INTRODUCTION – Millions of US Dollars are spent annually to improve the skills of bean breeders in Africa through training. PABRA specifically invests finance, human resource and time in ensuring that the continent’s breeders are up to date and relevant with the breeding skills in order to meet the continent’s food and income needs through crop improvement. However, little to no research has been done to verify the extent of application of what is taught, what enhances application from trainers’ views. This study focuses on trainer explanations of the variations in breeding knowledge and skills acquisition, as well as application following training.

METHODS - An online cross sectional study with a convenience sample of 391 subjects from 4 trainings including breeding was conducted. With a response rate of 38%, 33 breeders responded to the survey, and one expert breeder/trainer gave views of the levels of breeding knowledge and skills acquisition, as well as breeding skills application.

RESULTS continued:

CONCLUSION

1. There is a high level of training application of breeding skills received in training due to the active national breeding programs and to selecting the right trainees

2. M.Sc. & less experienced workers seem to apply more since they are most involved as is the practice of engaging new recruits.

3. A capacity gap exists as far as applying flow of breeding programs, more PhDs in plant breeding need to be trained.

4. Limited DNA technology application points to need for serious follow up by trainers and capacitating the laboratories

5. A needs assessment is important so that those who know are not subjected to training which is more suited for others