Africa RISING in Malawi
Creating Sustainable Systems for Agriculture

**Outcomes**
- Technologies validated: 10
- Farmers worked with to validate technologies: 6,400
- Long-term trainings: 4 PhD’s & 9 MScs
- Number of development partnerships: 6

**Research-in-development scope**
1. Cropping systems
   - Varieties
   - Cropping systems management
2. Livestock systems
   - Health
3. Natural resource management [NRM]
   - Soil & water management
4. Human condition
   - Nutrition

*Appropriate technologies are integrated within and across the components above.

**Technology delivery**
- **Sustainable intensification domains**
  - Productivity
  - Environment
  - Economic
  - Human condition
  - Social
- **Collaboration**
  - CGIAR centers
  - NARS
  - Farmers
  - Private sector
  - Universities
  - Extension services
  - Government agencies
- **Capacity building**
  - Short term training
  - Post-graduate training (MSc, PhD)
  - Exchange visits
  - Farmer field days

**Africa RISING’s theory of change**
- Demand-driven research identifies, adapts, validates and deploys sustainable intensification innovations
- Better efficiency increases production
- So rural households get more from the same amount of land – without compromising the needs of future generations to enhanced livelihood outcomes
- Providing a range of options increases system sustainability
- And improved income flow means better household nutrition and increased human capacity, leading to enhanced livelihood outcomes

Multiple sustainable intensification domains in an enabling policy environment result in long-term equity and viability
The Africa Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-for-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government’s Feed the Future initiative. Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING is creating opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base. The three projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute is creating opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base. The three projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute.

The project has increased farmer access to quality groundnut and soybean seeds through community seed production approaches. Farmers that partnered with Africa RISING produced about 55,000 kg of certified seeds between 2016 and 2018 that was distributed to hundreds more farmers within the communities.

The project has integrated nutrient dense common bean varieties to improve on nutritional outcomes. The nutrient dense common bean variety NUA445 has micronutrient contents of up to 90 mg Zn/kg compared to locally available varieties with about 40 mg Zn/kg.

The doubled-up legume cropping system has enabled farmers to almost double their yields and improve soil fertility. Groundnut–pigeon pea intercropping proved to be the most successful doubled-up system owing to the contrasting structures and maturity dates of the two crops. The doubled-up technology offers farmers the opportunity to get 45% more profit from their land compared with growing sole legume stands of either groundnut or pigeon pea. In early 2016, the doubled-up legume technology was officially released by Malawi’s Agricultural Technology Clearing Committee for countrywide use by farmers.

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