

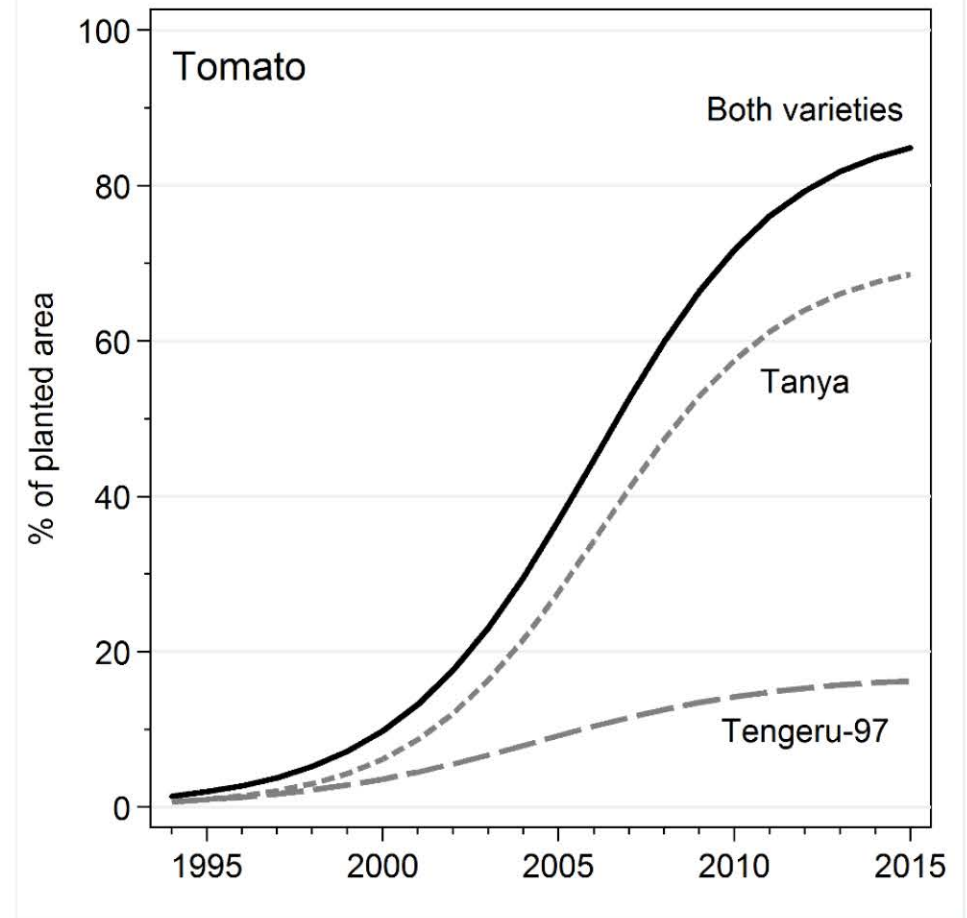
Scaling Quality Vegetable Varieties in Africa

The technology:

Open-pollinated tomato breeding lines from the World Vegetable Center were tested in multi-location trials in Tanzania the early-1990s and released as varieties. Currently these occupy ~87% of formal tomato seed production in Tanzania. They are widely used by tomato producers in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Major drivers, enabling conditions, and partnerships for scale up:

- Seed sector liberalization, private sector development
- WorldVeg varieties filled a vacuum
- Partnerships between public and private organizations
- Substantial donor investment (US\$ 10 million)



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Challenges:

- Replicating the success, particularly in West Africa
- Replace with newer, better varieties

Tensions between groups involved:

- Private seed sector multiplies seed, but capacity in own breeding remains limited
- Long-term investment is needed in vegetable breeding and capacity building, but donors need quick impact.

Lessons learned:

- Vegetable seed one of few successful cases of scaling through private-public partnerships
- WorldVeg/African Seed Trade Association (ASTA) Vegetable Breeding Consortium

