

Meet the TL II Advisory Board



Tropical Legumes II (TL II) is a joint project of three IARCs - ICRISAT (chickpea, groundnut & pigeonpea), CIAT (common bean and part of soybean), and IITA (cowpea & soybean) and is being implemented in partnership with NARS, NGOs, CBOs, and the private sector in nine pilot countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia (see www.tropicallegumes.org for further details).

The project is managed by ICRISAT, on behalf of the three IARCs. The Project Management Team (PMT), comprising of eight Objective Coordinators of the Project and the Project Manager, is responsible for implementing the planned project activities, along with Principal Investigators and partners in the project countries. The Advisory Board (AB) is tasked to oversee the project via reviewing the progress of

activities and achievements and making recommendations to PMT on issues of technical priorities and relevance, to achieve impacts.

The AB is composed of four independent experts, four officials each representing the three CG Centers and BMGF, project manager of TL I, and the project manager of TL II serving as secretary to the AB. The mix of expertise of the independent AB members includes one reputed legumes expert each for global, sub-Saharan, and South Asia regions, and one seed systems expert. The independent experts were nominated by the PMT and appointed by ICRISAT. Representatives of the organizations were nominated by their respective institutions.

The following is short bio-data of each of the AB members.

Dr. Subramanyam Shanmugasundaram



Dr. Shanmugasundaram, affectionately known to his friends as 'Sundar', joined the AB representing a reputed

legumes expert for South Asia. He was elected chairman of the AB during its first meeting on 29 September to 03 October 2008, in Addis Ababa.

Dr. Sundar has a rich experience in agricultural research for development. He obtained his PhD from Kyushu University in 1981 with a major in crop science; his MS in plant pathology from University of Wisconsin (1971); another MS in horticulture from University of Hawaii (1968); MSc in Agriculture (Plant Breeding and Cytogenetics) from University of Madras (1964); and BSc in agriculture from University of Madras (1961).

He has held several appointments, including Chair of Center Commissioned External Review of Research on Global Themes on Crop Improvement and Management, and Harnessing Biotechnology for the Poor for the period 2002-2006 (April/May 2007); Deputy Director General for Research at AVRDC (May 2003-April 2005); and Secretary to AVRDC Board of Directors from 1995 to 2006. He was the Chair of the Continuing Committee for World Soybean Research Conference from 1989 to 1999. He has produced more than 267 publications.

Dr. Peter Q. Craufurd



Dr. Sundar has also worked as both research leader and breeder for soybean and other legumes during the period from 1972 to 2006. Through his efforts NARS released 39 vegetable soybean varieties in 15 countries and 112 mungbean varieties in 27 countries. He helped extend the improved mungbeans to nearly 3 million ha and benefited 1.5 million farmers in Asia. The benefits due to inclusion of mungbean in rice-wheat rotation are estimated to be around \$150 million. He is recipient of 25 honors and awards for his work, including Taiwan President's Award for Poverty Alleviation-one of twelve from AVRDC-2006; and the other awards were from Korea, Bangladesh, India, Mauritius, USA, Taiwan and Thailand.

Dr. Sundar's membership includes 24 professional societies and committees such as Editorial Board for Experimental Agriculture (2005 – present), Founding Member of VEGINET of Prem Nath International Foundation for Vegetable Science (2004 – present), and Member and secretary for Continuing Committee for International Soybean Processing and Utilization Conferences (2000-2008).

He is an Indian national and currently resides in Somerset, New Jersey, in the United States.

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Dr. Craufurd represents the internationally reputed legumes expert. He obtained his PhD and BSc Honours (First Class) from the University of Reading, where he is currently serving as Principal Research Fellow, Director for Agriculture and Development MSc Program.

Dr. Craufurd has a wide range of experience in tropical agriculture. Some of his experience includes:

- More than 20 years experience of working in the tropics both in Asia and Africa
- Practical experience and knowledge of a wide range of crops and cropping systems covering the major cereals, legumes, and roots & tubers of the tropics and sub-tropics
- Research outputs and practical experience in disciplines from the laboratory to farmers' fields: crop physiology including stress tolerance, crop improvement, agronomy, seed systems, climate change, participatory research and institutional change
- Experience of working with and training NARS; knowledge of the research

to development continuum and the broad context of 'development'

- Demonstrated success in project proposal writing, management and production of outputs. Experienced in student research project supervision to PhD
- Editorial Board Field Crops Research and Experimental Agriculture; IAASTD lead author

He has held several international and national positions, including

- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), India (1985-87)
- Plant Breeding Institute, Cambridge, UK (1987-89)
- International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Nigeria (1989-93)
- The University of Reading (1993 – to date)

Dr Craufurd has contributed more than 100 journal articles and conference publications during his career so far.

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Professor Rob Melis



Professor Melis' expertise to TL II comes by way of his extensive experience in legumes. He has this rare combination of legumes research and development, seed systems and teaching at higher learning institutions. Prof. Melis obtained his PhD in Botany from University of KwaZulu Natal in South Africa (1985) and his MSc in tropical agriculture from University of Wageningen (1979). He is accredited inspector to do seed sampling and field inspection for beans, tomatoes and *Capsicums* for the South African Seed Certification Scheme and for international phytosanitary certificates; he also holds a diploma in business management, cum laude executive education. Professor Melis is the owner and manager of a seed company called Pro-Seed cc, whose main function is plant breeding, with seed production facilities in South Africa, Tanzania, and Thailand.

During his career as plant breeder, Prof. Melis has released some 45 varieties, of which 35 are marketed in Africa.

His employment history includes Research Fellow and Senior Research Fellow at the Crop Science Department of the University of Natal (1981-1990), Lecturer in the Department of Crop Science at the University of Natal (1980-1981), and Researcher at Institut de la Recherche sur le Caoutchouc, Cote D'Ivoire.

Professor Melis has been Associated Professor in Plant Breeding at the African Center for Crop Improvement (ACCI) at the University of KwaZulu Natal since 2003. His work here includes supervision of legume (bean, groundnut, pigeonpea, and cowpea) and cassava breeding research at PhD level. In addition, he lectures to the ACCI students on breeding self-pollinated crops, plant breeders' rights issues, license agreements, seed production and seed business management.

Professor Melis is a Dutch national residing in South Africa.

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Dr. Mohamed Silim Nahdy



Dr. Mohamed Silim Nahdy is represented in TL II AB as a reputed legumes expert for sub-Saharan Africa. He obtained his PhD in agriculture from The University of Reading, in the United Kingdom, and has undertaken several training opportunities in leadership, strategic planning and partnership building.

Dr. Nahdy's skills and experience include developing agricultural policies, strategies and plans for rural development, with special focus on agricultural innovations, in a demand driven, decentralized, privatized and market oriented Research and Development Services. He has a rich experience in providing leadership to an evolving agricultural advisory program based on lessons learnt and good practices; implementing collaborative initiatives, partnerships and linkages with national and international institutions and program, and with private sector, NGOs, and the donor community for rural development focusing on agriculture.

Dr. Nahdy holds several important positions, such as:

- Interim Chairman of the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) – an Africa-wide network of Agricultural Advisory Services (Agricultural Extension) for sharing lessons and innovations in the sector;
- Executive Head for the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) – where he serves as the chief accounting officer for the organization; provides leadership and overall management of the organization and oversees the development of strategies and implementation of advisory and related services to farmers country wide (in Uganda). This involves spearheading the implementation of reforms and innovation processes and overseeing the evolution of the program, as well as closely liaising with both government ministries and donor agencies in resource mobilization for the organization; partnering and closely collaborating with all Rural Development initiatives under the umbrella of the Plan for the Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) and with the Private sector.
- Council member of the National Agricultural Organization;

- Member of Board of Directors of several private sector organizations and policy making institutions;

As a scientist, Dr. Nahdy has widely published on agricultural research and development issues both in international and national journals and has made a large number of invited presentations.

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Dr. David Jon Bergvinson



Dr Bergvinson joined the AB representing the donor, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He obtained his PhD in biology from University of Ottawa (1993), Master of Pest Management from Simon Fraser University (1989) and BSc in chemistry/ biology from Simon Fraser University (1986). He is currently Senior Program Officer, Science and Technology, Agricultural

Development, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In his current position, Dr Bergvinson is involved in the following projects.

Crop improvement in the developing world: rice, maize, legumes (cowpea, chickpea, pigeonpea, groundnut, common bean, and soybean).

Our goal is to improve the lives of small holder farmers in Africa and Asia by increasing crop production and reducing the risk of crop losses due to drought, poor soil fertility, pests and diseases. Within the 18 months, he has worked with development partners to develop and manage grants in excess of \$100 million that fit within the foundation's strategy for broad-based economic development through agriculture. Using a business model approach to project development and management they expect to reach over 400,000 farmers during 2009 with stress-tolerant varieties.

Frontier Science: developing C4 rice. This is an "Apollo Project" that will use a consortium of world-class scientists and the latest molecular biology and tools to convert rice from a C3 carbon capture system to C4 which will increase yield by 50%, increase nitrogen use efficiency by 30% and reduce irrigation demands by half.

Agronomy: Integration of learning platforms with agronomy and cereal improvement in South Asia. The Cereal System Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) is a

recent grant that will build on emerging private sector extension models in India and will introduce new Local Intelligence technology based on a geospatial platform to coordinate fertilizer and pesticide inputs, variety recommendations, coordinate grain markets and provide short-term weather forecasts to private and public sector technology developers and providers.

Previously Dr. Bergvinson worked as maize breeder and entomologist at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) during the period from January 1995 to March 2007. His work here involved the following topics.

Asian Maize Network (AMNet): delivering drought tolerant maize varieties to farmers in Southeast Asia (funded by the Asian Development Bank). As coordinator of AMNet Dr Bergvinson worked with a multidisciplinary team including maize breeders, social scientists, agronomists, seed regulators and seed producers from southern China, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, and Indonesia. Within fifteen months this network identified new commercial varieties that were 20-50% more tolerant to drought than existing commercial varieties.

Developing Bt maize and product stewardship protocols for Kenya: the Insect Resistant Maize for Africa (IRMA) project (funded by the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture). The development of Bt-maize varieties is a team effort given the complexity of first developing the product but equally challenging is the development of a regulatory dossier for commercial release. Dr. Bergvinson's role was to screen putative transgenic events and to recommend gene constructs that would be control targeted pests: in this case, cereal stem borers.

Conventional plant breeding for host plant resistance. Ten inbred lines have been released that combine good levels of resistance to stem borers and armyworm with good hybrid performance. Over one-hundred experimental lines have now been developed from pedigree breeding which combine tropical stem borer resistance with resistance to storage pests and/or diseases of importance for Africa, South Asia and Mexico/Central America.

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Dr. Dave Hoisington



Dr. Hoisington is currently the Deputy Director General for Research at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) with oversight of ICRISAT's global research and development activities in sorghum, millets, chickpea, groundnut and pigeonpea cropping systems. He has published over 70 refereed journal articles, 30 book chapters and made numerous invited presentations at international conferences.

Dr. Hoisington is a member of the Editorial Board for *Theoretical and Applied Genomics* (since 2000), *International Journal of Plant Genomics* (since 2005) and member of Advisory Board for *Tropical Plant Biology* (since 2006). He also served in the United States Department of Agriculture, Secretary of Agriculture's Advisory Committee for Agriculture in the 21st Century (2003-2005). Dr. Hoisington joined ICRISAT in March 2005 as the Global Theme Leader for Biotechnology. Prior to ICRISAT, he served in various positions at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) leading the

Genetic Resources Program and the Applied Biotechnology Center for nearly 16 years. Prior to working at CIMMYT, Dr Hoisington was an Assistant Research Professor in the Agronomy Department at the University of Missouri. He obtained a BS in Botany and Plant Pathology (High Distinction) from Colorado State University, Ft. Collins (1975), and a PhD in Plant Biology from Washington University, St. Louis (1980).

Dr. Hoisington is recipient of several honors and awards, including Outstanding Article in *Choices*, The American Agricultural Economics Association (2001); L.J. Stadler Genetics Award, University of Missouri; and Pioneer Hi-Bred Fellowship, Washington University, 1978-1979.

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Dr. Paula J. Bramel



Dr Bramel has been the Deputy Director General,

Research for Development, at IITA since 2006, and prior to that she was the Director, Research for Development. She obtained a B.S in Agronomy in 1978, an M.S. in Plant Breeding in 1980, and a Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Cytogenetics in 1985 from Iowa State University. She has more than 25 years of experience as a researcher, which includes 11 years as a Tenured Associate Professor of Agronomy at Kansas State University, as a sorghum breeder, and 10 years at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), including Director of Genetic Resources and Principal Scientist, Genetic Resources. She has also been involved in agricultural research and development as a consultant, mainly for CRS, with a focus on recovery of seed systems after disasters. She has contributed to more than 60 refereed journal articles, 5 books, and 27 book chapters. Dr. Bramel has contributed to the training of 16 scientists as the MS or PhD supervisor. She has conducted numerous teaching/training programs.

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Dr. Joe M. Tohme



Dr. Tohme represents CIAT in the Advisory Board. He received a PhD in Crop Sciences from Michigan State University. Dr. Tohme has worked as a plant geneticist at CIAT since 1987. He is currently the leader of CIAT Agrobiodiversity Research teams that include the Genetic Resources Unit, the biotechnology, bean, cassava, forages and rice projects. The multidisciplinary teams work in fields as diverse as breeding, molecular biology, seed systems and genetic transformation. In addition, Dr. Tohme coordinates the biotechnology activities of HarvestPlus, an international, interdisciplinary, research program that seeks to reduce micronutrient malnutrition by harnessing the powers of agriculture and nutrition research to breed nutrient-dense staple foods. HarvestPlus is co-organized by CIAT and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), based in Washington DC. He is the Co-chair with Claude Fauquet (Danforth Center) of the Global Cassava Partnership.

Dr. Tohme's research involves integrating genomics-molecular-assisted selection with breeding and germplasm conservation activities, setting up a microarray-gene expression and SNP facilities, and conduct gene discovery for abiotic and nutritional traits.

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Dr M Carmen de Vicente



Dr de Vicente is the TLI Project Leader, and concurrently the Leader of Subprogramme 5 (Capacity-building and enabling delivery), as well as the Product Delivery Manager of the CGIAR Generation Challenge Programme (GCP). She was born in Menorca, Spain.

She holds a BSc in Biological Sciences from the Universidad de Navarra (Spain), an MSc from the Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de Zaragoza (IAMZ, Spain) and a PhD (major in Plant Breeding, minors in Plant Molecular Biology and Population Genetics) from Cornell University (Ithaca, NY, USA). Her MSc research dealt with the study of genetic diversity of sainfoin landraces and her PhD research with the use of molecular markers in crosses with wild species to unlock useful genetic diversity for plant improvement. This research in particular demonstrated – for the first time – that wild relatives can contribute useful alleles for improvement of complex traits in spite of the fact that these alleles could not be predicted based on the plant phenotype.

Prior to coming to GCP, Dr de Vicente was first the Head of the Molecular Markers Laboratory in the Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries (IRTA, Spain), and the Director of the Laboratoires de Biotechnologies et Patologie Végétales at Vilmorin, Clause & Cie (Limagrain, France). Thereafter, she was the Plant Molecular Geneticist for seven years at Bioversity International (formerly IPGRI – International Plant Genetics Resources Institute). While at Bioversity, Dr de Vicente was the institutional focal point for biotechnology research as

it applied to the conservation and use of genetic resources and policies. During this time, she had the opportunity to interact and assist with the agenda and activities of numerous national agricultural research programmes.

From a purely research perspective, Dr de Vicente's interest is in the application of molecular marker technologies to accelerate modern breeding and to improve germplasm management. Nowadays, most of her activities deal with bridging the gap between upstream research and its application in developing world crop breeding programmes. To achieve this goal, she champions both customised capacity development coupled with delivery to ensure that all research results in useful products for pre-identified users along a clear research pathway, and that these users can use the product. This double-pronged capacity-delivery approach has proved to be a somewhat new concept in international research programmes for development.

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TL II ADVISORY BOARD



Dr. Tsedeke Abate



Dr. Abate obtained his PhD in biological sciences (Integrated Pest Management) from Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, Canada (1990); MS in entomology from University of Florida, Gainesville, USA (1979); and his BS in agriculture (with high honors), also from University of Florida (1977). He has a wide range of experience in agricultural research, development, and leadership in agricultural research for development. Major highlights are provided in the following resume:

- Member of group on developing CGIAR Medium Term Plan (MTP) for Eastern & Southern Africa (September 2005; May 2006);
 - National IPM Co-coordinator for EIAR (1996-1998);
 - Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Pest Management Journal of Ethiopia (1996-1998);
 - International Correspondent for Annual Review of Entomology, Palo Alto, CA, USA (1994 – 2004);
 - Recipient of annual prizes of Crop Science Society of Ethiopia (1993; 1994);
 - Chairman for the Ministry of Agriculture and EIAR Joint Committee on Technology Transfer, EIAR (1984-1986);
 - National Coordinator for Crop Protection Research in Ethiopia, EIAR (1983 –1986);
 - Director of Nazareth Research Centre, EIAR (1982 – 1986);
 - Author/co-author of more than 130 publications and presentations.
- Director General of Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) (December 2003 – March 2007);
 - Member of Board of Trustees of WARDA (March 2007 – February 2008);
 - Review Editor for IAASTD (2005-2007); also served as member of Team for Synthesis Report on Biotechnology for IAASTD (2006-2007);

Dr. Abate is currently Project Manager for TL II and serves as Secretary of the Advisory Board.

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