



PABRA Academy in Brief:

A Demand-Led Capacity- Building Framework for the Bean Corridor Approach

What is PABRA Academy?

The PABRA¹ Academy is a capacity-building initiative of PABRA aimed at addressing identified capacity-building gaps of partners along the value chain. Using the Capacity Building Framework (CBF)² of PABRA, which is aligned with the bean corridor approach³, the Academy will identify and address the knowledge and skills gaps initially with national bean researchers and expand to other actors and institutions at the three corridor hubs of production, aggregation, and consumption, while corresponding with essential activities and processes along the bean value chain.

Who is it intended for?

The comprehensive framework for capacity building will focus initially on national bean researchers and expand to market actors including innovators in the bean value addition. This strategy will emphasize individual, institutional, and systemic approaches, incorporating a mix of training, collaboration, access to resources, and networking opportunities. In its first round of support, the Academy will focus on training researchers in the National Agricultural Research Systems at the postgraduate level (masters and PhDs).

In which countries or subregions will it operate?

The Academy is intended to benefit all stakeholders in the bean value chain across the 31 PABRA member countries. The first cohort of potential beneficiaries totals to 55 and are drawn from 22 countries across the three PABRA networks of Eastern and Central Africa Bean Research Network (ECABREN), covering 9 countries; Southern Africa Bean Research Network (SABRN), covering 11 countries; and the West and Central Africa Bean Research Network (WECABREN), covering 10 countries.

What makes the Academy unique, relevant, and attractive?

- The Academy will ensure sustainability of bean research work and development by ensuring continuous training of young talent people and thus ensuring availability of next generation of professionals supporting bean research for inclusive inclusive growth through bean agro-business and investments in Africa.
- The Academy focuses on building capacity of the partners who drive business in the bean value chain right from seed production through grain production to the market. This contributes to ensuring that the private sector, which drives business, remains strong, growing, and attractive
- It connects academia/research with the industry. This ensures that the programme is perpetually relevant and impactful.

1 Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA | The Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance – <https://www.pabra-africa.org/>).

2 Capacity-Building Framework identifies the processes/activities, issues, actors (individuals, groups, institutions) and capacity gaps along the bean corridor hubs of production, aggregation and consumption and seeks to address them with the view of enhancing businesses for improved livelihoods.

3 Areas of bean intensification characterized by flows of products from production to consumption points. These intensification zones are characterized by significant bean activities that include production, distribution, and consumption, and are supported by vast networks of actors (bean commodity corridors scaling up production and market expansion for smallholders in Sub-Saharan Africa – <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/items/aa46d813-1758-4cd7-a29f-53883b08478a>).

What are the benefits it will bring?

- Vibrant work force in successive generations.
- Operationalising through the bean corridor (bean commodity corridors scaling up production and market expansion for smallholders in Sub-Saharan Africa – allbiociat.org/3Ruodi5), the Academy ensures a connection between research/academia and practice, which facilitates a feedback mechanism that will ensure continuous improvement of technologies and practices.

Which institutions are involved in its development?

- Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA) of Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (<https://www.pabra-africa.org/>) – leveraging the funding of the various PABRA prestigious prizes (Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance Wins Africa Food Prize 2023 | PABRA – <https://allbiociat.org/4jkJg2z>; Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance receives award for its contribution towards Food Security through bean research | PABRA – <https://allbiociat.org/4lmsull>).
- African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI) (<https://www.apni.net/>).

Is there a specific ask (funding, partnering, etc.)? If so, for whom?

In view of the need to grow this initiative, PABRA is in discussions with a number of possible partners. Key among them is the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) (<https://www.aciar.gov.au/>).

Meet our First Cohort

The first cohort of the PABRA Academy consists of 6 beneficiaries from 6 countries across the three PABRA networks: ECABREN, SABRN, and WECABREN. These individuals are playing a crucial role in advancing bean research and business and strengthening the bean value chain and its impact across Africa.



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