



**USAID**  
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**MOZAMBIQUE**

## CASE STUDY

# Soybean Research Reaps Benefits

**High soybean demand is now being met by local farmers who are planting improved crops and being linked to new markets.**



Credit: Dr. Steve Boahen, IITA / Mozambique

*High-yielding soybean varieties like this one have proven to grow well in Mozambique and bring additional income to farmers.*

### Challenge

The poultry and livestock industries in Mozambique demand at least 40,000 metric tons of soybeans for feed every single year. In the past, demand was largely being met by imported soybeans from Argentina and Brazil as Mozambique did not have enough supply. Despite this high demand and profit potential, Mozambican farmers have not been focusing on soybean production because of lack of access to high-yielding soybean seeds and lack of information on better crop and soil management. In addition, soybeans are neither an indigenous crop nor a part of the daily diet.

### Initiative

With USAID support, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), in collaboration with Mozambique's national agricultural research institute (IIAM) has led groundbreaking research to identify soybean types that grow well in Mozambique, which has diverse soil types country-wide. The project screened over 300 different soybean varieties to determine how well they performed in different locations, including their yield potential, drought tolerance, and pest and disease resistance. Agriculture experts from IITA then worked with farmers and communities to share information on the best soybean types for their area, and taught new technologies to produce crops with higher nutritional value. Farmers planted the new soybean varieties on demonstration plots, compared the new crops with the old, and provided feedback to IITA and IIAM.

### Results

Farmers are continuing to learn more about better crop management practices such as the best time to plant, row spacing, plant population, and pest and disease control. Thanks to USAID support to agriculture research, soybean production has not only increased across the country, but farmers also continue to test different varieties to find those with the highest potential. Seeds from the best soybean varieties are produced, stored and distributed in communities. It is expected that the top five soybean varieties will be officially registered and released next year through the National Variety Release Committee.