development Goals



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

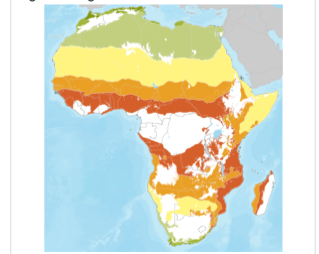
Best used with
Hermetic Bags for Safe Storage of grain
See all 1 technologies online

Tested/adopted in



Where it can be used

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



Target groups