Grass pea in Winter Fallows for Fodder, Food & Nutrition Security in Tribal Areas in Odisha





Spineless Cactus in Hilly/ Degraded Lands and Grass pea in Winter Fallows for Fodder, Food & Nutrition Security in Tribal Areas in Odisha Project

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Background

In the context of climate change, the food and fodder availability for both human beings and livestock is being severely affected due to declining land productivity. Around 30% of India's total geographical area is under degradation and climate change is the main driver behind it. As per the National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, soil degradation in India is estimated to be occurring on 147 million ha of land. The situation is affecting more to small and marginal farmers who depend on multiple subsistence livelihood options including livestock rearing.

The Economic Survey of Odisha published in Feb 2021 reveals that the area under fallow land has increased to 10.79 lakh ha in 2019-20 from 10.47 lakh ha in 2018-19. In the context of climate change, due to prolonged droughts, frequent dry spells and desertification, the rural poor and smallholders are getting heavily affected.

The enhanced livestock productivity has a direct bearing on the rural economy. Evidences indicate that feed-related problems accounted for about 36 percent loss (per annum in value terms) in dairy animals and losses due to scarcity of dry and green fodder were estimated to be 11.6 percent and 12.3 percent, respectively (Birthal and Jha 2005).

As per the report submitted by State Level Task Force on Agriculture Development, in Odisha, there is a 55% shortage of green fodder. Based on production statistics, the green fodder availability is 13 million tons against the requirement of 28.7 million tons. Similarly, there is a shortfall of dry fodder by 50% (Rejuvenation of Agriculture, GoO). The scarcity affects the animal productivity most during drier months and hence calls for interventions to make green fodder available during those scarce days.

ICARDA and the Government of Odisha (Directorate of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Department) have joined hands to make the productive use of degraded hilly and wastelands. This initiative has been taken up in collaboration with different research and resource agencies to promote spineless cactus in degraded and wastelands for enhancing fodder availability and grass pea to improve livelihood security of poor and marginal households. The project contributes to the CGIAR thematic areas on increased food and nutrition security for better health and sustainable management of natural resources. The project contributes to the CGIAR to food and nutrition security for better health and sustainable management of natural resources.

1.1 Goal

Productive use of hilly degraded/ wastelands, and winter crop fallows; and livelihood enhancement through the production of multipurpose spineless cactus and grass pea for fodder, food, and value-added products in the Indian state of Odisha.

1.2 Objectives

- a. Introduction and multiplication of local suitable spineless cactus and grass pea species;
- b. Standardize zero-till, agronomy, harvest, food/ fodder/ feeding/ value addition strategy;
- c. Productive use of waste, degraded, winter fallow land, and enhanced community livelihood;
- d. Capacity building of community, department, CBOs, and other stakeholders;
- e. Science publications and papers on project impacts;





1.3 Strategy

ICARDA collaborates with agencies/ partners having repute in both research and outscaling. It also pulls in its in-house skills and competencies for smooth and effective implementation. ICARDA, over the last three years, has been collaborating with OUAT, other research agencies, local communities, and CBOs under this project.

The strategies being followed under the project are illustrated in the chart.

1.4 Geographical Spread of the Project

The project is being intensively implemented in 144 villages of 36 Gram Panchayats of 18 blocks in 6 districts of Odisha. In the extensive districts like Ganjam, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, and Khordha, only

foundation nurseries have been established.

Based on the performance and acceptability of the fodder cactus by the local livestock, agencies & individuals from districts like Keonjhar, Jajpur, Sambalpur, Nuapada, Dhenkanal, Kendrapada, and Cuttack are showing interest to take up similar nurseries and plantation activities.



Figure 1: Map on project districts





Fodder Grasspea Demonstration

Apart from promoting spineless cactus, the project also aims at ensuring food and nutrition security of the small & marginal farmers by promoting grass pea in winter fallows.

During this year, grass pea demonstration has been undertaken in 284.4 ha covering 878 nos. of beneficiaries. Since the inception of the project, grass pea has been cultivated in 1155.2 ha across all six project districts.

Sl. No.	District	2020-21		
		Area (Ha.)	Farmers	
1	Balasore	30	101	
2	Mayurbhanj	60	151	
3	Bolangir	50	140	
4	Kalahandi	55	79	
5	Koraput	42.6	158	
6	Rayagada	46.8	249	
	Total	284.4	878	

7.1 Socioeconomic Impacts of Grasspea

To assess the socioeconomic impacts of the grass pea, a sample survey was conducted using the KOBO tool to collect primary information from 479 nos. of farmers. The key findings of the study are as follows;

- The sample survey (N= 479) indicates that the average production of ICARDA promoted grass pea is 6.9 q/ ha which is 25.45% higher than the local varieties which were found to be 5.5 q/ ha.
- Around 97.7% of farmers went for paira method of cultivation
- 74.1% of farmers have cultivated grass pea in lands that used to remain vacant till the next crop
- 2.1% of farmers have cultivated in the land which was not being used for any purpose before the project intervention i.e., new area brought under cultivation
- Around 96.9% of farmers adopted seed priming while 95.6% treated the seed before sowing and 62.7% of farmers applied 2% DAP spray
- The average income (net cash flow by selling of grains, green twigs, and stover, etc) from grass pea was found to be Rs. 8000 per ha. Apart from these, all farmers have kept seeds for their consumption, the seed for next season and to share with friends & relatives



• It has been found that the frequency of grass pea dal consumption has improved at household levels after the intervention of the project. Before the project intervention, 68.1% were consuming grass pea dal 1-2 times per week and 12.1% were consuming 3-5 times per week. Now, 14% are consuming 1-2 times per week and 65.6% of households are consuming 3-5 times per week. Similarly, before the project, 19.6% of households were not consuming grass pea dal at all which has reduced to 10% indicating the positive impacts of project towards household food and nutrition security.











GRASS PEA

bridging gaps between agricultural seasons

Case studies

Grass pea, scientifically termed as Lathyrus sativus belongs to legume family and is predominantly grown in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal & Ethipia for both human consumption as well as fodder for livestock. Being a hardy crop, it can thrive well under varied climatic, soil & moisture conditions and thus often called as insurance crop.

The landraces used to contain higher ODAP which causes lathyrism, a neurodegenerative disease if taken as primary food for prolonged period. However, many varieties have been developed through research and developments to reduce ODAP content and it in large scale as a crop for food and fodder. Varieties like Ratan, Prateek, Mahateora etc are gaining popularity across multiple states of India due to their low to negligible ODAP content and higher production potential as compared the farmers' varieties. In many instances this has been found most suitable to be grown in the rice fallow fields to optimize utilization of residual moisture, additional income to farmers and to improve cropping intensity under a sustainable rice- farming system.

Grass pea performs best where the average temperature is 10- 25 °C with average rainfall of 400 to 650mm per annum. However, it is not much affected by excess rainfall. Like other legumes it also helps in nitrogen fixation in the soil but is less prone to pests & insect attack. The farmers in many instances opine that the nitrogen fixing ability of grass pea leads to higher production of the subsequent main crop in the field.

Grass pea is a source of high starch & protein. In India, grass pea is consumed in many forms like boiled green pods, tender leaves and twigs as vegetables, dal/ soup from spilt grains, snacks prepared from its flour and many more local recipes. In addition to these, grass pea produces high biomass which is an excellent source of protein- rich fodder for the animals that can be mixed with other local feeds and fodders to get good results in terms of animal productivity.



ICARDA has been promoting high biomass grass pea in 14 districts of Odisha since last three years. through this project various high yielding, low ODAP content varieties like Prateek, Ratan, and Mahateora have been promoted to assess its performance in farmers' fields.

ICARDA has also conducted Gram Panchayat level participatory trials of these varieties under various management and treatment combinations so as to arrive at agroclimate based recommended practices in Odisha context. The project has also promoted various yield enhancing practices like seed treatment, seed priming, application of rhizobium culture, critical irrigation, 2% DAP spray etc.

ICARDA has conducted primary survey to understand the crop performance in farmers' fields. The followings are some of the key findings of that assessment process.

- * The sample survey (N= 479) indicates that the average production of ICARDA promoted grass pea is 25.45% higher than the local varieties
- * Around 97.7% of farmers adopted paira method of cultivation and thus optimum utilization of residual moisture of the paddy fields
- * 74.1% of farmers have cultivated grass pea in lands that used to remain vacant till the next crop indicating more area under crop & increased cropping intensity
- * 2.1% of farmers have cultivated in the land which was not being used for any purpose before the project intervention i.e., new area brought under cultivation
- * Around 96.9% of farmers adopted seed priming while 95.6% treated the seed before sowing and 62.7% of farmers applied 2% DAP spray
- * The average income (net cash flow by selling of grains, green twigs/leaves, and stover, etc) from grass pea was found to be Rs. 8000 per ha. Apart from these, all farmers have kept seeds for their consumption, the seed for next season and to share with friends & relatives
- * It has been found that the frequency of grass pea dal consumption has improved at household levels after the intervention of the project. Before the project intervention, 68.1% were consuming grass pea dal 1-2 times per week and 12.1% were consuming 3-5 times per week. Now, 14% are consuming 1-2 times per week and 65.6% of households are consuming 3-5 times per week. Similarly, before the project, 19.6% of households were not consuming grass pea dal at all which has reduced to 10% indicating the positive impacts of project towards household food and nutrition security.

Bighnaraj Rout

Jhaptupalli, Bolangir

Bighnaraj, a small farmer of Jhaptupalli village of Patnagarh, manages his family of 8 members from agriculture. Out of the 6 acres of land, he manages to grow paddy in 4 acres and vegetables in 2 acres and gets an annual income of around 1,80,000. However, his paddy land was lying vacant post harvest due to many challenges like lack of irrigation, lack of awareness on low water demanding crops and quality seeds.

Since last two years, after the intervention of ICARDA, Bighnaraj has been cultivating the Prateek variety of grass pea in rice-fallow land. The production has been consistently good. This year he got 2.4 q out of which he returned 25 kg to the VSH from which he had sourced the seed, kept 50 kg for household consumption, 25 kg was distributed to friends and relatives. He got Rs. 6800 by selling to local trader in two phases. Apart from grass pea grains, he also got stover to meet the feed requirement of his 4 cows for one month.

Being a progressive and innovative farmer, Bighnaraj also tried mustard along with grass pea and got 15 kg of mustard seeds for household consumption. Farmers from Mudghat & Bhalupita visited his field to get exposure.



Chhabil Pradhan

Jhaptupalli, Bolangir

Chhabil Pradhan a small farmer of Jhaptupalli village of Bhainsa GP of Patnagarh block in Bolangir district. A family of six members survive on 5 acres of land out of which he used to grow rain fed paddy in 4 acres and vegetables in 1 acre. He manages to get an annual income of around 1,35,000. Lack of irrigation facilities compels Chhabil to leave the lands fallow soon after the harvest of paddy. As per Chhabil, though the produced paddy is sufficient to meet the family requirement round the year, he used to depend on the market for pulse. Being inspired by the activities of ICARDA, Chhabil took up grass pea cultivation since last two years. He cultivated Prateek variety in 0.5 ha of land got 2.68 guintal in 2019-20 and 2.2 guintal in 2020-21. In the year 2019-20, apart from paying back 25 kg seeds to VSH, distributing 25 kg among the relatives and keeping 38 kg for household consumption, he could sell 1.8 quintal in two phases and got Rs. 6800. This year also he paid back to VSH, distributed among the relatives & friends and sold 1 quintal for Rs. 3500. However, this year he kept 70 kg for household consumption. This year, the unprecedented rain affected the crop leading to reduced production.

As per Chhabil, the grass pea stover is sufficient to meet the fodder requirement of his 2 bullocks and 2 cows for one month.



Seta Sahoo Dangaghat, Bolangir

Seta Sahu, a small farmer of Dangaghat village of Tusurabahal gram panchayat of Bolangir district earns around Rs. 1,60,000 from his 5 acres of land by growing paddy, and vegetables. He also used to grow green gram of IPM 2-14 varietny in around one- acre land with the support from ICARDA project. Still some part of his paddy land being black in nature, used to remain vacant due to difficulties in tillage. Based on the technical advises of the ICARDA field staffs, he has been cultivating grass pea in that land since last two years. In Rabi 2019-20, Seta cultivated Prateek variety of grass pea in 0.5 ha and got 260 kg as final production. He sold 200 kg in the local market @ Rs. 40 per kg and got Rs. 8000 as additional income. Apart from that, he kept 35 kg for household consumption and returned 25 kg to the VSH from which he had borrowed the seeds. Again, in Rabi 2020-21, he also cultivated same variety in the same land and got 230 kg as final production. This time he sold 160 kg to the local trader, kept 30 kg for own consumption, returned 25 kg to the VSH and distributed 15 kg among the friends & relatives. The selling fetched him Rs. 6400 additional incomes. The good performance of the crop in his field, attracted farmers of nearby villages too. Seta used the stover as feed for his two- miching cows which meet his fodder requirement for around one month. Seta is quite happy by getting the additional income from the land which used to remain vacant as well as the protein rich stover as cattle feed which he found being very much palatable by his cows.

"The Grasspea is a suitable crop for rice fallows particularly where the excess soil moisture in black soil poses threat in taking up next crop soon after paddy harvesting. It is a suitable crop for our land type and also supplements in terms of meeting the annual pulse requirements at household levels as well as a source of fodder for our livestock" *Mr.* Seta Sahu of Dangaghta village of

Mr. Seta Sahu of Dangaghta village of Patanagarh block.



Gajraj Rout

Mayabarha, Bolangir

The six-member family of Gajraj, a small farmer of Mayabarha village of Bolangir manage their living from 3-acre low land and 2-acre upland by growing paddy and groundnut. By doing so, he manages to get an average income of around Rs. 1,11, 000. He used to grow local grass pea & green gram at small scale for his household consumption before he came to know about ICARDA's interventions around grass pea crop. In 2018-19 he cultivated local variety in 0.5 ha of land and got 120 kg as final production and sold the entire amount for Rs. 3000 @ Rs. 2500 per quintal. However, in 2019-20 he took up ICARDA promoted Prateek variety in 0.5 ha. To his surprise, he got 310 kg production which is 75% more than the local one. Because of good grain size, he got better price from the traders and sold 250 kg @ Rs. 3500 per quintal and receive Rs. 8750. Apart from keeping 30 kg for own consumption, he distributed 30 kg among his relatives and friends. As per Gajraj, production would have been more had there been no unprecedented rainfall during flowering stage. Similarly, in 2020-21, he got 240 kg production and sold off 180 kg @ Rs.3500 per quintal and got Rs. 6300.

Apart from selling the grains, Gajraj got stover which was sufficient to meet the fodder requirement of 2 bullock for one month. This supplemented a lot in arranging fodder during summer season.



Parameshwara Mohanta

Shamakhunta, Mayurbhanj



Parameshwara Mohanta, a marginal farmer of Sinduragoura village manages his family of four by cultivating paddy, green gram, black gram and local grass pea in his 1.5-acre land. Being inspired by the community level discussions on ICARDA interventions by the field team, he took up Prateek variety in 0.5acre land in 2018-19. By sowing 10 kg of seed in paira method, he got 200 kg which was 1.5 times the local variety. In the following year, he increased the area and cultivated in 1 acre of land by using 20 kg seed. Parameshwara, sold 80 kg green leaves of grass pea in local market @ Rs. 100 per kg and got Rs. 8000. From the final harvest, he got 480 kg grain of which he kept 80 kg for household consumption, 20 kg for seed purpose and sold rest 380 in the local market @ Rs. 40 per kg. He also sold the stover @ Rs. 50 per bag and got Rs. 500. In total, he got Rs. 23, 700 by cultivating grass pea in one acre by spending Rs.2790 towards cost of cultivation. As per Parameshwar, he feels that the nutrient status of his land has improved by cultivating grass pea and also the expenditure towards purchase of dal for household consumption has decreased substantially.



Ganapati Bhuyan

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Badadeula, Gajapati

Ganapati, a small farmer of Badadeula village of Bomika GP of Gosani block in Gajapati district. Though a seasoned farmer at his late fifties, most part of his land remained fallow after the harvest of paddy. He has the experience of growing many crops like paddy, and oil seeds like groundnut as well as sunflower but has limited experience of growing pulses. Being inspired by the repeated community level meetings, he showed interest and grew grass pea in 0.5 acre of land. He followed all the technical advices related to crop husbandry and participated in the various training programs conducted by ICARDA too. His labour and dedication led to a production of 242 kg of grass pea from 0.5 acres of land. the economic analysis shows that by spending Rs. 2120 towards cost of cultivation, Mr. Bhuyan got Rs. 8470 i.e., a net profit of Rs. 6350 by selling grass pea grains @ Rs. 35 at local rate.

> Being inspired by the crop performance and output, Bhuyan has been motivating his fellow farmers to take up grass pea in rice fallow areas and has decided to take up grass pea in entire 3 acres of fallow lands from coming season.

Nilamadhaba Mohanty

Nimigan, Hinjilicut, Ganjam

Nilamadhaba Mohanty, a small farmer of Nimigaon village of Darubhadra Gram Panchayat of Hinjilicut block of Ganjam. He often faces difficult to fulfil his family's requirements and thus both his sons used to migrate to Chennai to work as labours. He, his wife and daughter used to do agricultural activities to survive. His limited resources limit him from adopting various new crops and technologies. When ICARDA started its work in his village, Nilamadhaba attended all community level meetings and got convinced about taking up grass pea in rice fallows. He took 20 kg of Prateek variety seeds and grew in one acre of land. He followed all advices and adopted paira method of cultivation. He also adopted all yield enhancing practices like seed treatment & priming, rhizobium culture, and application of 2% DAP. The result was astounding. He got 325 kg grass pea from one acre of land. By investing Rs. 4240 towards cost of cultivation, Nilamadhaba got Rs.11,375 i.e., a net income of Rs.7,135 by selling the grains @Rs.35 at local market rate.



Arjuna Bhoi Jatla, Bargarh

Arjun Bhoi, head of a five-member family of Tukurla village of Chadeigaon Gram Pachayat of Bhatli block in Bargarh district, manages his family from 5-acre irrigated lands. By growing kharif paddy, he gets a net income of Rs. 1,35,000. He grows vegetables in small scale too. However, during winter his fields used to remain fallow due to lack of irrigation. Without any prior experience of growing pulses, Arjun took up grasspea in 2020-21 after being motivated by the ICARDA field team members. He grew Ratan variety in one acre of land and got 225 kg as final production. Apart from keeping for seed purpose for next season & distribution among friends & relatives, Arjun got Rs. 1125 by selling the grass pea in local market. Further, he also sold the stover to fellow farmers and got Rs. 450 from it. Though the lower local market rate could not fetch much, Arjun seem to be happy by the crop performance, additional income and seeds for own cultivation and low cost of cultivation with limited labour input requirement in growing grasspea. He hopes the market rate will improve in coming years and he will get better income from it.



Giridhari Nuapalli, Bargarh

Giridhari, a marginal farmer of Nuapalli Village of Bargarh manages his family of four from agriculture by leasing-in additional 14 acres of rainfed land. By cultivating paddy in 12-acre land, he manages to get 300 quintals with a net profit of 2,85,000 per annum. Apart from paddy he also grows vegetables, groundnut & mustard crops. Despite being a seasoned farmer, most of his lands remain fallow during post- harvest season. Giridhari got inspired by the ICARDA field team members and took up Ratan variety of grasspea during Rabi 2020-21 in 1 acre and got 240 kg as final production. being inspired by the crop performance and output, Giridhari decided not to sell except distributing a small portion among the friends and relatives. He has also kept aside some portion for seed purpose to be used in next season. Five fellow farmers of the village also got inspired and have taken 5 kg

each from Giridhari to try in their fields. Giridhari has been very happy and has been encouraging other farmers of the village to take up ICARDA promoted grass pea crops.



Shishupal Sahu

Nuapalli, Bargarh

Sishupal Sahu of Nuapali village of S. Dumerpalli Gram Panchayat of Bargarh district is a marginal farmer having only 2 acres of unirrigated land. He often faces difficulty to meet the requirements of his five- member family. By cultivating paddy, he merely gets little more than Rs. 50,000 per annum. He also works as daily wage labour for additional income for his family. Though he used to take up small scale vegetable cultivation along with local grass pea, most part of his lands used remain fallow after the harvest of paddy due to lack of facilities like irrigation, technical know-hows, stray animal menace, low market price of agricultural produces and fund to take up additional crops. In this context, when ICARDA started working in his village, Sishupal got inspired and took up the advanced variety like Ratan during Rabi 2019-20. Despite the damage by stray animals and monkeys, he got 204 kg grasspea. He kept aside 10 kg for seed purpose, 10 kg distributed among the other interested farmers of his village and rest for his household consumption. He also sold stover worth Rs. 400 to livestock rearers of his village.

Though a marginal farmer, Sishupal has merged as a source of inspiration for the farmers of his locality by motivating to take up the improved varieties promoted by ICARDA which can fetch additional income from the rice-fallow lands.



Descriptor	Variety	Min	Max	Mean
Sowing to dormination (No of Dave)	Prateek	3	13	5
Sowing to germination (No of Days)	Ratan	2	11	6
Cormination to flowering (No of Days)	Prateek	33	79	52
dermination to nowering (No or Days)	Ratan	33	90	51
Flowering to Ded Initiation (No of Down)	Prateek	3	20	9
Flowering to Pod Initiation (No of Days)	Ratan	4	24	10
Pad initiation to maturity (No of Days)	Prateek	10	37	20
1 ou mitiation to maturity (No of Days)	Ratan	8	38	19
Sowing to harvest (No of Days)	Prateek	105	132	118
bowing to narvest (no of Days)	Ratan	104	153	120
Plant Height (am)	Prateek	22	80	49.8
	Ratan	22	82	51.9
Branchos / plant	Prateek	5	78	12
branches/ plant	Ratan	6	25	10
Dod Longth (om)	Prateek	1.5	9	3.3
rod Length (cm)	Ratan	1.9	9	3.3
Souda / nod	Prateek	3	6	4
Seeds/ pod	Ratan	3	7	4
Sood woight (gm)	Prateek	6	120	71.2
	Ratan	5	125	77.3
Avg viold / ha	Prateek	1.5	14.5	7.7
	Ratan	2.4	17.5	8.5

Biometric Parameters of key varieties promoted

Personal information including Name, Business Title, Email, Phones, Images and GPS points included in this report have been authorized in writing or verbally by the data subject.

The Organizers



Directorate of Soil Conservation & Watershed Development (DSC&WD), Odisha has its headquarters in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It is the state level nodal agency for implementing Watershed Development component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), and is dedicated towards the soil, water and natural resources conservation, management, education, research and extension in the state of Odisha, India. The efforts and programs of the Department are aimed not only at providing soil cover to mitigate accumulated soil erosion, but also at providing the rural and farming communities with basic amenities, infrastructures and incentives for creating sustainable alternative farming systems with a view to wean them away from the destructive traditional methods of cultivation as well as uplifting the socio-economic status at large. Convergence with MGNREGS and various schematic programs of the line departments also provides opportunities for comprehensive area development and wider impacts across the sectors. For more information, visit, http://www.soilconservationorissa.gov.in/)



Government of Odisha (ଓଡିଶା ସରକାର) governs the state of Odisha in the Republic of India. The state government has various well established departments to undertake the integral development of the state. The head of state of Odisha is the Governor, appointed by the President of India on the advice of the Central government , who heads the council of ministers, a judiciary, and a legislative branch.. The Chief Minister is the head of the council of the ministers and is vested with most of the executive powers. The State High Court is located in Cuttack. The legislative assembly of Odisha is unicameral, consisting of 147 members of the legislative assembly (MLA); (for details on various government initiatives, please visit, http://www.odisha.gov.in/portal/default.asp).



ICARDA (International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas) established in 1977 is one of the 15 such centres supported by the CGIAR and mandated to promote agricultural development in the dry areas of the development and delivery of new technologies for sustainable growth in agriculture, in a partnership and multi-stakeholder approach, working in 50 countries. Its research and training activities cover crop improvement, water and land management, integrated crop-livestock-range land management, and climate change adaptation. The ICARDA gene bank holds over 155000 accessions from over 110 countries: traditional varieties, improved germ plasm, and a unique set of wild crop relatives of food legumes such as chickpea, lentil, fieldpea and fababean, wheat, barley, oats and other cereals, forage crops, range land plants, and wild relatives of each these species. ICARDA works in strong partnership with national agricultural research systems, Government Ministries, Community Linked Institutions; (For details, please visit: http://www.icarda.org/).