Recent drought spells in Zambia resulted in farmers losing their maize crop. Intercropping with pigeon pea offers them an insurance against rainfall deficit both in quantity and spread during the crop growing season. Farmers in Zambia are aware of the beneficial effects of this multi-purpose legume crop, including its ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen, nutrient recycling from deeper layers, inter-cropping compatibility with both cereals and legumes, soil and water conservation on sloping lands and source of fuel wood.

The new pigeon pea cultivar MPPV 4 is suitable for both green and dry grain with 100 seed mass of 17-19g. Growing MPPV 4 as a climate resilient variety in cereal-based cropping systems to mitigate effects of drought and improve soil health through biological Nitrogen fixation is an attractive option. The variety is already popular with farmers, who can easily access its seed whose area under cultivation is expected to increase over the next couple of years through key partners. This pigeon pea variety is medium maturing that fits in medium to high altitude areas with rainfall between 400-900 mm. MPPV 4 has drought and pest tolerance with ratoonability.

The medium duration and pest tolerant pigeon pea cultivar was released in Zambia as MPPV 4 (ICEAP 01551) for cultivation in semi-arid regions of Zambia.

This innovative cultivar has been taken up by users as a Stage 4 and Maturity Level 3 innovation, i.e., policy and/or practice changes influenced by these new methods have led to adoption or impacts at scale or beyond the direct CGIAR sphere of influence. This is evidenced by smallholder farmers in eastern Zambia growing MPPV 4 as a climate resilient variety in cereal-based cropping systems to mitigate effects of drought and improve soil health through biological nitrogen fixation and phosphorus mobilization through root exudates.

This cultivar fits well in intercropping with both cereals (maize and sorghum) and legumes (groundnut and soybean).