Since 2007, two projects — Tropical Legumes II and III — have also supported the development and release of several varieties helping to highlight their benefits: high yielding, resistant to striga, alectra and insect pests. Thanks to the Tropical Legumes Project the cowpea seed systems have been improved as well with 5,308 tons of certified seeds produced between 2008 to 2016. The seeds are a major source of plant proteins and vitamins for man, feed for animals, and also a source of cash income. Other projects such as the EU, the department for international development, FARA-funded Sudan Savanna Taskforce project, helped in the history of improved cowpea varieties to facilitate information flow and linkages, core for the dissemination of these varieties. Effectively, The Sudan Savanna Taskforce used Innovation Platforms (IPs) comprising a coalition of partners and stakeholders, one in Musawa Local Government Area and another in Safana Local Government Area all in Katsina State of Nigeria to facilitate knowledge transmission, synergies and awareness of improved cowpea varieties. Accompanying innovations such as innovation platforms, seed systems, extension services and training have helped adoption by other beneficiaries while also helping linkages between stakeholder networks.

**“A versatile African crop”**

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**“significant economic and social benefits”**

**Cowpea is one of the most important foods in Africa”**

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