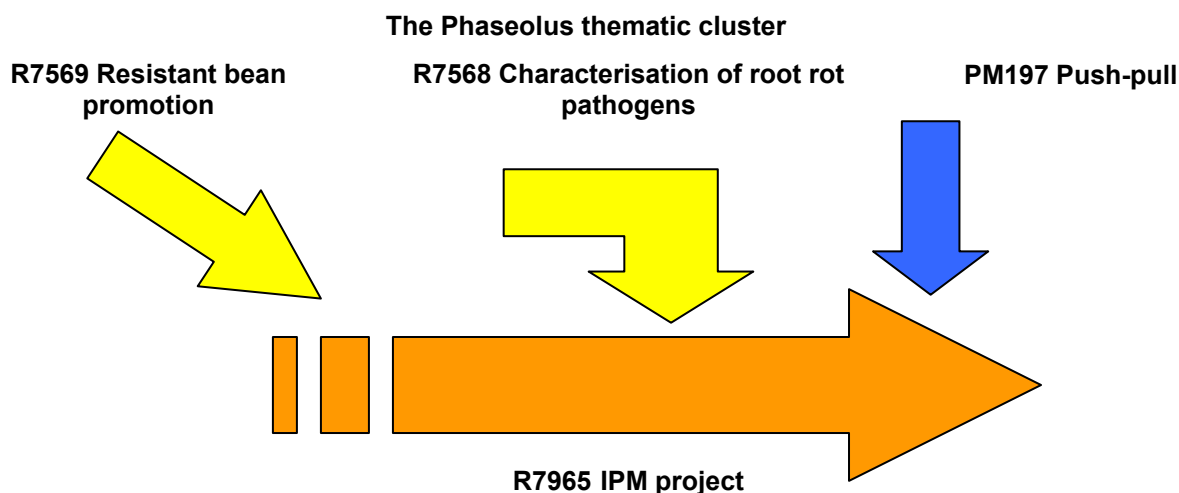


# Full of Beans



The common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) makes an important contribution to food security, providing as much as 60% of the dietary protein in Rwanda and Burundi and about 30% in parts of eastern and southern Africa. It is highly valued because all parts of the plant are consumed: the leaves are used as a vegetable and the grains are eaten fresh or dried, whilst the haulm is fed to livestock. Although beans are grown largely for subsistence and mainly by women farmers, about 40% of the total production in eastern, central and southern Africa is marketed, at an average annual value of US\$452 million. National research programmes in eastern and central Africa rate beans as the second most important food crop in the region.

The CPP Phaseolus cluster is based in eastern and southern Africa. Currently, it comprises three projects, with a fourth in the pipeline. R7569 builds on previous DFID-

funded research on disease-resistant bean varieties, examining pathways for their promotion in southern Tanzania. R7568 focuses on root rots, which have been underestimated as a problem because the symptoms are often misdiagnosed, and hence under-researched. This project was funded in response to demand from in-country stakeholders. The cluster is pulled together by R7965, which brings together research outputs from DFID and non-DFID funded projects to provide a basket of IPM options. It has a wide geographical area (Malawi, southern and northern Tanzania and Kenya).

By working closely with the East and Central and Southern African bean networks (ECABREN and SABRN) and the Africa Highlands Initiative, it is hoped to promote the project outputs beyond the focus of the project. Data collected by this project could contribute to the development of 'push-pull' treatment for the management of insect pests. This would draw on knowledge of chemical signals produced by some plants that repel pests and attract natural enemies. Although this would require strategic research, knowledge and farmer contacts generated through the other projects in the cluster would guide and direct the nature of the project.

**R7568:** Characterisation and epidemiology of root rot diseases caused by *Fusarium* and *Pythium* spp. in beans, N. Spence, HRI

**R7569:** Participatory promotion of disease-resistant and farmer-acceptable *Phaseolus* beans in the southern highlands of Tanzania, D. Teverson, NRI

**R7965:** IPM of *Phaseolus* bean pests in hillsides, K. Ampofo, CIAT



Local tools for bean pest control incorporated into R7965