APBAConf2025 Side Event

On-Farm Validation Testing in CGIAR–NARES Breeding Networks

Theme: Scaling on-farm testing in breeding pipelines with the tricot approach

Venue: Elephant Hills Resort, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Background

On-farm validation testing is a key component of demand-led breeding. It directly informs breeding product management by identifying which products perform best in target environments and use contexts. It also generates insights into farmers' and consumers' preferences and constraints, guiding the prioritization and design of new breeding products.

Historically, on-farm trials have been underfunded, and their results underutilized in breeding decision-making. However, recent innovations — digital platforms, citizen science methods, and public environmental data — have opened new possibilities.

In 2012, the **tricot approach** (triadic comparisons of technologies) was developed, supported by the digital platform **ClimMob**. This has since evolved into the **1000FARMS project**, a collaboration between the Alliance, IITA, CIMMYT, WUR, and multiple NARES partners across Africa, with support from the Gates Foundation. This session will present new approaches, lessons learned, and open questions on scaling on-farm testing in breeding networks.

Objectives

- Bring overall enthusiasm for on-farm testing
- Address concerns and feedback
- Share ideas on accelerating scaling
- Stimulate interest in trainings and new types of analysis

Topics

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- Overview of on-farm testing and tricot
- Multi-trial analysis of on-farm variety ranking data
- Breeding for social impact: cassava trait preferences through citizen science and socioeconomic analysis
- Building horizontal networks of trust: motivations of crop users to join tricot
- Panel discussion with CGIAR Senior Officers