

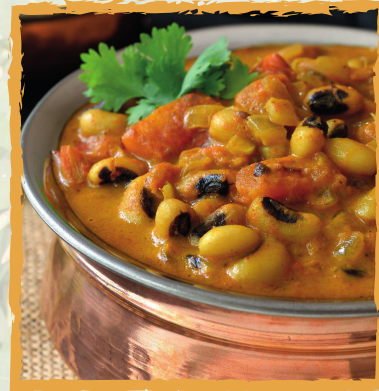
Fascinating Cowpea

Origin

Cowpea evolved as an inconspicuous little creeper among the rocks of the dusty southern Sahel and the bone-dry upper rim of central Africa



Genus: *Vigna*



Cultivation

Cowpea is grown by tens of millions of smallholders in Africa.

Cowpea seed is rich in protein, oil and digestible carbohydrate.

Considered a 'lost crop' due to its widespread occurrence and importance in the lives of the most malnourished.

Consumption

It is estimated that 200 million people live off the plant, consuming the seeds daily whenever available.

Cowpea seed is rich in protein, oil and digestible carbohydrates.

A protein source that might possibly help Africa's malnourished millions, this grain legume is one of the most promising and practical solutions.

Scientists at Lancaster University are working on improving photosynthesis in cowpea to increase yields