

PhD Student: Dr Nana Aïchatou Abdoulaye

Project Title: "Developing cowpea *Striga* resistant varieties in Niger by marker assisted backcross"

Institute: University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Funding Period: January 2011 – December 2015

Summary: Dr Abdoulaye began her PhD programme in 2011 and qualified for her PhD in July 2017. *Striga* seeds were collected in the main areas of cowpea production in Niger suggesting that there may be 2 races of *Striga* in Niger, one of which, race 3, is also common in Nigeria. Cowpea lines resistant to the *Striga* races found in Niger were identified. The best performing varieties were IT97K-499-35, IT98K-205-8 and IT99K-573-1-1; which were suitable to use to introgress *Striga* resistance into the local varieties. Dr Abdoulaye also genotyped the cowpea varieties using the marker SSR1, suitable for identifying the resistance gene for *Striga* race 3. Crosses with local farmer preferred varieties, IT00K-1148 and IT90K-371-1-2 and the *Striga* resistant variety IT98K-205-8, reached the BC4F1 stage. The molecular work took place in INERA, Burkina Faso, and Dr Abdoulaye's Supervisor at the university was Professor Jean Didier Zongo.



Dr Abdoulaye built a tunnel for her pot trials to protect them from insects.

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