

## Grain Legume Value Chains in Zambia benefit diverse stakeholders

Catherine Tanda is a 32-year-old widow with two children who has been trading beans, cowpeas, and other commodities for the past five years. She and most of her trader colleagues find themselves too busy to think about changes to what they do and how they do it, even though these changes could improve their livelihoods.



To address this challenge, a Legume Innovation Lab (formerly Pulse CRSP) funded collaborative team of Kansas State University scientists in partnership with University of Zambia faculty and graduate students, provided direct solutions to these challenges for participants and beneficiaries of a Legume Innovation Lab project in Zambia.

Their solutions engaged Tanda and a dozen other grain legume traders to provide education and support that have improved purchasing strategies using structured governance mechanisms. The group, organized in April 2012 after nearly six months of conversations and training, implemented strategies that streamlined their purchasing decisions and activities. Group members have reduced procurement costs and used their savings to increase their procurement volumes.

“My life has become a lot more comfortable since you and your friends came to help us,” Tanda tells the U.S. Lead PI, Dr. Vincent Amanor-Boadu, associate professor at Kansas State University, during a recent visit to Lusaka.

Tanda is not talking only about the higher net income she is earning but also the extra time she now has to spend with her young children because of the purchasing systems the project has helped her and other bean traders put in place.

The research team is developing expansion protocols to bring more traders into the program to increase their incomes and contribute to reducing poverty.

“The gratitude goes to the people of the United States for seeing the world beyond their borders,” Amanor-Boadu says.

For more information about this project, contact [Dr. Vincent Amanor-Boadu](#) at Kansas State University or the Management Offices of the [Legume Innovation Lab](#).

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