

BILL & MELINDA GATES **AGRICULTURAL** INNOVATIONS

# SIDE EVENT

### FAO SCIENCE AND INNOVATION FORUM 2022

# Innovation as a Catalyst for Seed System Change: Insect Resistant Cowpea for West Africa

SAMPEA 20-T, a new genetically modified cowpea variety with resistance to Maruca pod borer, has been developed to specifically meet the needs of smallholder farmers.

Commercially launched on a very small scale in July 2021 in Nigeria, ~7.5 mt of certified seed sold out within a week – a clear indication of overwhelming demand. Increasing the availability of SAMPEA 20-T seed demonstrates the need for, and opportunities associated with, improving quality seed production.

Using next generation cowpea as a case study, this event explores how public and private sector partners are driving approaches to ensure smallholder access to new crop innovations.

## Register here: bit.ly/SeedInnovation

# Thursday, October 13, 2022 15.00 - 16.00 CET

## **Speakers:**

#### Mrs. Gloria A. Adazebra

Research Scientist, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research - Savanna Agriculture Research Institute (Ghana)

#### Dr. Robert Bertram

Chief Scientist, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (USA)

#### Dr. T.J. Higgins

Honorary Fellow, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) (Australia)

#### Prof. Mohammad Ishiyaku

Executive Director, Institute for Agricultural Research, Ahmadu Bello University (Nigeria)

#### Dr. Emmanuel Okogbenin

Director, Program Development and Commercialization, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (Kenya)

#### Dr. Johnson Ehima Onyibe

Director, Research and Planning, National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services, Ahmadu Bello University (Nigeria)

#### **Dr. Joe Cornelius**

Chief Executive Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Agricultural Innovations (USA)

#### Ms. Katie Taft (Moderator)

Communications Lead, Bill & Melinda Gates Agricultural Innovations (USA)