Testimonials from our User Community

The team behind the Integrated Breeding Platform (IBP) is dedicated in its efforts to develop tools and methods that truly address the challenges faced by breeding programmes in developing countries. Interacting directly with individual breeders, researchers and programme administrators has been instrumental in the continuous improvement of IBP tools and practices – most of which are now available within one comprehensive package, the IBP Breeding Management System (BMS). BMS users and trainees are particularly committed and thorough in their relationship with the IBP team; here are a few comments from some of them:

"It used to take me up to three months before I could analyse the data I had collected in the field. Thanks to electronic data capture, I can now proceed with my analysis on the same day.

— Cyril Diatta, sorghum breeder and research assistant, ISRA, Senegal

These are tools that I have really integrated into my daily activities. Design, randomisation, pedigree selection, planing, data capture and analysis: the system has an application to support me at all steps of the process.

—Ibrahima Sissoko, Senior Scientific Officer, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Mali

"I was able to directly integrate and apply this new knowledge in my Master's thesis. I particularly benefited from the notions on agronomy and breeding techniques, with which I had no prior background. This opened up my horizons! I hope we can learn to master these tools more and more so that we can exploit them optimally in our daily work as researchers.

—Diarah Guindo, PhD Student and Sorghum Breeder, IER Mali

I have been using Breeding View for data analysis in my own breeding programme (…) and it has helped me considerably in my day-to-day work. I appreciate having access to complete software rather than using trial versions and being able to identify better strains and to make better interpretation of results.

—Dr Dinesh Kumar Agarwal, Principal Scientist, Plant Breeding, Directorate of Seed Research (ICAR), India

"We need advanced breeding training such as this in our national programmes... then we can train young breeders to expand this new knowledge and the use of informatics tools across our programmes, as well as all over the country and the region, so that more farmers can benefit from our selections.

—Dr Mohammed Ndagi Ishaq, Assistant Director and Head of Biotechnology Programme, National Cereals Research Institute Badeggi, Nigeria

MARS requires a very tight integration of different skills, including a strong conventional breeding capacity, efficient genotyping technologies and skills for genetic analyses. These projects are not easily undertaken in developing countries, but IBP provides the perfect environment to develop the approach, with tools and services to effectively support their programmes.

— Dr Jean-François Rami, molecular geneticist, CIRAD

"Breeders can take part in a global network and get the services and support that they need locally as well – that's the promise behind IBP Regional Hubs.

—Dr Hui Hui Li, Associate Professor, Institute of Crop Science, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science, China

What we're seeing is a paradigm shift. Now, the developing-country programmes have the boldness and capacity to do molecular breeding and accurate phenotyping for themselves. We built an image for ourselves in Nigeria and in Africa (…) and other global actors, on seeing our ability to deliver results, are now choosing to invest in us.

— Dr Chiedozie Egesi, molecular plant breeder, National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Nigeria

"The IBP allows us to federate all our efforts across the West African sub-region, and thus shorten delays, have more efficient breeding processes and avoid losing money researching things that already exist (…) African producers can and will multiply their outputs, and work toward productivities that will let us feed Africa. —Dr Alioune Fall, General Director, ISRA, Senegal

This integrated system makes the breeding process a shorter one. It helps us become all-round breeders and more efficient in bringing products to end-users, i.e. families and farmers.

—Lilian Njeri Gichuru, Kenya Agricultural Research Institute

"IBP presents us with a holistic approach (…) for the training of a generation of breeders who will have better impact in their respective regions, mainly by being able to target desirable traits more precisely and to transmit this new knowledge on to others.

— Kolade Olufisayo, Research Administrative Manager, AfricaRice, Nigeria

The BMS tools are very useful for lecturers as a complement to their curriculum. It lets us have impact on our students by teaching them how to use technology to improve breeding. — Dr Joseph Orluchukwu, Lecturer, Dept. of Crop and Soil Science, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

The IBP hopes to bridge the technological and scientific gap prevailing in developing countries by providing software tools, capacity building and crop-specific expertise to support the adoption of best practices by breeders, so that we might reduce the time and resources required to develop improved varieties for farmers. Register to get access to free online resources ready for download.