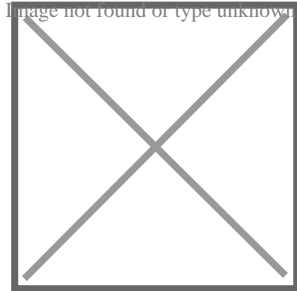


## Podcast: GMO insect-resistant cowpea helps Africa combat destructive pests without chemicals



Francis  
Onyekachi,  
Program Manager  
for the West  
African Maruca  
Resistant Cowpea  
Project

Cowpea is a critical crop in Western Africa. It is consumed by millions of people daily and provides important [nitrogen fixation](#) on the farm. But cowpea cultivation is threatened by *Maruca vitrata*, a caterpillar that feasts on the beans within the cowpea pod. Scientists in Nigeria have implemented a strategy using the Bt protein to control this pest.

On this episode of Talking Biotech, University of Florida graduate student Modesta Abugu and plant scientist Kevin Folta interview Francis Onyekachi, program manager for the [West African Maruca Resistant Cowpea Project](#). Onyekachi highlights how Bt technology helps farmers safeguard their yields, and how scientists plan to ensure the GMO crop's continued efficacy.

[https://geneticliteracyproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/182\\_cowpea.mp3](https://geneticliteracyproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/182_cowpea.mp3)

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