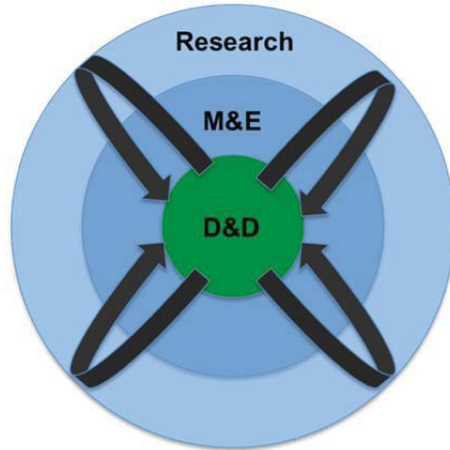


Supplementary Grant to N2Africa from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

N2Africa is a learning grant through which we hope to deliver technologies for enhancing nitrogen fixation in grain and forage legumes in farmers' fields to contribute to improved livelihoods. As illustrated in the diagram below – dissemination and delivery (D&D) form the core of the project activities. M&E provides the data on D&D that allows us to research the underlying reasons for performance of technologies, or for adoption by farmers, and the overall impacts of the N₂Africa project. Thus we like to refer to N2Africa as a “development to research project” rather than a research for development project.



Given the large investment in dissemination activities and the scale of the activities, N₂Africa offers a unique opportunity for the systematic collection of information on the performance of legumes under farmers' conditions in Africa, as well as detailed investigations in who benefits from legume technologies and what is necessary to make commercialisation of legumes work. This

information is the basis to improve the targeting of legume-based technologies to African farmers. As far as we are aware, the N₂Africa project is the only project currently running in sub-Saharan Africa offering such possibilities at the scale we are working and across a range of countries.

Based on the successful start of the project, Dr Prem Warrior, our Senior Program Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has assisted us in obtaining a supplementary grant of US\$1.3M for two main activities:

1) To extend the activities of N₂Africa to three new countries: Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda.

A major thrust in 2012 will be to seek partners in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda and to start preliminary activities with farmers groups in the field. Our first activities will focus on building partnerships through scoping missions and workshops. We are already in touch with a number of organisations in these countries and if you think you can help us – please feel free to get in touch with Esther Ronner (Esther.Ronner@wur.nl) who is introduced in this Podcaster below.

2) To enhance the learning from current dissemination activities in N₂Africa.

The expanded activities in N₂Africa will focus on new detailed measurements, monitoring and evaluation within the current dissemination activities of the project. For this purpose a new research assistant is being recruited in each of the current eight N2Africa countries. New activities will be established to solve problems of non-responsive soils that have been encountered, and to probe more deeply as to which farmers are benefiting the most, and how we can best assist the poorest in the communities where we are working. This will include

some specific studies on gender and on household nutrition, including food shares within households.