



IITA
Research to Nourish Africa

regional
highlights

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regional highlights

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Cover photo: A farmer beneficiary of the MIRACLE Project in Malawi with her bumper harvest of improved soybean, the seeds of which were provided to her by the project. Photo by Jeffrey T Oliver, IITA.

From the DDG-R4D	4	Keeping a banana menace in check	42
		Capacity building and publications	44
Central Africa	6	Southern Africa	48
From the Director	7	From the Director	49
The Central Africa Hub at a glance	8	The Southern Africa Hub at a glance	50
Central Africa: potentials and challenges	9	The need for a hub	51
Our vision of success	9	Our vision of success: a region primed for growth	51
Our human assets	9	Our human assets: responding to the agricultural	
Our partners	10	R&D challenges of the region	52
Contacts	11	Our partners	53
Research highlights	12	Our projects in Southern Africa	54
Enhancing the availability of planting materials		Contacts	55
of improved banana varieties in Burundi	13	Research highlights	56
REALU: effective landscape-based strategies		In Zambia: aflatoxins no more!	57
for REDD+ for the Efoulan Council	14	Stemming an invasion of cassava diseases	59
Controlling banana bunchy top in Cameroon	15	A southern MIRACLE	61
Cassava micro-chips: synonym for high quality		Capacity building and publications	68
fermented cassava flour in DR Congo	17		
Boosting the productivity of cassava-		Western Africa	74
based systems in the DR Congo through		From the Director	75
Integrated Soil Fertility Management	18	The Western Africa Hub at a glance	78
New varieties released	21	Our partners	79
Capacity building and publications	22	Contacts	81
		Research highlights	84
Eastern Africa	30	A “cottage industry” in Bénin for the	
From the Director	31	production of natural enemies of <i>Maruca</i>	
The Eastern Africa Hub at a glance	32	<i>vitrata</i> , a major pest of cowpea	85
Eastern Africa: a land of contrasts	33	Nutritional enhancement research and	
Our vision of success	33	better stress tolerance in maize	86
Our human assets	34	New approaches in genetic improvement of cassava	87
Our partners	35	Capacity building and publications	90
Our projects in Eastern Africa	36		
Contacts	37	Acronyms & abbreviations	96
Research highlights	38		
Towards safer staples	39	Research highlights contributors	100
Battling a dual threat on cassava	40		



Dr. Ylva Hillbur
Deputy Director General
Research for Development

It is with great pleasure that I present to you IITA's 2012 Regional Highlights. This report, which complements the institute's corporate annual report, showcases research-for-development activities in each of the institute's four regional hubs: Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, and Western Africa.

We work in countries that represent all the agroecological zones across sub-Saharan Africa (Figure 1). As stated in the IITA Refreshed strategy 2012-2020, our research agenda will be implemented within four impact zones, representing major agroecological zones and farming systems. These impact zones are based on: (i) the large population depending on these systems for food and nutritional security and income, (ii) an understanding of farm baseline conditions and opportunities based on past research, (iii) the need for intensification due to

high population pressure on land, (iv) the proximity to large local and regional markets and processing centers, and (v) the presence of ongoing complementary projects dealing with specific aspects of this strategy.

Already in 2000 we envisioned a decentralized IITA that would be able to better and more efficiently to do research in the countries that we work in. The Western Africa Hub was the

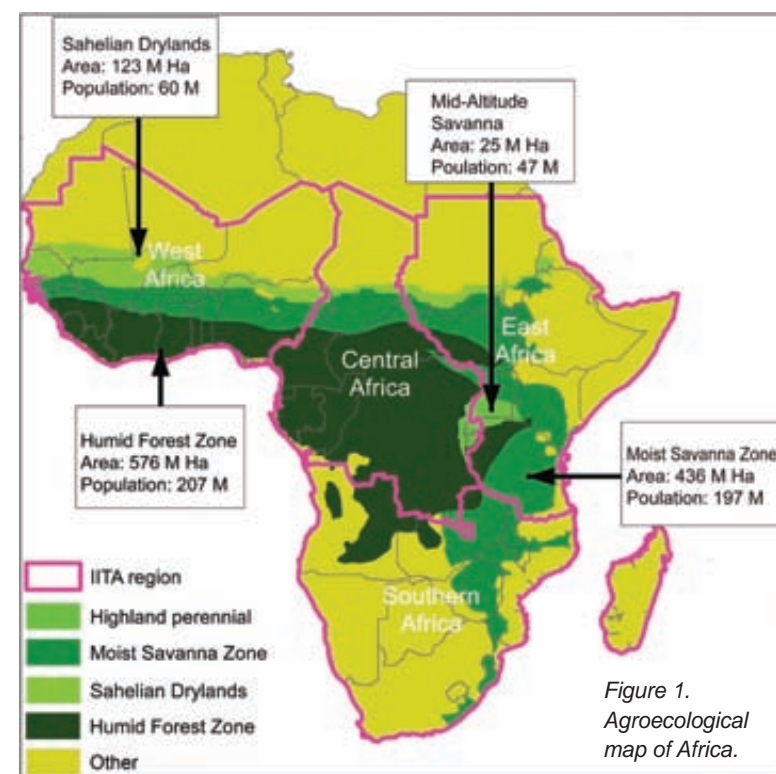


Figure 1.
Agroecological
map of Africa.

first hub established as it is also housed in Ibadan, Nigeria, where the institute's Headquarters are located. In 2008, the Eastern Africa Hub was set up in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, followed by the Southern Africa Hub in Lusaka, Zambia in 2010. The Central Africa Hub, established in 2012, is currently administered out of Nairobi, Kenya but will eventually transfer to its permanent location in Kinshasa, DR Congo.

Each Hub is administered by a regional director: Dr Bernard Vanlauwe for Central Africa, Dr Victor Manyong for Eastern Africa, Dr David Chikoye for Southern Africa, and Dr Robert Asiedu for Western Africa. The Hubs oversee the operations of our research work and projects in their respective regions (Figure 2).

The Regional Hubs represent important strategic assets to remain engaged in local and regional contexts, establishing partnerships and mobilizing resources, implementing research programs, and managing risks – in short, they define IITA as an institution.

I would like to invite you – partners, investors, and stakeholders – to read this regional highlights report, as well as the accompanying corporate annual report, to see the breadth and depth of our research for development work and impact in the past year. These reports are also in testament to your continued support of our mission and vision of a hunger- and poverty-free Africa.

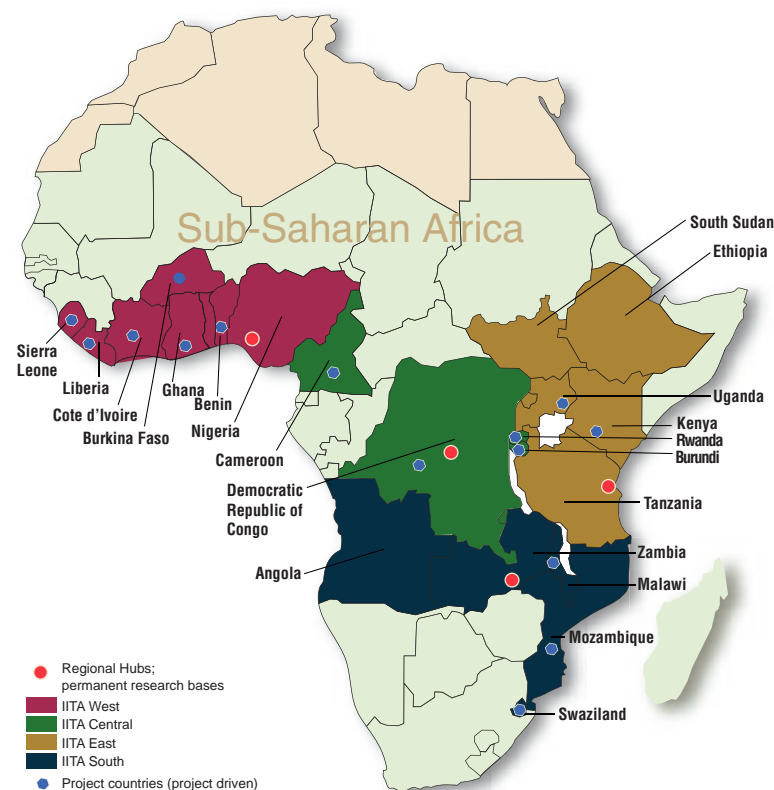


Figure 2. Our operational map indicating hub locations, regional coverage, and project countries.



**central
africa**