Article

Chromosome-level genome assembly and population genomic resource to accelerate orphan crop lablab breeding

Received: 21 May 2022

Accepted: 17 March 2023

Published online: 17 April 2023

Check for updates

Isaac Njaci 0,2,10 , Bernice Waweru 1,10 , Nadia Kamal 3,10 , Meki Shehabu Muktar 4,10 , David Fisher 5 , Heidrun Gundlach 3 , Collins Muli¹, Lucy Muthui¹, Mary Maranga⁶, Davies Kiambi⁷, Brigitte L. Maass 8 , Peter M. F. Emmrich^{2,9}, Jean-Baka Domelevo Entfellner 1 , Manuel Spannagl 3 , Mark A. Chapman 5 , Oluwaseyi Shorinola 1,2 & Chris S. Jones 1

Under-utilised orphan crops hold the key to diversified and climate-resilient food systems. Here, we report on orphan crop genomics using the case of *Lablab purpureus* (L.) Sweet (lablab) - a legume native to Africa and cultivated throughout the tropics for food and forage. Our Africa-led plant genome collaboration produces a high-quality chromosome-scale assembly of the lablab genome. Our assembly highlights the genome organisation of the trypsin inhibitor genes - an important anti-nutritional factor in lablab. We also re-sequence cultivated and wild lablab accessions from Africa confirming two domestication events. Finally, we examine the genetic and phenotypic diversity in a comprehensive lablab germplasm collection and identify genomic loci underlying variation of important agronomic traits in lablab. The genomic data generated here provide a valuable resource for lablab improvement. Our inclusive collaborative approach also presents an example that can be explored by other researchers sequencing indigenous crops, particularly from low and middle-income countries (LMIC).

Three major crops currently provide more than 40% of global calorie intake¹. This over-dependence on a few staple crops increases the vulnerability of global food systems to environmental and social instabilities². One promising strategy to diversify food systems is to improve the productivity and adoption of climate-resilient but underutilised orphan crops through genome-assisted breeding³.

Lablab purpureus L. Sweet, (hereafter referred to as lablab, Fig. 1a) is an indigenous African legume that is remarkably drought-resilient and thrives in diverse environments. As such it is widely cultivated

throughout the tropical and subtropical regions of Africa and Asia⁴. Lablab is a versatile multipurpose crop that contributes towards food, feed, nutritional and economic security, and is also rich in bioactive compounds with pharmacological potential, including against SARS-Cov2⁵⁻⁸. Climate change is driving researchers to investigate crops like lablab for their outstanding drought tolerance⁹.

Genome-assisted breeding offers hope of a new green revolution by helping to uncover and unlock novel genetic variation for crop improvement. Over the last 20 years, the genomes of 135 domesticated

¹International Livestock Research Institute, PO Box 30709-00100 Nairobi, Kenya. ²John Innes Centre, Norwich Research Park, Norwich NR4 7UH, UK. ³Helmholtz Zentrum München, Plant Genome and Systems Biology, Ingolstädter Landstr. 1, 85764 Neuherberg, Germany. ⁴International Livestock Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. ⁵University of Southampton, School of Biological Sciences, Southampton SO17 1BJ, UK. ⁶Department of Biochemistry, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi 00200, Kenya. ⁷Bioscience Research Centre (PUBReC), Pwani University, P.O Box 195-80108 Kilifi, Kenya. ⁸Department of Crop Sciences, Georg-August-University Göttingen, Grisebachstr 6, 37077 Göttingen, Germany. ⁹Department for International Development, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK. ¹⁰These authors contributed equally: Isaac Njaci, Bernice Waweru, Nadia Kamal, Meki Shehabu Muktar. Kenail: m.chapman@soton.ac.uk; shorinolao@gmail.com; c.jones@cgiar.org



Fig. 1 | **Genome assembly of lablab. a** *Lablab purpureus* plant showing flowers, leaves and pods. **b** Gene and repeat landscape of the lablab genome. The tracks from the outer to the inner track show 1) gene density, 2) repeat density, 3) LTR-RT

density, 4) tandem repeat density. **c** BUSCO scores of the lablab genome and gene annotation using the embryophyta and fabales reference lineages. **d** LAI index of the 11 lablab chromosomes. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

crops have been sequenced and assembled¹⁰, including those of orphan crops³. A draft genome for lablab was previously produced using a short read sequencing approach¹¹. However, it has recently been acknowledged that researchers from Africa are grossly underrepresented in the genome sequencing efforts of their indigenous orphan crops^{10,12}. This has primarily been due to the acute lack of sequencing facilities and high-performance computing infrastructures as well as bioinformatics capacity to handle big genome data¹³.

Here, we present an African-led genome collaboration that overcomes this under-representation through an inclusive orphan crop genomics approach. Our Africa-led genome collaboration produces a long read-based chromosome-scale assembly of lablab. We confirm the dual domestication origin of lablab by resequencing wild and domesticated accessions. We also examine genetic and phenotypic diversity in a comprehensive lablab collection. Finally, we discuss the main features and benefits from our inclusive orphan crop genomics approach and suggest that this can serve as a roadmap for future genomic investigations of indigenous African crops.

Results

Genome sequencing

High acquisition and maintenance cost of sequencing platforms is a major limiting factor to genomics research in Africa. To circumvent this limitation, we used the portable and low-cost Oxford Nanopore Technology (ONT) MinION platform for in-country sequencing of the genome of lablab (cv. Highworth). We generated 4.7 M reads with a mean read length of 6.1 kb (Supplementary Table 1). This amounted to 28.4 Gbp of sequences and 67x coverage of the lablab genome based on a previously estimated genome size of 423 Mbp¹¹. The reads were initially assembled into 2260 contigs with an N50 of 11.0 Mbp and total assembly length of 426.2 Mbp. The assembly was polished for error correction using -380x of publicly available Illumina short reads previously generated from the same cultivar.

Using High-throughput Chromosome Conformation Capture (Hi-C)¹⁴, we scaffolded the contigs into 11 pseudomolecules representing the 11 lablab chromosomes (Fig. 1b, Supplementary Fig. 1) and covering 417.9 Mbp (98.03% of total assembled sequence and 98.6% of the estimated genome size), with an N50 of 38.1 Mbp (Supplementary Table 2) and BUSCO completeness scores of 98.5% and 98.2% against the embryophyta and fabales lineages, respectively (Fig. 1c). For consistency with published legume genome sequences, we assigned chromosome names to the Hi-C-scaffolded pseudomolecules based on syntenic relationship with closely related legumes–*Phaseolus vulgaris*

(common bean $^{\rm 15}$) and $\it Vigna$ unguiculata (cowpea $^{\rm 16}$) (Supplementary Fig. 2).

Genome annotation and gene family analyses

We used an automated pipeline based on protein homology, transcript evidence and ab initio predictions to identify protein-coding genes in the lablab genome. This resulted in a total of 30,922 gene models. On average each gene had 2.57 isoforms resulting in a total of 79,512 transcripts. A subset of 24,972 of these gene models show no homology to transposable elements (TEs) and can be confidently considered as high-quality protein-coding non-TE gene models (Fig. 1b, Supplementary Table 3). BUSCO scores of the TE-filtered gene models showed that 97.4%, and 94.9% of the universal single copy genes from the embryophyta and fabales, respectively, were complete, suggesting a high level of completeness of the gene space (Fig. 1c). We found expression support for 73% of these gene models using RNASeq data from four tissues^{II}. Functional descriptions could be assigned to 28,927 (93.3%) of the genes. In addition to the protein-encoding gene models, we detected 542 tRNA-encoding genes.

A total of 168,174 TE sequences, occupying 28.1% of the genome, were identified in the lablab genome (Fig. 1b). Of these, 89.6% were classified into 13 superfamilies and 2353 known families (Supplementary Table 4, Supplementary Fig. 3). Long Terminal Repeat-RetroTransposons (LTR-RTs) were the most abundant TEs, with 85,149 sequences occupying 83 Mb (19.9%) of the genome (Fig. 1b). Copia was the most abundant LTR-RT superfamily, occupying 13.2% of the genome compared to gypsy elements, which occupied only 4.7%. We also report an average LTR Assembly Index (LAI) of 19.8 (Fig. 1d) which, according to the classification system proposed by ref. 17, indicates a reference quality assembly with a high level of contiguity of the repetitive and intergenic regions. DNA transposons were smaller in number and size relative to LTR-RTs, and were distributed more evenly across the chromosomes (Supplementary Table 4, Supplementary Fig. 3).

A further 100,741 repetitive sequences were identified but could not be classified as TEs. Combining the annotated TEs and unclassified repeats reveals an overall repeat content of 43.4% of the genome. We also identified 142,302 tandem repeats (TRs, Fig. 1b, Supplementary Table 5). Most of these were minisatellites (10–99 bp), while satellite repeats (>100 bp) make up the largest total proportion of TRs in the genome (Supplementary Table 5). Both the tandem and unclassified repeats were found to concentrate within a distinct, overlapping cluster at the point of peak repeat density on each chromosome,



Fig. 2 | **Gene families in lablab. a** Venn diagram of the number of gene families common among and unique to lablab, *Phaseolus vulgaris, Vigna angularis, Medicago truncatula*, and *Cajanus cajan*. **b** Cladogram of the analysed species showing the number of expanded and contracted gene families in each. Figure constructed with iTol⁹³. **c** Gene ontology terms enriched in the set of expanded gene families in *Lablab purpureus*. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

indicating that they are likely centromeric repeats (Supplementary Fig. 3a).

Gene family analysis and comparison to other legumes (*P. vulgaris, V. angularis, Cajanus cajan, Medicago truncatula*), and using *Arabidopsis thaliana* as an outgroup, placed 24,397 (97.7%) of the 24,972 TE-filtered lablab genes into orthogroups (Supplementary Data 1). Comparison of the five legumes (Fig. 2a) revealed 14,047 orthogroups in common, and identified 417 (1.7%) lablab genes in 119 species-specific orthogroups that were absent from the other four legumes. These lablab-unique gene families were enriched for fatty acid biosynthesis, arabinose metabolism gene ontology (GO) classifiers, while several were involved in pollen–pistil interactions and general plant development (Supplementary Data 2). Using the

phylogenetic relationships between the species, 448 gene families were significantly expanded in lablab compared to other legumes and *Arabidopsis*, while 899 were contracted (Fig. 2b). Expanded gene families were enriched for lignin and pectin metabolism, and photosynthesis among others (Supplementary Data 3; Fig. 2c), while contracted gene families were involved in e.g. amide biosynthetic and metabolic processes (Supplementary Fig. 4).

Legume trypsin inhibitors are protease inhibitors that play important defence roles against pathogen and herbivorous insects¹⁸, but are also considered as antinutritional factors that reduce digestibility and nutrient availability in legumes like lablab used as feed or fodder¹⁹. We catalogued the trypsin inhibitor (TI) gene family in lablab and identified 35 genes (Fig. 3), which represents enrichment for TI genes in the lablab genome compared to A. thaliana and legumes such as M. truncatula and C. cajan (Fig. 3a and b). Most of the genes are located in clusters on chromosomes Lp01, Lp04, Lp06, and Lp11, with two major clusters on chromosome LpO4 containing 21 (60%) trypsin inhibitor genes (Fig. 3c). A total of 23 of the 35 trypsin inhibitor encoding genes (66%) identified in the lablab genome are members of tandemly duplicated gene arrays. The large TI cluster on LpO4 shows synteny with V. angularis, M. truncatula, C. cajan, and P. vulgaris, while the five-gene cluster on LpO6 shows synteny to only V. angularis (Supplementary Fig. 5). We conclude that the trypsin inhibitor gene family is largely syntenous across legumes, with additional clusters and gene duplications specific to Lablab and V. angularis. Members of the Lp01, Lp06, and Lp011 gene clusters are highly expressed in vegetative tissues (leaves and stem), while 17 of the 21 trypsin inhibitor genes in the LpO4 cluster show a relatively low level of expression across both vegetative and reproductive tissues (Fig. 3d). These results highlight the usefulness of our assembly in dissecting the genomic architecture of genes underlying important traits for lablab improvement.

Dual origin of domesticated lablab

Understanding the transition from wild species to domesticated crop can provide insight into the location of domestication, the strength of genetic bottleneck (and identification of wild alleles not present in the domesticated gene pool) and can lead to identifying candidate genes underlying domestication traits. Previous work has suggested that lablab domestication occurred at least twice, separately in the twoseeded and four-seeded gene pools^{20,21}. Using our chromosome-scale assembly as a reference, we examined whether this is indeed the case by resequencing a panel of two-seeded and four-seeded wild (ssp. uncinatus) and domesticated (ssp. purpureus) lablab accessions (Supplementary Data 4). We also sequenced two individuals of subsp. bengalensis with 6-8 seeds per pod, two wild-like (likely feral) samples from India and one individual of Dipogon lignosus (L.) Verdc. (used as an outgroup). In addition, we gathered publicly available short-read data for cv. Highworth. All lablab samples had a >94% mapping against the lablab reference genome at a depth of 6.19-15.85x, while the outgroup had lower mapping (50.39% at a depth of 2.75x; Supplementary Data 4). The average coverage of lablab samples was 84.93% and for the outgroup 38.80% (using -Q 13 and -q 10; Supplementary Data 4). Mapping and coverage was notably lower for the two-seeded accessions than the four-seeded accessions suggesting genomic divergence between these two gene pools. A total of 25,940,192 variants (23.7 M SNPs and 2.2 M indels) were identified across all 23 samples. After removing sites with missing data in more than two samples, this resulted in 9,797,710 variants (9.0 M SNPs and 0.8 M indels).

A filtered data set of 157,913 variants (>2 kb apart; see Methods) was used for phylogenetic analysis. Neighbor Joining phylogenetic analysis rooted with *Dipogon* revealed a clear division between the two- and four-seeded lablab samples (100% bootstrap support) with wild and domesticated samples found in both groups (Fig. 4). A parallel analysis using only variants from genes which had orthologues in *V. angularis, M. truncatula, C. cajan,* and *P. vulgaris* gave the same



Fig. 3 | **Trypsin inhibitor gene family in lablab. a** Phylogeny of the trypsin inhibitor encoding genes in five different legume species including lablab; branch thickness corresponds to bootstrap values and increases with higher bootstrap; tree is rooted with the most divergent sequence from Arabidopsis; outer blue connections: tandemly duplicated genes, outer red connection: syntenic collinear genes. b Copy number of trypsin inhibitor genes in different plant species.

c Organisation of the trypsin inhibitor gene clusters in the lablab genome.d Expression of the trypsin inhibitor genes in four different tissues. Genes in clusters are grouped in the heatmap. The variance stabilising transformed (vst) TPM levels correlate with the intensity of yellow to red colouring. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Fig. 4 | **Phylogenetics of lablab. Left**, Neighbor Joining phylogenetic relationships among lablab samples (2-seeded and 4-seeded *purpureus* (domesticated) and *uncinatus* (wild) subspecies) rooted on *Dipogon lignosus*. All nodes received full (100%) bootstrap support. Asterisks indicate the two domestication events. **Right**, STRUCTURE analysis of the same samples. The optimum number of clusters (K) was determined to be three (upper right), which are indicated as white, grey and black bars. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

topology. Subsp. *bengalensis*, with 6-8 seeds per pod, is resolved as derived from the four-seeded group, and the likely feral accessions from India with a wild-like morphology are related to the four-seeded domesticates. We also carried out STRUCTURE analysis to examine the potential number of underlying genetic populations in the samples, which suggested K = 3 clusters best fit the data (Fig. 4). The two-seeded and four-seeded groups were again clearly differentiated, with no evidence of admixture between them. The four-seeded accessions were further differentiated into wild and cultivated groups. The likely feral accessions appear to be introgressed with wild (four-seeded) alleles. Other values of *K* (the number of clusters) differentiate the feral accessions from the other four-seeded accessions (Supplementary Fig. 6). Our study thus confirms, based on multiple lines of evidence, the previous hypothesis of two origins of domesticated lablab.

The total number of variants for the four-seeded and two-seeded gene pools (and excluding the outgroup) was 10,666,655 and 5,200,923 variants, respectively. Genetic diversity (π per 100 kb window based on only variant sites) was significantly greater (two-sided unpaired *t*-test, *t* = 30.43, df = 8095, *P* < 0.001) in the four-seeded group (0.00790 ± 0.00311 [SD]) than the two-seeded group (0.00599 ± 0.00260 [SD]). Divergence between the two- and four-seeded gene pools was high (mean *F*_{ST} per 100 kb window = 0.438 ± 0.059 [SD]), which could suggest that these gene pools should be taxonomically reassessed as distinct taxa.

Genetic diversity and association in a comprehensive lablab collection

We used a collection of 203 lablab accessions acquired since 1982 at the ILRI forage genebank to access diversity in the lablab gene pool. The collection comprises accessions acquired from 25 countries in Africa, Asia, Australia, Americas and Europe, with a substantial portion from Africa, which is believed to contain the highest genetic diversity and is the centre of diversity²¹ (Ethiopia). Given the historic nature of this collection, we took a stepwise approach to characterise the accessions. First, we examined genetic purity within the accessions by genotyping 2300 individual plants across the 203 accessions using DArTseq genotyping-by-sequencing (GBS). This identified 42,494 genome-wide SNP and 36,803 SilicoDArT markers (described in Methods), of which 92% and 83% mapped onto the lablab genome, respectively (Supplementary Fig. 7). Based on Identity by Descent analysis using individual genotype data, we retained 191 accessions that were considered true-to-type (see Supplementary Note 1). Mean Nei's D between individuals of the 46 accessions with ≥ 2 individuals per accession ranged from 0.0015 to 0.1152 (median = 0.0396) indicating that within accession genetic diversity is generally low, as expected for a predominantly self-pollinating species such as lablab. Where multiple true-to-type individuals were found in an accession, the individual with the least missing data was selected for diversity analysis.

Using a subset of 7780 quality-filtered genome-wide SNPs (see Methods), we analysed population structure and clustering using STRUCTURE²², which clearly suggested two population clusters in the lablab germplasm collection (Fig. 5a, Supplementary Fig. 8) supporting the two gene pools identified above with the whole genome resequencing. Further analysis of other values of K with some support (K=3, 5, and 7) shows separation of the 4-seeded germplasm into smaller clusters. Based on K = 7, which separated the 4-seeded gene pool into groups that roughly correspond with geographic and morphological variation, similar clustering and population stratification were detected by hierarchical clustering and PCA (Fig. 5b and c, Supplementary Data 5). Clusters I and V contained accessions from Africa only, comprising all wild four-seeded and two-seeded accessions, respectively. Accessions in cluster III and VII were mainly from Asia (largely India) and Australia, and Cluster III included most of the accessions of ssp. *bengalensis*, which has long, relatively narrow pods Clusters II, IV and VI are from diverse origins and were mostly acquired by the Grassland Research Station (GRS, Kitale, Kenya). Pairwise F_{ST} among the seven clusters varied from 0.31 between clusters III and IV to 0.97 between clusters I and II (Supplementary Table 6). Analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) further showed the presence of greater genetic variation between (81%) than within clusters (19%) (Supplementary Table 7). The mean within-cluster genetic distance between accessions, Nei's D²³, was lowest for cluster II (mean D = 0.002) and highest for cluster I (mean D = 0.186; Supplementary Table 8). The low Nei's D in clusters VII (mean D = 0.009) and II probably reflects that they both contain several potential duplicate accessions of commercial provenance and the high Nei's D in cluster I likely reflects the group comprising both wild and domesticated accessions from Ethiopia.

with up to eight seeds and a particular seed arrangement in the pod.

The population clusters differed in several phenotypes based on historical phenology and morpho-agronomic trait data²⁴. Cluster V, which comprised only the morphologically distinct wild (ssp. uncinatus) four-seeded accessions, was excluded due to lack of phenotype data. The 14 quantitative traits (Supplementary Fig. 9; Supplementary Table 9) and six out of seven qualitative characters (Supplementary Fig. 10; Supplementary Table 10) differed significantly among the six remaining genetic clusters of predominantly domesticated accessions, despite a certain level of phenotypic variation within every cluster. Cluster I includes accessions with short and wide pods containing two very large seeds, except for the wild two-seeded accessions (ssp. uncinatus) with small seed size. The plants in this group were late maturing and produced few but only coloured flowers, with shorter peduncles and longer flower rachis. Cluster II comprises the most homogeneous group; it had the tallest accessions that were late flowering with mostly white flowers and were broad and leafy with long flower peduncles, a high number of flowering nodes and four relatively small tan-coloured seeds per pod. Cluster III accessions, which included most of ssp. bengalensis, are phenotypically variable, containing early-flowering, short and mostly decumbent plants with four to six relatively large seeds per pod. Clusters IV and VI include diverse phenotypes: overall plants were broad, leafy and had intermediate plant height and flowering time and with larger leaves and shorter pods with up to four rather small seeds.

We combined the aforementioned historic phenotype data for 125 lablab accessions with quality-filtered DArTseq markers (7780 SNPs and 14,202 SilicoDArTs) for a genome-wide association study (GWAS). We identified 18 markers (8 SNPs and 10 SilicoDArTs) across eight chromosomes (Fig. 6, Supplementary Fig. 11) that are significantly associated with leaf length, leaf width, leaf ratio, plant height, days to 50% flowering, pod length, pod width, pod ratio, and thousand seed weight traits (Supplementary Table 11). The associated markers explained 7–24% of phenotypic variation (Supplementary Table 11). The identified markers will be useful in the genetic improvement of lablab through the application of marker-assisted selection and for further characterisation and map-based cloning of the QTLs.

Discussion

Africa has rich plant biodiversity that includes 45,000 species²⁵, most of which are under-studied and many are not fulfilling their full potential. To fully explore these genetic resources, it is important to develop inclusive research models that enable and empower local researchers to study these species under a resource-limited research setting. Our work describes an inclusive African-led effort to produce a high-quality reference genome for a climate-resilient and multipurpose native African orphan crop - lablab. Our chromosome-scale assembly of lablab improves on the previous assembly in several ways and allows us to highlight some interesting and important features of the lablab genome, and its domestication and population diversity.

With the use of long-reads and Hi-C scaffolding, we achieved a 61fold improvement in contiguity and identified a further 34 Mbp of Article



Fig. 5 | Population genetic analysis of lablab. a Bar plots based on the admixture model in STRUCTURE for multiple *K* (Membership of individual accessions to each subgroup is given in Supplementary Table 6). b Clusters detected by hierarchical

clustering. **c** Clusters detected by PCA. The colours in (**b**) and (**c**) are according to the STRUCTURE K = 7 in (**a**). Accessions in admixture groups shown by light grey colour in (**b**) and (**c**). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

repetitive sequences compared to the short-read based assembly¹¹. In addition, the high average LAI¹⁷ (19.8; Fig. 1d), comparable to the LAI of a PacBio-based assembly of common bean²⁶, indicates a high level of completeness of the repetitive and intergenic regions in our assembly. As has been found in other legumes, LTR-RTs were the predominant TE class in our lablab assembly^{15,16,27}. In contrast to findings from lablab's close relatives, however, we found copia LTR-RTs to be more abundant than gypsy LTR-RTs. It is uncommon to see a greater abundance of copia LTR-RTs when compared to gypsy LTR-RTs in plant genomes^{28,29}, and although the biological significance of elevated copia abundance remains to be seen, further plant genome sequencing will determine whether this finding is indeed a distinguishing feature of lablab.

Lablab has a smaller genome size than other sequenced legumes and also has a smaller number of species-specific orthogroups. Nevertheless, the orthogroup analysis identified several GO categories enriched in the lablab-specific orthogroups; of particular interest are those involved in fatty acid metabolism, which could underlie seed oil content and composition. In addition, arabinose metabolism genes were enriched in the lablab-unique genes and several other cell wallrelated GO terms (specifically related to pectin and lignin) in the orthogroups were expanded in lablab. Cell wall modification could be related to protection from pathogens³⁰ or drought tolerance³¹. We also show that trypsin inhibitor genes in lablab are arranged in five gene clusters. This defined genome organisation provides a number of opportunities for targeted breeding to reduce trypsin inhibitor content in lablab because of their antinutritional properties. First, screening for copy number variation in these gene clusters, as observed in soybean³², can help to identify accessions with fewer trypsin inhibitor genes. Secondly, strategies like mutation breeding or genome editing can be used to selectively delete some of these gene



Fig. 6 | **GWAS in lablab.** Circos plots showing the distribution of significant markertrait associations (MTA) identified in the lablab genome. Only significant markers with adjusted *p*-value > 0.05 (after correcting for multiple comparison using False Discovery Rate approach) from at least two out of five association models tested

are shown (Supplementary Table 11). Vertical axis represents –log(raw *p* value). The size of the bubble represents the number of models where the MTA was significant. The colour of the bubble represents the MTA trait. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

clusters to reduce their antinutritional effects while still maintaining their plant defence function.

A dual origin of domesticated lablab was confirmed, with the localised (to Ethiopia) two-seeded and the widespread four-seeded types being genetically distinct and domestication events occurring in both of these groups. This, therefore, adds lablab to the relatively exclusive list of crops with more than one origin, which includes common bean¹⁵, lychee³³, Tartary buckwheat³⁴ and, potentially, rice³⁵ and barley³⁶. Data on reproductive isolation between the gene pools are unclear, and crosses are only known between four-seeded samples³⁷⁻³⁹, thus any taxonomic reassessment (first suggested by ref. 20) should begin with evaluating reproductive compatibility between the gene pools.

Importantly, our project provides an example for increasing the representation of local researchers in the sequencing of their indigenous crops. Recent studies and commentaries have highlighted the disconnect between the natural distributions of species selected for genome sequencing and the location of the institutions leading their sequencing^{10,12,13}. This is particularly true for Africa, where, to date, none of the sequenced indigenous crops was sequenced nor assembled within Africa¹². Our project breaks this trend because sequencing, assembly and some of the genome analyses were done in Africa, while still recruiting international partners where complementary expertise was beneficial to the project. Thus, we encourage the contribution of

the international community in African orphan crop genomics while supporting more active involvement from local researchers.

Three main features characterised our inclusive genome collaboration - access to low-cost portable sequencing, in-depth capacity building and equitable international collaboration. The high acquisition and maintenance costs of genome sequencing technologies has historically limited the participation of researchers working in LMIC in genome collaborations. Low-cost and portable sequencing platforms such as the ONT MinION, are now making long-read sequencing accessible to researchers in LMIC, thus democratising genome sequencing. Secondly, our project benefited from efforts to build indepth bioinformatics skills in Africa¹³. Four of the African authors in our study, including two of the first authors, benefited from a residential 8-month bioinformatics training in Africa through the Bioinformatics Community of Practice training (https://acaciaafrica.org). We posit that such in-country and long-term training, as opposed to short workshops, is more effective in developing the high-competence bioinformatics skills that the continent needs. We also acknowledge the efforts by the African Plant Breeding Academy⁴⁰ and the recently launched African Biogenome Initiative¹² to develop genomic capabilities on the continent. Lastly, establishing international collaboration helped us to take advantage of existing expertise and alreadydeveloped pipelines for genome analyses. With over 20 years of plant genome sequencing, there is now a rich suite of tools, pipelines and

protocols for plant genome analyses. Therefore, African researchers do not have to reinvent the wheel for orphan crop genomics, but instead can form strategic collaborations to access needed expertise, protocols, pipelines and networks.

Our lablab genome assembly and collaboration provide a roadmap for improving agronomic, yield and nutritional traits in other African orphan crops. Given the Africa-centred and inclusive nature of our work, this could be used as a guide by individual labs and multinational genome consortia including the African Biogenome Initiative¹² to generate high-quality genomic resources for many indigenous species across the continent.

Methods

Reference cultivar DNA extraction and sequencing

Lablab purpureus (L.) Sweet cv. Highworth⁴¹ seeds were germinated in a petri dish on filter papers moistened with tap water. The sprouted seedlings were transferred to soil and allowed to grow for one month in the greenhouse facility at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI, Kenya). Two grams of young trifoliate leaves were harvested, flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80 °C. The leaves were ground in liquid nitrogen using a pestle and mortar and high molecular weight (HMW) DNA was extracted with Carlson lysis buffer (100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 9.5, 2% CTAB, 1.4 M NaCl, 1% PEG 8000, 20 mM EDTA) followed by purification using the Qiagen Genomic-tip 100/G (Qiagen, Cat. No: 10243) based on ONT HMW plant DNA extraction protocol. The library was prepared following the ONT SQK-LSK109 ligation sequencing kit protocol. A total of 1 µg of genomic DNA was repaired and 3'-adenylated with the NEBNext FFPE DNA Repair Mix (NEB, Cat No: M6630) and the NEBNext® Ultra™ II End Repair/dA-Tailing Module (NEB, Cat No: E7595) and sequencing adaptors ligated using the NEBNext Quick Ligation Module (NEB, Cat No: E6056). After library purification with AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter, Cat No:A63880), sequencing was conducted at ILRI using the R9.4.1 flow cells on a MinION sequencer platform.

Genome assembly

Guppy basecaller (ver 4.1.1)⁴² was used for base calling the reads using the high-accuracy base-calling model and the resulting fastq files were used for genome assembly. Flye de novo long read assembler⁴³ (ver 2.7.1) was used for the assembly with the default parameters. The draft assembly was polished with lablab Illumina short reads¹¹ (NCBI Bioproject PRJNA474418) using HyPo hybrid polisher⁴⁴ and scaffolded using Hi-C (see below). The genome assembly quality and completeness were evaluated using QUAST⁴⁵ (ver 5.0.2) and BUSCO (ver 5.2.2)⁴⁶ where the embryophta_odb10 and fabales lineages were used as references.

Hi-C scaffolding

Chromatin conformation capture data was generated by Phase Genomics (Seattle, USA) using the Proximo Hi-C 2.0 Kit, which is a commercially available version of the Hi-C protocol. Following the manufacturer's instructions, fresh leaves from lablab were frozen in liquid Nitrogen, ground, crosslinked using a formaldehyde solution and sent to Phase Genomics for library preparation following the manufacturer's protocol. Sequencing of the Hi-C library was performed on an Illumina HiSeq, generating a total of 232,382,372 PE150 read pairs. Reads were aligned to the draft assembly using BWA-MEM (ver 0.7.17-r1198-dirty)⁴⁷ with the -5SP and -t 8 options specified, and all other options default. SAMBLASTER (ver 0.1.24)48 was used to flag PCR duplicates, which were later excluded from the analysis. Alignments were then filtered with SAMtools⁵⁰ using the -F 2304 filtering flag to remove non-primary and secondary alignments. Putative misjoined contigs were broken using Juicebox (ver 1.11.08)⁵¹ based on the Hi-C alignments. A total of 6 breaks in 6 contigs were introduced. The same alignment procedure was repeated from the beginning on the resulting corrected assembly. Phase Genomics Proximo Hi-C genome scaffolding platform was used to create chromosome-scale scaffolds from the corrected assembly as described in ref. 52. As in the LACHESIS method⁵³, this process computes a contact frequency matrix from the aligned Hi-C read pairs, normalised by the number of DPNII restriction sites (GATC) on each contig, and constructs scaffolds in such a way as to optimise expected contact frequency and other statistical patterns in Hi-C data. Approximately 20,000 separate Proximo runs were performed to optimise the number of scaffolds and scaffold construction in order to make the scaffolds as concordant with the observed Hi-C data as possible.

Synteny-guided chromosome naming

We adopted a naming scheme for the Hi-C-scaffolded chromosomes based on synteny with closely related legumes - *P. vulgaris* (common bean¹⁵) and *V. unguiculata* (cowpea¹⁶). For this, we downloaded protein sequence and GFF files of PacBio-based assemblies of *P. vulgaris* (v2.1) and *V. unguiculata* (v1.2) from Phytozome²⁶ and compared this separately to lablab proteins using BLASTP⁵⁴ (settings: -max_target_seqs 1, -evalue 1e-10, -qcov_hsp_perc 70). MCScanX⁵⁵ was used to process the individual BLAST output and to detect inter-species collinear blocks.

Gene annotation

Two annotation pipelines were complementarily used for gene annotation using different evidence support. Protein sequences from five closely related species (P. vulgaris, V. angularis, C. cajan, and M. truncatula) as well as Arabidopsis thaliana were used as protein homology evidence. RNAseq data from lablab cv. Highworth leaves, stem, sepals, and petals¹¹ were used in de novo transcript assembly with Trinity⁵⁶ (ver 2.8.5) and provided as transcript evidence. The Funannotate pipeline⁵⁷ (ver 1.8.7) was initially used for gene prediction. Before annotation, the genome assembly was soft-masked, that is, genomic bases at positions with hints of repeats and transposable elements (described below) were transformed to lowercase letters to inform gene prediction software of potential repetitive elements and assist the accurate prediction of protein-coding genes. Using the softmasked assembly as a reference, Funannotate generated an initial set of gene models using PASA⁵⁸ (ver 2.4.1) with RNA-Seq reads, de novo assembled transcripts and protein homology evidence as input. Next, the gene models and protein homology evidence were used to train Augustus⁵⁹ (ver 3.3.3), SNAP⁶⁰ (ver 2006-07-28) and Glimmerhmm⁶¹ (ver 3.0.4) ab initio gene predictors and predicted genes passed to Evidence modeller⁶² (ver 1.1.1) with various weights for integration. tRNAscan-SE⁶³ (ver 2.0.9) was used to predict non-overlapping tRNAs. Transcript evidence generated from de novo transcript assembly with Trinity (ver 2.8.5) was used to correct, improve and update the predicted gene models and refine the 5'- and 3'-untranslated regions in the final step with Funannotate (ver 1.8.7).

The plant.annot pipeline (https://github.com/PGSB-HMGU/plant. annot) was also used for the prediction of protein-coding genes and incorporated homology information and transcript evidence as well. In the evidence-based step, RNA-Seq data from cv. Highworth leaf, stem, sepal and petal¹¹ was used for the genome-guided prediction of gene structures. HISAT2⁶⁴ (ver 2.1.0, parameter -dta) was used to map RNA-Seq data to the reference genome and the transcripts assembled with Stringtie⁶⁵ (ver 1.2.3, parameters -m 150 -t -f 0.3). For the homologybased step, homologous proteins from the closely related species were mapped to the reference genome using the splice-aware mapper GenomeThreader⁶⁶ (ver 1.7.1, parameters: -startcodon -finalstopcodon -species medicago -gcmincoverage 70 -prseedlength 7 -prhdist 4). Transdecoder⁶⁷ (ver 3.0.0) was used to predict protein sequences and to identify potential open reading frames. The predicted protein sequences were compared to a protein reference database (UniProt Magnoliophyta, reviewed/Swiss-Prot, downloaded from Uniprot on 2017-02-20) using BLASTP⁵⁴ (-max target seqs 1 -evalue $1e^{-05}$).

Conserved protein family domains for all proteins were identified with hmmscan⁶⁸ (ver 3.1b2). Transdecoder-predict was run on the BLAST and hmmscan results and the best translation per transcript was selected. Results from the homology and transcript-based gene prediction approaches were combined and redundant protein sequences were removed.

The results from both the Funannotate and plant.annot pipelines were combined as follows. 'bedtools intersect'69 was used to find overlapping gene models. A BLASTP-search⁵⁴ against a database of protein sequences from related species (P. vulgaris, V. angularis, C. cajan, and M. truncatula) and A. thaliana was performed and the best blast hit based on coverage and e-value was selected in case of overlapping gene models. A combined annotation file in gff3-format was created using 'gt merge'⁷⁰ and redundant protein sequences as well as non-coding genes were removed. The functional annotation of transcripts as well as the assignment of Pfam⁷¹- and InterPro⁷²-domains, and GO73,74 terms, were performed using AHRD (automatic assignment of human readable descriptions, https://github.com/groupschoof/AHRD; ver 3.3.3). AHRD assesses homology information to other known proteins using BLASTP searches against Swiss-Prot. The Arabidopsis Information Resource (TAIR), and TrEMBL. The functional annotations are defined using the homology information and the domain search results from InterProScan and Gene Ontology terms. In order to distinguish transposon-related genes from other genes, the functional annotation was used to tag TE-related genes in the genome annotation file. BUSCO⁴⁶(ver 5.2.2) was used to assess the completeness of the genome annotation, with sets of universal single-copy gene orthologs from embryophyta and fabales lineages⁴⁶.

Repeat annotation

Repeat annotations for transposable elements (TE) and tandem repeats were conducted independently. For TE annotation, a lablab TE library was constructed using the extensive de novo TE annotator pipeline (EDTA⁷⁵ ver 1.9.7). EDTA incorporates both structure and homology-based detection programmes to annotate the predominant TE classes found in plant genomes. EDTA utilises LTRharvest⁷⁶, LTR_FINDER⁷⁷, LTR_retriever⁴⁹, TIR-Learner⁷⁸, HelitronScanner⁷⁹, RepeatModeler2⁸⁰ and RepeatMasker⁸¹ for the identification of TE sequences. The outputs of each module are then combined and filtered to compile a comprehensive, non-redundant TE library. EDTA's inbuilt whole genome annotation function was then used to produce a non-overlapping TE annotation for lablab using the TE library as input. Further calculation of metrics and data visualisation were carried out in R⁸² (ver 4.1.2) using the tidyverse suite⁸³ of packages.

Tandem repeats were identified with TandemRepeatFinder (ver 4.09)⁸⁴ under default parameters and subjected to an overlap removal by prioritising higher scores. Higher-scoring matches were assigned first. Lower-scoring hits at overlapping positions were either shortened or removed. Removal was triggered if the lower-scoring hits were contained to \geq 90% in the overlap or if less than 50 bp of rest length remained.

Gene family and expansion analysis

Gene families were identified using a genome-wide phylogenetic comparison of the lablab protein sequences and four other legumes. This comprised *P. vulgaris* (PhaVulg1_0), *V. angularis* (Vigan1.1), *C. cajan* (V1.0), and *M. truncatula* (MtrunA17r5). Orthofinder⁸⁵ (ver 2.4) was used to identify orthologs and co-orthologs between these species and to group them into gene families. *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Araport 11) was used as an outgroup. The longest transcript was selected for genes with multiple splice variants.

In order to analyse gene family expansion and contraction in lablab, the gene family file produced by Orthofinder was further analysed with CAFE5⁸⁶. An ultrametric tree was built with Orthofinder (r = 160) and CAFE5⁸⁶ was run with -k 3. Enrichment analysis

using a fisher's exact test ($p_{adj} \le 0.05$) of significantly (*p*-value of gene family sizes⁸⁷ ≤ 0.05) expanded gene families was performed with TopGO⁸⁸.

Characterisation of the trypsin inhibitor gene family

A set of trypsin inhibitor protein sequences from Arabidopsis and four legumes (Medicago tuncatula, Caianus caian, Phaseolus vulgaris, and Vigna angularis) was retrieved from NCBI (XP 020218929.1, XP 027922998.1, CAQ64594.1, NP_001241106.1, NP_001327060.1, AGV54620.1, XP 020224523.1, XP 020224522.1, CAQ64593.1) and used as queries in a blastp search⁵⁴ (-max hsps 1 -evalue 1e-2) against the lablab protein sequences (using the longest transcripts). Protein domain structure in the lablab protein sequences returned from the blast search was searched using InterProScan5⁸⁹ (-iprlookup -goterms -pa -f TSV -dp -appl Pfam,TIGRFAM,SUPERFAMIL) and only lablab proteins containing the Bowman-Birk protease inhibitor (PF00228) and Kunitz trypsin inhibitor (PF00197) were retained. In addition, lablab proteins that were not identified from the blastp search but that contain the trypsin inhibitor protein domain were added to the candidate set of lablab trypsin inhibitors. The resulting set of lablab candidate genes was compared to the Orthofinder result and potentially missed orthologs were included. In an additional iteration step, the set of lablab candidate genes was used to search for candidates in the lablab protein set again. Moreover, this set was mapped to the lablab genome with tblastn⁵⁴ to search for full-length genes that were not annotated. This however revealed no hits. After identifying the trypsin inhibitor genes in the lablab genome, the gene clusters containing them were extracted from the Orthofinder-results. A multiple sequence alignment of all sequences was calculated using MUSCLE⁹⁰ (ver v3.8.1551). A phylogenetic tree was calculated using FastTree⁹¹ (ver 2.1.11) and visualised with iTol⁹² (v 6.3). RIdeogram⁹³ was used to visualise the genomic distribution of lablab trypsin inhibitor genes.

Synteny analyses and the detection of tandemly duplicated genes in the genomes of *Lablab purpureus, Cajanus cajan, Phaseolus vulgaris,* and *Medicago truncatula* was conducted using McScanX⁵⁵. Visualisations were performed with iTOL⁹² and circa (http://omgenomics. com/circa).

Gene expression analysis

In order to analyse gene expression of the trypsin inhibitor genes the SRA-datasets SRR7267957, SRR7267958, SRR7267959, and SRR7267964, corresponding to lablab petal, stem, sepal, and young leaf tissues respectively, were used. Reads were trimmed with fastp⁹⁴ (ver 0.23.2). Kallisto⁹⁵ (ver 0.44.0) was used to build a transcriptome index. Transcript abundances were quantified using Kallisto (quant with default options). The transcript-level estimates from Kallisto were summarised to the gene level using the tximport package⁹⁶ (ver 1.12.3). DESeq2⁹⁷ (ver 1.24.0) was used for normalisation and variance stabilising transformation. Pheatmap⁹⁸ (ver 1.0.12) was used to visualise gene expression of the trypsin inhibitor gene family in lablab.

Resequencing and phylogenetic analyses

Seed from lablab plus an outgroup (*Dipogon lignosus*) were obtained from ILRI, the USDA and the Australian Pastures Genebank for the resequencing (Supplementary Data 4). DNA was extracted from leaf tissue using a CTAB-based protocol⁹⁹ with minor modifications. In total, 21 accessions of two and four-seeded wild and domesticated lablab and one outgroup were sequenced using 2×150 bp PE sequencing on an Illumina platform at Novogene (Cambridge, UK). In addition, short read data from lablab cv. Highworth¹¹, was downloaded from the NCBI Sequence Read Archive (Supplementary Data 4). The reads from all samples were trimmed using Trimmomatic¹⁰⁰ (ver 0.32) with the parameters: ILLUMINACLIP:TruSeq3-PE-2.fa:2:30:10, LEAD-ING:5, TRAILING:5, SLIDINGWINDOW:4:15, MINLEN:72. Between 19.1 and 73.4 M reads remained after trimming. The trimmed reads were mapped to the chromosome-scale lablab assembly (excluding unmapped contigs) using Bowtie2¹⁰¹ (ver 2.2.3) and '-very-sensitivelocal' settings. SAMtools⁵⁰ (ver 1.1) was used to convert.sam to.bam files which were then sorted, and duplicated reads were removed using the Picard toolkit¹⁰² (ver 2.8.3, VALIDATION STRINGENCY = LENIENT). Depth and coverage were estimated using SAMtools⁵⁰ (Supplementary Data 4). Using mpileup from bcftools¹⁰³ (ver 1.6.0), the individual sorted bam files were combined into a multi-sample VCF using the settings -Q 13 and -q 10 and variant detection was performed with "bcftools call". After examining the effect of various filtering parameters, variants were subsequently filtered using "bcftools filter", -i'QUAL>20 and DP > 8' expression. Finally, vcftools was used to trim the filtered VCF, removing variants that were missing in more than two samples and those with a minor allele frequency of <5% based on the recommendation of ref. 104. For the phylogenetic analysis, the VCF was filtered to only include variants that were at least 2 kb apart. VCF2Dis (https://github.com/BGI-shenzhen/VCF2Dis/; ver 1.36) was used to create a distance matrix which was submitted to the FAST-ME server (http://www.atgc-montpellier.fr/fastme/) to generate an NJ tree. A total of 1000 replicate matrices were generated in VCF2Dis and the phylip commands 'neighbor' and 'consense' were used to calculate bootstrap values. A second phylogenetic analysis using only variants found in genes with orthologues across the examined legumes gave the same topology (see Results). Genetic diversity for the two subpopulations and F_{ST} between the subpopulations were calculated from the final VCF file (before trimming to remove variants within 2 kb) using vcftools in 100 kb windows. Population genomic analysis was carried out on variants identified as above but excluding the outgroup. The number of populations (K) was examined from K=1 to 6 using STRUCTURE²². Each *K* was tested five times with 25,000 permutations after discarding 10,000 as burn-in. The optimal K was then suggested using the Evanno method¹⁰⁵ and StructureHarvester¹⁰⁶.

Population structure, diversity and association

A total of 2300 seedlings from 203 lablab accessions, that have been maintained at the ILRI forage genebank were grown from seed under screen house conditions at ILRI, Ethiopia. Genomic DNA was extracted from leaves using a DNeasy® Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen, Cat No: 69106). The DNA samples were subjected to genotyping-by-sequencing (GBS) using the DArTseq genotyping platform at Diversity Arrays Technology, Canberra, Australia¹⁰⁷. We obtained SNP and SilicoDArT marker files from the DArTseq genotyping. The SNP data contain single nucleotide polymorphisms identified between accessions and anchored to the lablab genome. SilicoDArT markers represent mainly presence-absence markers mostly due to structural variations or SNPs at the recognition site of the restriction enzyme used for making the GBS library. The SNP and SilicoDArT markers were filtered based on the marker's minor allele frequency (MAF \ge 2%), missing values (NA \le 10%), independence from each other (linkage disequilibrium/LD \leq 0.7) and their distribution across the genome. A 2% MAF threshold was used in order to accommodate the smallest sub-population (i.e., twoseeded and four-seeded wild accessions), which make up ~2% of the collection used in the study. This allowed sub-population-specific SNPs to be retained while reducing the chances of retaining SNPs arising from sequencing errors. The 10% missing values were imputed using the missForest R package, running the imputation separately for the major sub-populations: two-seeded, four-seeded wild, and four-seeded cultivated groups.

A pairwise identity-by-descent analysis was conducted using PLINK¹⁰⁸ and contaminants were excluded from the following analyses (see Supplementary Note 1, Supplementary Fig. 12). Genetic diversity was estimated using pairwise Nei's genetic distance²³. Population stratification was assessed using the Bayesian algorithm implemented in STRUCTURE²² (ver 2.3.4), in which the burn-in time and the number of iterations were both set to 100,000 with 5 repetitions, testing the

likelihood of 1–20 subpopulations in an admixture model with correlated allele frequencies. Using Structure Harvester¹⁰⁶ the most likely number of subpopulations was determined by the Evanno ΔK method¹⁰⁵. Accessions with less than 60% membership probability were considered admixed. Hierarchical clustering, principal component analysis (PCA), fixation index (F_{ST}) and AMOVA were conducted using the R-packages Poppr¹⁰⁹, adegenet¹¹⁰ and APE¹¹¹.

To examine phenotypic variation among the identified genetic clusters, we used historical phenotype data summarised by Pengelly and Maass²⁴ and Wiedow¹¹², in which morpho-agronomic traits on lablab accessions were evaluated in field trials at Ziway site in Ethiopia, in 1998 and 2000, respectively (Supplementary Fig. 13). Quantitative data from the two trials showed high correlation for most traits and were combined using a linear mixed model with the lme4 R package using accession as fixed variable and year of trial as a random variable. Before modelling, the Shapiro-Wilk test in R statistical software (R Core Team, 2021) was used to determine whether the data for each trait had a normal distribution, and a rank-based inverse normal transformation was applied whenever a trait's distribution significantly (P < 0.01) departed from normality. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Tukey's multiple comparison test were employed to compare significant (P < 0.05) phenotypic variation of agro-morphological quantitative traits among the genetic clusters identified by population structure analysis. For qualitative data, a chi-square test was used for similar comparisons among the genetic clusters. The back-transformed data was used for plotting transformed quantitative data in biologically relevant scales.

Marker-trait association analysis was conducted using five statistical models implemented in Genomic Association and Prediction Integrated Tool version 3 (GAPIT3)¹¹³. The models used include general linear model, mixed linear model (MLM or Q + K), multiple loci mixed model, FarmCPU and BLINK. A total of 21,982 markers (7780 SNPs and 14,202 silicoDArTs), retained after filtering by different criteria as described earlier, were used in the marker-trait association analysis. Markers with false discovery rate adjusted *p* values < 0.05 were chosen as significant. Only significant markers identified from at least two out of five association models tested are reported..

Reporting summary

Further information on research design is available in the Nature Portfolio Reporting Summary linked to this article.

Data availability

Nanopore long reads used for the reference assembly are available from NCBI SRA under BioProject PRJNA824307. Illumina reads for the resequencing samples are available from the NCBI SRA under project number PRJNA834808. The lablab genome and annotation files are available at the Plant Genomics and Phenomics Research Data Repository (e!DAL) [https://doi.org/10.5447/ipk/2022/26]¹¹⁴ and ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute) [https://hpc.ilri.cgiar.org/ -bngina/lablab_longread_sequencing_March_2022/]. All lablab accessions are available by request [https://genebank.ilri.org/gringlobal/] Source data are provided with this paper.

References

- 1. FAO. *Faostat: FAO Statistical Databases*. (Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2000).
- 2. The war in Ukraine is exposing gaps in the world's food-systems research. *Nature* **604**, 217–218 (2022).
- Chapman, M. A., He, Y. & Zhou, M. Beyond a reference genome: pangenomes and population genomics of underutilized and orphan crops for future food and nutrition security. *N. Phytol.* 234, 1583–1597 (2022).
- 4. Maass, B. L. et al. Lablab purpureus—a crop lost for Africa? *Trop. Plant Biol.* **3**, 123–135 (2010).

- Habib, H. M., Theuri, S. W., Kheadr, E. E. & Mohamed, F. E. Functional, bioactive, biochemical, and physicochemical properties of
- the Dolichos lablab bean. Food Funct. 8, 872–880 (2017).
 6. Weldeyesus, G. Forage productivity system evaluation through station screening and intercropping of lablab forage legume with maize under Irrigated lands of smallholder farmers. Afr. J. Agric. Res. 12, 1841–1847 (2017).
- Minde, J. J., Venkataramana, P. B. & Matemu, A. O. Dolichos Lablab-an underutilized crop with future potentials for food and nutrition security: a review. *Crit. Rev. Food Sci. Nutr.* 61, 2249–2261 (2021).
- Liu, Y.-M. et al. A carbohydrate-binding protein from the edible Lablab beans effectively blocks the infections of influenza viruses and SARS-CoV-2. *Cell Rep.* **32**, 108016 (2020).
- Missanga, J. S., Venkataramana, P. B. & Ndakidemi, P. A. Recent developments in Lablab purpureus genomics: a focus on drought stress tolerance and use of genomic resources to develop stressresilient varieties. *Legume Sci.* 3, e99 (2021).
- Marks, R. A., Hotaling, S., Frandsen, P. B. & VanBuren, R. Representation and participation across 20 years of plant genome sequencing. *Nat. Plants* 7, 1571–1578 (2021).
- 11. Chang, Y. et al. The draft genomes of five agriculturally important African orphan crops. *Gigascience* **8**, giy152 (2019).
- 12. Ebenezer, T. E. et al. Africa: sequence 100,000 species to safeguard biodiversity. *Nature* **603**, 388–392 (2022).
- 13. Ghazal, H. et al. Plant genomics in Africa: present and prospects. *Plant J.* **107**, 21–36 (2021).
- Padmarasu, S., Himmelbach, A., Mascher, M. & Stein, N. In situ Hi-C for plants: an improved method to detect long-range chromatin interactions. In: *Plant Long Non-Coding RNAs: Methods and Protocols* (eds. Chekanova, J. A. & Wang, H.-L. V.) vol. 1933 441–472 (Springer New York, 2019).
- Schmutz, J. et al. A reference genome for common bean and genome-wide analysis of dual domestications. *Nat. Genet.* 46, 707–713 (2014).
- Lonardi, S. et al. The genome of cowpea (Vigna unguiculata [L.] Walp.). Plant J. 98, 767–782 (2019).
- Ou, S., Chen, J. & Jiang, N. Assessing genome assembly quality using the LTR Assembly Index (LAI). *Nucleic Acids Res.* 46, e126 (2018).
- Rodríguez-Sifuentes, L., Marszalek, J. E., Chuck-Hernández, C. & Serna-Saldívar, S. O. Legumes protease inhibitors as biopesticides and their defense mechanisms against Biotic Factors. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* 21, 3322 (2020).
- Guretzki, S. & Papenbrock, J. Characterization of Lablab purpureus regarding drought tolerance, trypsin inhibitor activity and cyanogenic potential for selection in breeding programmes. J. Agron. Crop Sci. 200, 24–35 (2014).
- Maass, B. L., Jamnadass, R. H., Hanson, J. & Pengelly, B. C. Determining sources of diversity in cultivated and wild lablab purpureus related to provenance of germplasm by using amplified fragment length polymorphism. *Genet. Resour. Crop Evol.* 52, 683–695 (2005).
- Maass, B. L., Robotham, O. & Chapman, M. A. Evidence for two domestication events of hyacinth bean (Lablab purpureus (L.) Sweet): a comparative analysis of population genetic data. *Genet. Resour. Crop Evol.* 64, 1221–1230 (2017).
- Pritchard, J. K., Stephens, M. & Donnelly, P. Inference of population structure using multilocus genotype data. *Genetics* 155, 945–959 (2000).
- 23. Nei, M. Genetic distance between populations. *Am. Nat.* **106**, 283–292 (1972).
- 24. Pengelly, B. C. & Maass, B. L. Lablab purpureus (L.) Sweet–diversity, potential use and determination of a core

collection of this multi-purpose tropical legume. *Genet. Resour. Crop Evol.* **48**, 261–272 (2001).

- Linder, H. P. The evolution of African plant diversity. Front. Ecol. Evol. 2, 38 (2014).
- 26. Phytozome v13. http://phytozome.jgi.doe.gov.
- 27. Schmutz, J. et al. Genome sequence of the palaeopolyploid soybean. *Nature* **463**, 178–183 (2010).
- Jaillon, O. et al. The grapevine genome sequence suggests ancestral hexaploidization in major angiosperm phyla. *Nature* 449, 463–467 (2007).
- 29. Argout, X. et al. The genome of Theobroma cacao. *Nat. Genet* **43**, 101–108 (2011).
- Houston, K., Tucker, M. R., Chowdhury, J., Shirley, N. & Little, A. The plant cell wall: a complex and dynamic structure as revealed by the responses of genes under stress conditions. *Front. Plant Sci.* 7, 984 (2016).
- 31. Wang, L. et al. A role for a cell wall localized glycine-rich protein in dehydration and rehydration of the resurrection plant Boea hygrometrica. *Plant Biol.* **11**, 837–848 (2009).
- 32. Xie, M. et al. A reference-grade wild soybean genome. *Nat. Commun.* **10**, 1216 (2019).
- 33. Hu, G. et al. Two divergent haplotypes from a highly heterozygous lychee genome suggest independent domestication events for early and late-maturing cultivars. *Nat. Genet* **54**, 73–83 (2022).
- 34. Zhang, K. et al. Resequencing of global Tartary buckwheat accessions reveals multiple domestication events and key loci associated with agronomic traits. *Genome Biol.* **22**, 23 (2021).
- Civáň, P., Craig, H., Cox, C. J. & Brown, T. A. Three geographically separate domestications of Asian rice. *Nat. Plants* 1, 15164 (2015).
- Morrell, P. L. & Clegg, M. T. Genetic evidence for a second domestication of barley (Hordeum vulgare) east of the fertile crescent. *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **104**, 3289–3294 (2007).
- Sultana, Ozaki & Okubo The use of RAPD markers in lablab bean (Lablab purpureus (L.) Sweet) phylogeny. *Bull. Inst. Trop. Agric. Kyushu Univ.* 23, 45–51 (2000). & Others.
- Liu, C. J. Genetic diversity and relationships among Lablab purpureus genotypes evaluated using RAPD as markers. *Euphytica* **90**, 115–119 (1996).
- Bohra, A., Jha, U. C., Kishor, P. B. K., Pandey, S. & Singh, N. P. Genomics and molecular breeding in lesser explored pulse crops: current trends and future opportunities. *Biotechnol. Adv.* 32, 1410–1428 (2014).
- 40. Jamnadass, R. et al. Enhancing African orphan crops with genomics. *Nat. Genet.* **52**, 356–360 (2020).
- 41. Habte, E., Gari, A., Lire, H. & Jones, C. Field trial of Lablab (Lablab purpureus) genotypes under rain fed conditions in Ethiopia. https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/116652/ lablab_report.pdf?sequence=2 (2021).
- 42. Di Tommaso, P. et al. Nextflow enables reproducible computational workflows. *Nat. Biotechnol.* **35**, 316–319 (2017).
- Kolmogorov, M., Yuan, J., Lin, Y. & Pevzner, P. A. Assembly of long, error-prone reads using repeat graphs. *Nat. Biotechnol.* 37, 540–546 (2019).
- Kundu, R., Casey, J. & Sung, W.-K. HyPo: Super fast & accurate polisher for long read genome assemblies. *bioRxiv* 2019.12.19.882506 https://doi.org/10.1101/2019.12.19. 882506 (2019).
- 45. Gurevich, A., Saveliev, V., Vyahhi, N. & Tesler, G. QUAST: quality assessment tool for genome assemblies. *Bioinformatics* **29**, 1072–1075 (2013).
- Simão, F. A., Waterhouse, R. M., Ioannidis, P., Kriventseva, E. V. & Zdobnov, E. M. BUSCO: assessing genome assembly and annotation completeness with single-copy orthologs. *Bioinformatics* 31, 3210–3212 (2015).

- Li, H. & Durbin, R. Fast and accurate long-read alignment with Burrows-Wheeler transform. *Bioinformatics* 26, 589–595 (2010).
- Faust, G. G. & Hall, I. M. SAMBLASTER: fast duplicate marking and structural variant read extraction. *Bioinformatics* **30**, 2503–2505 (2014).
- Ou, S. & Jiang, N. LTR_retriever: a highly accurate and sensitive program for identification of long terminal repeat retrotransposons. *Plant Physiol.* **176**, 1410–1422 (2018).
- 50. Li, H. et al. The sequence Alignment/Map format and SAMtools. *Bioinformatics* **25**, 2078–2079 (2009).
- 51. Durand, N. C. et al. Juicebox provides a visualization system for Hi-C contact maps with unlimited zoom. *Cell Syst.* **3**, 99–101 (2016).
- 52. Bickhart, D. M. et al. Single-molecule sequencing and chromatin conformation capture enable de novo reference assembly of the domestic goat genome. *Nat. Genet.* **49**, 643–650 (2017).
- 53. Burton, J. N. et al. Chromosome-scale scaffolding of de novo genome assemblies based on chromatin interactions. *Nat. Biotechnol.* **31**, 1119–1125 (2013).
- 54. Camacho, C. et al. BLAST+: architecture and applications. *BMC Bioinform.* **10**, 421 (2009).
- 55. Wang, Y. et al. MCScanX: a toolkit for detection and evolutionary analysis of gene synteny and collinearity. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **40**, e49 (2012).
- Grabherr, M. G. et al. Full-length transcriptome assembly from RNA-Seq data without a reference genome. *Nat. Biotechnol.* 29, 644–652 (2011).
- 57. Palmer, J. & Stajich, J. nextgenusfs/funannotate: funannotate v1.5.3. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2604804 (2019).
- Haas, B. J. et al. Improving the Arabidopsis genome annotation using maximal transcript alignment assemblies. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 31, 5654–5666 (2003).
- Stanke, M., Steinkamp, R., Waack, S. & Morgenstern, B. AUGUS-TUS: a web server for gene finding in eukaryotes. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 32, W309–W312 (2004).
- Korf, I. Gene finding in novel genomes. *BMC Bioinform*. 5, 59 (2004).
- Majoros, W. H., Pertea, M. & Salzberg, S. L. TigrScan and GlimmerHMM: two open source ab initio eukaryotic gene-finders. Bioinformatics 20, 2878–2879 (2004).
- 62. Haas, B. J. et al. Automated eukaryotic gene structure annotation using EVidenceModeler and the Program to Assemble Spliced Alignments. *Genome Biol.* **9**, R7 (2008).
- Chan, P. P. & Lowe, T. M. tRNAscan-SE: searching for tRNA genes in genomic sequences. *Methods Mol. Biol.* 1962, 1–14 (2019).
- Kim, D., Paggi, J. M., Park, C., Bennett, C. & Salzberg, S. L. Graphbased genome alignment and genotyping with HISAT2 and HISAT-genotype. *Nat. Biotechnol.* 37, 907–915 (2019).
- 65. Pertea, M. et al. StringTie enables improved reconstruction of a transcriptome from RNA-seq reads. *Nat. Biotechnol.* **33**, 290–295 (2015).
- Gremme, G., Brendel, V., Sparks, M. E. & Kurtz, S. Engineering a software tool for gene structure prediction in higher organisms. *Inform. Softw. Technol.* 47, 965–978 (2005).
- 67. Haas, Papanicolaou & Others. TransDecoder (find coding regions within transcripts). http://transdecoder.github.io.
- Finn, R. D., Clements, J. & Eddy, S. R. HMMER web server: interactive sequence similarity searching. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 39, W29–W37 (2011).
- Quinlan, A. R. & Hall, I. M. BEDTools: a flexible suite of utilities for comparing genomic features. *Bioinformatics* 26, 841–842 (2010).
- Gremme, G., Steinbiss, S. & Kurtz, S. GenomeTools: a comprehensive software library for efficient processing of structured genome annotations. *IEEE/ACM Trans. Comput. Biol. Bioinform.* 10, 645–656 (2013).

- 71. Mistry, J. et al. Pfam: The protein families database in 2021. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **49**, D412–D419 (2021).
- 72. Blum, M. et al. The InterPro protein families and domains database: 20 years on. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **49**, D344–D354 (2021).
- 73. Gene Ontology Consortium. The Gene Ontology resource: enriching a GOld mine. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **49**, D325–D334 (2021).
- 74. Ashburner, M. et al. Gene Ontology: tool for the unification of biology. *Nat. Genet.* **25**, 25–29 (2000).
- 75. Ou, S. et al. Benchmarking transposable element annotation methods for creation of a streamlined, comprehensive pipeline. *Genome Biol.* **20**, 275 (2019).
- Ellinghaus, D., Kurtz, S. & Willhoeft, U. LTRharvest, an efficient and flexible software for de novo detection of LTR retrotransposons. *BMC Bioinform.* 9, 18 (2008).
- 77. Ou, S. & Jiang, N. LTR_FINDER_parallel: parallelization of LTR_FIN-DER enabling rapid identification of long terminal repeat retrotransposons. *Mob. DNA* **10**, 48 (2019).
- 78. Su, W., Gu, X. & Peterson, T. TIR-Learner, a new ensemble method for tir transposable element annotation, provides evidence for abundant new transposable elements in the maize genome. *Mol. Plant* **12**, 447–460 (2019).
- Xiong, W., He, L., Lai, J., Dooner, H. K. & Du, C. HelitronScanner uncovers a large overlooked cache of Helitron transposons in many plant genomes. *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. U.S.A.***111**, 10263–10268 (2014).
- Flynn, J. M. et al. RepeatModeler2 for automated genomic discovery of transposable element families. *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci.* U.S.A. **117**, 9451–9457 (2020).
- 81. Smit, A. F. A., Hubley, R. & Green, P. RepeatMasker Open-4.0. http://www.repeatmasker.org (2013–2015).
- 82. R Core Team. R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing. https://www.R-project.org/ (2019).
- 83. Wickham, H. et al. Welcome to the tidyverse. J. Open Source Softw. 4, 1686 (2019).
- 84. Benson, G. Tandem repeats finder: a program to analyze DNA sequences. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **27**, 573–580 (1999).
- 85. Emms, D. M. & Kelly, S. OrthoFinder: phylogenetic orthology inference for comparative genomics. *Genome Biol.* **20**, 238 (2019).
- Mendes, F. K., Vanderpool, D., Fulton, B. & Hahn, M. W. CAFE 5 models variation in evolutionary rates among gene families. *Bioinformatics* https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/ btaa1022 (2020).
- De Bie, T., Cristianini, N., Demuth, J. P. & Hahn, M. W. CAFE: a computational tool for the study of gene family evolution. *Bioinformatics* 22, 1269–1271 (2006).
- 88. Alexa & Rahnenfuhrer. topGO: enrichment analysis for gene ontology. *R package version* (2010).
- 89. Jones, P. et al. InterProScan 5: genome-scale protein function classification. *Bioinformatics* **30**, 1236–1240 (2014).
- Edgar, R. C. MUSCLE: a multiple sequence alignment method with reduced time and space complexity. *BMC Bioinform.* 5, 113 (2004).
- 91. Price, M. N., Dehal, P. S. & Arkin, A. P. FastTree 2-approximately maximum-likelihood trees for large alignments. *PLoS One* **5**, e9490 (2010).
- Letunic, I. & Bork, P. Interactive Tree Of Life (iTOL) v5: an online tool for phylogenetic tree display and annotation. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 49, W293–W296 (2021).
- 93. Hao, Z. et al. RIdeogram: drawing SVG graphics to visualize and map genome-wide data on the idiograms. *PeerJ Comput. Sci.* **6**, e251 (2020).
- 94. Chen, S., Zhou, Y., Chen, Y. & Gu, J. fastp: an ultra-fast all-in-one FASTQ preprocessor. *Bioinformatics* **34**, i884–i890 (2018).
- Bray, N. L., Pimentel, H., Melsted, P. & Pachter, L. Near-optimal probabilistic RNA-seq quantification. *Nat. Biotechnol.* 34, 525–527 (2016).

Article

- Soneson, C., Love, M. I. & Robinson, M. D. Differential analyses for RNA-seq: transcript-level estimates improve gene-level inferences. *F1000Res* 4, 1521 (2015).
- Love, M. I., Huber, W. & Anders, S. Moderated estimation of fold change and dispersion for RNA-seq data with DESeq2. *Genome Biol.* 15, 550 (2014).
- 98. Kolde. Pheatmap: pretty heatmaps. R package version.
- Doyle, J. J. Isolation of plant DNA from fresh tissue. Focus 12, 13–15 (1990).
- Bolger, A. M., Lohse, M. & Usadel, B. Trimmomatic: a flexible trimmer for Illumina sequence data. *Bioinformatics* **30**, 2114–2120 (2014).
- Langmead, B. & Salzberg, S. L. Fast gapped-read alignment with Bowtie 2. Nat. Methods 9, 357–359 (2012).
- 102. Picard toolkit. Broad Institute, GitHub repository https:// broadinstitute.github.io/picard/ (2019).
- Danecek, P. et al. Twelve years of SAMtools and BCFtools. Gigascience 10, giab008 (2021).
- Linck, E. & Battey, C. J. Minor allele frequency thresholds strongly affect population structure inference with genomic data sets. *Mol. Ecol. Resour.* 19, 639–647 (2019).
- Evanno, G., Regnaut, S. & Goudet, J. Detecting the number of clusters of individuals using the software STRUCTURE: a simulation study. *Mol. Ecol.* 14, 2611–2620 (2005).
- Earl, D. A. & vonHoldt, B. M. STRUCTURE HARVESTER: a website and program for visualizing STRUCTURE output and implementing the Evanno method. *Conserv. Genet. Resour.* 4, 359–361 (2012).
- Kilian, A. et al. Diversity arrays technology: a generic genome profiling technology on open platforms. *Methods Mol. Biol.* 888, 67–89 (2012).
- Purcell, S. et al. PLINK: a tool set for whole-genome association and population-based linkage analyses. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 81, 559–575 (2007).
- Kamvar, Z. N., Tabima, J. F. & Grünwald, N. J. Poppr: an R package for genetic analysis of populations with clonal, partially clonal, and/or sexual reproduction. *PeerJ* 2, e281 (2014).
- Jombart, T. adegenet: a R package for the multivariate analysis of genetic markers. *Bioinformatics* 24, 1403–1405 (2008).
- Paradis, E., Claude, J. & Strimmer, K. APE: analyses of phylogenetics and evolution in R language. *Bioinformatics* 20, 289–290 (2004).
- Wiedow, C. Morphological and Agronomical Characterization of Lablab Purpureus in Ethiopia. (Diploma thesis (Dipl.-Ing. agr.), University of Rostock, 2001).
- Wang, J. & Zhang, Z. GAPIT Version 3: boosting power and accuracy for genomic association and prediction. *Genom. Proteom. Bioinform.* 19, 629–640 (2021).
- 114. Arend, D. et al. e!DAL-a framework to store, share and publish research data. *BMC Bioinform*. **15**, 214 (2014).

Acknowledgements

This research was conducted as part of the CGIAR Research Programme on Livestock, supported by CGIAR Fund Donors. O.S. was supported by the Royal Society FLAIR award (FLR_R1_191850), N.K., H.G. and M.S. were supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (De.NBI, FKZ 031A536). D.F. was supported by the SoCoBio DTP (grant number BB/T008768/1; BBSRC, UK) to carry out a PhD rotation project in the lab of MAC. D.F. and M.A.C. acknowledge the use of the IRIDIS High Performance Computing Facility, and associated support services at the University of Southampton. I.N., B.W., M.M., D.K. were supported by a Bioinformatics Community of Practice training grant from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI, BB/R020272/1). We also thank Prof Cristobal Uauy for proofreading the manuscript.

Author contributions

O.S., P.M.F.E., J.D.E., M.A.C., M.S. and C.S.J. conceived and planned the experiments. C.M., L.M. and O.S. performed DNA extraction and Nanopore Sequencing. I.N., B.W., M.M., D.K. and O.S performed the genome assembly. N.K., B.W., M.S., O.S., and I.N. performed genome annotation. D.F. and H.G. annotated the transposable elements and tandem repeats. N.K., B.W. and O.S performed gene family analyses, M.A.C. analysed the re-sequencing data. M.S.M., C.S.J., B.L.M., M.A.C., P.M.F.E and O.S. performed diversity and GWAS analyses on the comprehensive lablab collection. I.N., B.W., N.K., M.S.M., D.F., B.L.M, M.A.C., O.S. and C.S.J. wrote the manuscript. All authors reviewed and approved the final manuscript.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

Supplementary information The online version contains supplementary material available at https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-37489-7.

Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to Mark A. Chapman, Oluwaseyi Shorinola or Chris S. Jones.

Peer review information *Nature Communications* thanks Murukarthick Jayakodi, Xin Liu and the other, anonymous, reviewer(s) for their contribution to the peer review of this work. Peer reviewer reports are available.

Reprints and permissions information is available at http://www.nature.com/reprints

Publisher's note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/ licenses/by/4.0/.

© The Author(s) 2023