Though widely grown in North and South America, the greatest expansion of soybean cultivation today is happening in Africa.

KENYA has taken steps to create policies promoting increased domestic soybean production.

By 2050 soybean demand across Sub-Saharan Africa projection:

Emerging threat: ASIAN SOYBEAN RUST

fast-moving, aggressive disease caused by the airborne fungus, *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*

can destroy up to 90% of soybeans within 3 weeks

The pathogen is rapidly adapting and building tolerance to chemical controls.

Seven (7) resistance genes in soybean have been largely overcome by the pathogen.

High-performing soybean varieties from 120 locations in 24 countries exhibited only limited resistance to ASR.

Seven (7) resistance genes in soybean have been largely overcome by the pathogen.

2Blades and partners explored a broader pool of resistance genes among related legume species.

PIGEONPEA GENE *CcRpp1* introduced into soybean through biotechnology.

soybean genome

transgenic soybean plants with strong ASR resistance

DEVELOPING RESISTANCE THROUGH BIOTECH

one of the most durable and effective ways to thwart diseases like ASR

STRONG & EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS needed throughout the agriculture innovation chain to achieve the goal of delivering ASR-resistant soybeans for African growers.


Photo Credits: Harun Murithi (header) | 2Blades; Inset: Kathrin Thor (ASR-infected soybean field) | Icons from The Noun Project, Canva, and iStock by Getty Images