

The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT,

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The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT leads the Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA), operating across 31 African countries. **PABRA** aims to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by developing and disseminating nutritious bean varieties, increasing productivity, enhancing quality, and strengthening bean value chains from production to market.

The Alliance is also actively involved in Mediterranean-focused initiatives such as LEGU-MED and DiVicia, which address legume biodiversity, participatory breeding, and ecosystem services. As a global custodian of bean genetic resources, the Alliance manages approximately 38,000 accessions conserved in the Future Seeds gene bank, of which around 15,000 have been genotyped and characterized for key traits, including agro-ecological adaptation, climate resilience, and resistance to pests and disease.

Drawing on the PABRA experience, BEANS presents an opportunity to co-develop a Mediterranean–Near Eastern legume network. Proven coordination mechanisms, such as multi-country “five-corridor” approaches and national innovation platforms, can support joint planning, data sharing, accountability, and impact at scale. Similarly, PABRA’s co-investment and resource mobilization model can guide BEANS in establishing shared financing mechanisms, peer-to-peer exchanges, and collaborative learning among National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems, researchers, and private-sector actors. Through these strategies, BEANS can leverage Bioversity’s expertise to strengthen legume systems, promote sustainable agriculture, and enhance farmer livelihoods across the Mediterranean and Near Eastern regions.