

MALAWI

Reducing hunger and poverty



A display stall at the Innovation Open Forum attracts visitors. Photo: L Lazarus, ICRISAT

Newly-introduced ‘Double up legume technology’: This involves intercropping pigeonpea and groundnut. Due to this intervention, the average yield increased from 800 kg to 1,100 kg per hectare. The technology will be used to promote pigeonpea in the crop’s non-traditional areas, namely, the central region of Malawi where groundnuts are the main legume.

New dryland cereal and legume varieties: This included 12 ICRISAT-bred groundnut varieties, as well as promising sorghum and millet materials in the pipeline with potential to boost production in the drought prone areas of Malawi. Efforts that are underway, in collaboration with the Nairobi and Ethiopia programs, to fast-track the release of chickpea varieties for commercial production in Malawi was highlighted during discussions.

Aflatoxin management intervention: This has opened doors for legume exports in Zambia. Previously farmers were producing legumes with aflatoxin levels way above international standard. Other technologies that were showcased included agronomy and small farm mechanization, post-harvest handling and food safety technologies focusing on aflatoxins and nutrition, as well as management tools for programs and research activities.

Groundnut shelling machine: The newly developed groundnut shelling machine is reported to have reduced shelling time by 90%.

<http://www.icrisat.org/showcasing-agricultural-innovations-in-malawi/>