



Though Mohammad Milon Mia farms only a few acres of land in Bangladesh, he is a regional pioneer. Milon is cultivating Bt brinjal (eggplant), the first GE food crop developed and deployed through public sector cooperation for family farmers in South Asia. Bt brinjal resists the devastating caterpillar pest that normally forces growers like Milon to spray toxic insecticides dozens of times per season. Now he has cut his pesticide use by 90 percent, and freely shares seeds with his family and neighbors. However, anti-GMO activists have already spread false stories that Bt brinjal is poisonous, and activists in neighboring India and the Philippines have succeeded in blocking the crop altogether. This means that smallholder farmers in those countries continue to be denied the opportunity to grow pest-resistant seeds. Instead, they remain dependent on insecticide sprays, which can be harmful to humans and pollute the local environment.

The Alliance for Science is committed to ensuring that all farmers have the right to choose improved seeds that can enhance their livelihoods and health.

EVIDENCE

Ugandan scientist Pamela Paparu is passionate about improving the common bean, a food security crop typically grown by women on compact farms in East Africa. Beans provide these small-holder farmers with extra income and an important source of protein for their families. But common beans are increasingly afflicted with root rot, a devastating disease that can cause crop losses of 80 to 100 percent. Pamela and other public sector scientists are using the tools of biotechnology to preserve critical indigenous foods, such as cowpea, matoke (banana), common beans, and cassava, and reduce the environmental impacts of agriculture. On average, genetically engineered crops have cut chemical pesticide use by 37 percent, increased crop yields by 22 percent, boosted farmer profits by 68 percent, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 12 million cars off the road. They've also helped to alleviate hunger by bringing financial stability to more than 65 million people in developing nations.

The Alliance for Science supports agricultural research that contributes to gender equality, addresses pressing issues like climate change and sustainability, and corrects the grave social injustices of poverty and hunger.





SCIENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS



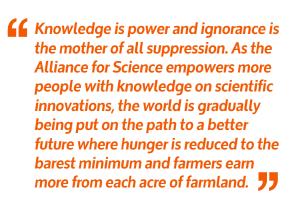
The Alliance for Science supports global access to life-improving innovations that can shrink farming's footprint, deliver food security, reduce the drudgery of field work that often falls on women and children, provide rural families with sufficient income to educate their children, and inspire young people to pursue a career in agriculture and science.



TRAINING CHAMPIONS FOR SCIENCE







Joseph Opoku 2016 AfS Fellow , Ghana







Contact us at allianceforsci@cornell.edu





AMPLIFYING VOICES

GROWING A GLOBAL NETWORK

Our global network advances access to agricultural innovation through education and science-based policies.



The Alliance for Science changed my life. It made me part of a global army of people who fight for science, and that is really important to me.

Andres Abea Cambronero 2016 AfS Fellow, Costa Rica



The Alliance for Science is changing the conversation around biotech by giving the issue a human face.

Katherine Chaweza 2016 AfS Fellow, Malawi



The Alliance equipped me with technical information about the science of biotechnology. This helped me become a credible and knowledgeable advocate of GM science.

Patricia Nanteza 2015 AfS Fellow, Uganda





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