How Does the Enabling Environment Impact the Seed Sector?
SESSION OBJECTIVES

By the end of today’s session, participants will:

• Better understand the role (and challenge) of good policies, laws, and regulations

• Learn more about USAID’s regional harmonization efforts for seed regulation in sub-Saharan Africa

• Learn where to go to learn more about tools and resources for enabling environment reform.
WHAT IS THE BUSINESS ENABLING ENVIRONMENT?
HIERARCHY OF LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Constitution

Policies

Laws

Regulations
COMMON CONSTRAINTS

- Policy, legal, and regulatory instability or unpredictability
- Overregulation crowding out private sector
- Licensing, permits, and other costs as a barrier to market entry
- Low capacity to implement laws and regulations
- Corruption and anti-competitive market dynamics
- Social and cultural norms undermining inclusivity and entrepreneurship
GROUP ACTIVITY
Disabling the Environment for Seed

**Policy** – Commitment to driving the private sector out of seeds within 5 years.

**Assignment** – Propose a seemingly innocuous rule to make life difficult for the private seed companies.
Videos

EEFS SARS Video
https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BxMe2NtmJHgYSE5DMWppVTJ4NEU
Southern Africa Seed Trade Project

• Feed-the-Future focus countries: Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia, as well as Zimbabwe*
• Five-year project
• Co-located in Pretoria, South Africa, and Lusaka, Zambia
• SADC-focused Office (with Trade and Investment Hub) in Gaborone Botswana
• Resident advisors in Malawi and Mozambique
• Key REC Partner – SADC/FANR (Gaborone) and the SADC Seed Centre (Lusaka)
SADC Member State representatives gathered in Gaborone, Botswana, to nominate the Seed Committee in May 2016.
Project Highlights – 2016

- Establishment of the SADC Seed Committee.
- 23 varieties were registered on the SADC Regional Variety Catalogue from four companies (Seed Co, PANNAR, Monsanto, and Syngenta).
- *Regional Seed Supply and Demand Study* completed in preparation for 2017 season.
- SCCI Online Seed Lab (MIS) launched in Zambia.
- MOU signed with the *DfID Food Trade East and Southern Africa Program*.
- MOU finalized with ACTESA/COMESA.
Project highlights – 2017

• Capacity building for NSAs, in variety testing, varietal certification and seed testing to build mutual recognition of technical competence across region.
• Assist with OECD Accreditation for the Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) Zambia

Strategic Partnership Grants (SPGs)
• Support public-private partnerships increasing the availability of improved technologies, management practices, and innovations within the seed sector.
• Year 1: roughly 10 grants available ($800,000)
• Fixed amount awards (FAA) with notable milestones.
ACTIVITIES

• Partnering with seed trade associations (APROSE, ZASTA, STAM, and ZSTA) to promote HSR awareness, and advocacy for adoption/usage.
• Support to the human resource development and operationalization of the SADC Seed Centre (Lusaka, Zambia).
• Facilitating development of a business model for the SADC Seed Centre – SADC seed label and counterfeiting measures.
• Supporting the alignment of national seed laws with the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulatory system.
• Capacity building of NSAs, NPPO and Customs/Boarder personnel.
• Piloting seed certification of varieties listed on the regional catalogue
• Updating the SADC Harmonized Pest List (last updated in 2006).
Potential challenges to implementation of harmonized seed regulations in a regional bloc

- Differences in the development of the seed sectors among member states within the trading bloc.
- Nature of the seed market: net importers vs. net exporters have different objectives.
- The instinct to protect local seed interests and the status quo through artificial trade barriers.
- Mutual recognition demands trust.
- Parliamentary delays in approving aligned legislation.
- Human resource capacity challenges.
### Implementation of Seed Regulation, April, 2016

**MONITORING MATRIX**

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<th>Targeted Countries</th>
<th>Benin</th>
<th>Burkina Faso</th>
<th>Capo-Verde</th>
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| State in country (%) | 100 | 100 | 50 | 66 | 100 | 100 | 92 | 83 | 66 | 58 | 100 | 75 | 92 | 100 | 100 | 67 | 92 |
Challenges
Week enforcement at grass root level
Week infrastructural and human capacity

Need strong collaboration with Bilateral Programs to deepen implementation
CERTIFIED SEED SUPPLY (TONS)

- 11% land covered by certified seeds in 2011/12
- 25% land covered by certified seeds in 2014/15

Rice, maize, sorghum, millet, cowpea & groundnuts
Welcome to the COMESA Plant Variety Catalogue

The objective of the COMESA Variety Release System is to encourage investment in seed business in the COMESA Member States, to enhance access to new and existing varieties in the COMESA Member States, and to stimulate the breeding and availability of seed varieties resulting in increased variety choices for all farmers.

This website allows plant breeders/seed developers to register varieties in the COMESA Catalogue and seed users to find varieties which can be legally commercialized among the 19 COMESA countries.

Seed users can select varieties adapted to their Agro-Ecological Zones, with short technical descriptions. For more detailed descriptions or orders, they will find commercial contact references associated to each variety.

Plant breeders who want to apply for regional registration of a variety fulfilling the COMESA Variety Release System requirements have to create a breeder’s account in the restricted access area. National Seed authorities will also have access to the varieties database through the restricted area.
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information and additional resources, please visit the Feed the Future Enabling Environment for Food Security Agrilinks Page:


Or contact the USAID management team:

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FEED THE FUTURE
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

www.feedthefuture.gov