



AG SECTOR COUNCIL | DISCUSSION SERIES

CREATING POLICIES FOR SCALING SMALLHOLDER ACCESS TO QUALITY SEED

WEBINAR CHAT TRANSCRIPT

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PRESENTERS

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Agrilinks: Welcome to today's Agrilinks event. The speaker's will begin in about 25 minutes. In the meantime, please introduce yourself (name, organization, country) and share your interest in today's topic.

Agrilinks: Welcome everyone!

Larua Ostenso: Thank you for joining today's Ag Sector Council.

Larua Ostenso: I'm Laura, KM Specialist with the Knowledge Driven Agricultural project in Washington, DC.

Agrilinks: Thanks, Laura! Where are others joining from?

Lloyd Le Page: Hello everyone from a rainy Iowa

Charlee Doom: Lloyd! If I had known you were joining I would have had you give my presentation!

Lloyd Le Page: ha...good luck Charlee...I am doing work with SADC now....lets talk about how to connect the 2

Charlee Doom: Perfect, will look forward to hearing the progress down south.

Lloyd Le Page: ~The tripartite agreement is important

Charlee Doom: Very much so, and we need to elevate the seed conversation within that larger dialog.

julie march: Good morning, Julie March from USAID OFDA joining

Lloyd Le Page: Heartland Global welcomes the dialog. Team member Don Miles is on as well

ando mariot radanielson: Hi Everyone I am Ando working in rice based cropping systems in South East Asia and Africa

PAUL ANANI: Thanks. My name is Anani Paul from Ghana. I am a Seed Business and Platform Advisor on a USAID Ghana funded Agriculture Technology Transfer Project

Lloyd Le Page: is there sound yet ?

Lloyd Le Page: I am not getting any

Carrie Presnall: Carrie Presnall from TANGO International in Tucson, AZ joining

Colin Christensen: Hi everyone, I'm Colin, representing One Acre Fund out of Nairobi

Sarah Terrazas: Hi all, Sarah Terrazas from Self Help Africa

Aruna Ramsamy: Good Morning, Aruna Ramsamy from SEDF joining

Greg Grothe: Hello - Greg Grothe from Land O'Lakes joining.

Kira Everhart-Valentin: Good morning from the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research in Sorghum and Millet at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, USA!

Michael Dockrey: Hello. I'm Mike Dockrey, COP for the ATT Project in Tamale, Ghana. Carrie, is Mike DeVries still with TANGO?

Andrew Kovarik: I am, Andrew Kovarik , Winrock International Program Manager for the USAID funded AEMIP Program.. The Ag-University we partner with in Guinea, ISAV/F is interested in developin a seed storage facility that would enable conservation and eventual commercialization of seeds in optimal conditions..

Lloyd Le Page: Hi everyoneLloyd Le Page and Don Miles from Heartland Global

Christine Ohresser-Joumard: Hello from Abt Associates in Bethesda

Lloyd Le Page: Oh and Greg Lamk as well

Carrie Presnall: I don't know Mike DeVries. If he works for TANGO, it might be as a consultant.

Lloyd Le Page: hearing you about strength 4/5

Joshua Ariga: Joshua Ariga, IFDC, Alabama

Willem Heemskerck: I am from Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in Amsterdam involved in Integrated Seed Sector development

Ben Alkire: Hello from Ben Alkire at Indiana State Seed lab

Scott Merrill: Hello from Scott from CARE in Atlanta

Gary Burniske: This is Gary Burniske from the Center for Global Food Security at Purdue University.

Elizabeth Dunn: Good morning, all. I'm Elizabeth Dunn of Impact LLC in Gainesville, Florida.

KDAD AV Tech: Thanks to all for joining!

KDAD AV Tech: We'll be getting underway in a couple of minutes. Kindly introduce yourself and tell us where you're located and your organizational affiliation

Rita Bulusu: Rita here in Bamako, Mali, working with MyAgro

Lynn Brandenberger: Lynn Brandenberger: Oklahoma State University, I'm an extension specialist that works in commercial vegetable production and with various NGO's on food security.

Gitau Mbure 2: Hi everyone. Gitau Mbure from World Vision. Washington DC

Lloyd Le Page: Please make sure comments or questions from the room use mikes

Hilda Poulson: Hi all, Hilda Poulson from One Acre Fund, based in NYC!

indra klein: Good morning, indra klein, independent consultant, DC

Thomas Sommerhalter: Thomas sommerhalter, Pastoralism and Natural Resources Management Advisor with Concern worldwide Ireland

Jennifer Robinson: Good morning. Jennifer Robinson from Winrock International's Farmer-to-Farmer for AET and Agriculture Education and Market Improvement programs. I'm logged on from our HQ office in Little Rock, AR.

Daniel Rupp: Good morning, Daniel Rupp from Action Against Hunger

Stephen Mink: Good day. Until recently, was working with Nigeria's Ministry of Agriculture on their seed policy , and as it relates to the ECOWAS retional regulation on seed.

Lenette Golding: Greetings, I am a social and behavior change advisor at the Futures Group here in DC.

Agrilinks: We are now beginning! Our speakers will begin after short introductions.

Cecilia Gonzalez: good morning, I am joining from Baltimore, MD. I am a Food and Agriculture Specialist, with focus on cross-sectoral linkages

KDAD AV Tech: Julie MacCartee from USAID is introducing the webinar ...

Sophie Walker: Sophie Walker, COP of AflaSTOP

KDAD AV Tech: If you have any technical issues please private message me, KDAD AV Tech

Kristin Bilyeu: Hello. Kristin Bilyeu here from USDA/ARS, Columbia, Missouri. Soybean Innovation Lab Seed and Grain Quality Lead.

Biniam Iyob: Biniam Iyob from Washington DC here

Lloyd Le Page: Will we ask questions after each speaker or after them all ?

Andrea Burniske: Good morning, I am with International Programs in Agriculture at Purdue

Agrilinks: We will hear from each of our speakers this morning.

Agrilinks: Then we will have Q&A at the end.

Agrilinks: However, please everyone ask questions throughout and we will post as many as possible during Q&A!

Lloyd Le Page: @agrilinks....Thanks. Also will these presentations be sent to us ?

Cecilia Gonzalez: Q: Are there other seed models in the world, beside the U.S. and EU models?

Agrilinks: Powerpoint presentations will be available shortly after the event onAgrilinks.org

Agrilinks: You will receive information by email.

Cecilia Gonzalez: thanksAgrilinks!

Lloyd Le Page: Q. How can we encourage policy shifts that increase demand for improved seed? Where there is demand, private sector can find ways and finance to meet demand.

Lloyd Le Page: E.G Thailand policies gave small sample packs of improved varieties to every farmer over a period of 6 years

emmie kio: Hi Everyone, Emmie Kio here joining from Nairobi. Glad to hear the presentations will be shared.

Agrilinks: Thanks, Cecilia andLloyd for the questions!

Sophie Walker: In Kenya and Tanzania some seed companies have provided very small samples which have been distributed by FIPS through a village lead approach

Agrilinks: Welcome again, everyone! Thanks for joining. Please feel free to ask questions throughout the event and we will pose as many as possible during the Q&A.

Agrilinks: You may also "private chain the "attendees" window (upper right)" with anyone in the webinar by hovering over their name and clicking "start private chat".

KDAD AV Tech: Any thoughts on Sophie's comments Charlee? (Currently in Kenya too ...)

Lloyd Le Page: @sophie Yes, FIPS is a great model, but how to get it to scale. How to get every farmer in Kenya and TZ to try new seed

Willem Heemskerk: Rather about farmers trying quality seed of new varieties through seed produced by farmers themselves see also www.ISSDseed.org

Lloyd Le Page: @willem. Agreed, but let them have access to choices - their own, their neighbours, local seed companies, regional companies and multinational. Let the farmer choose

Willem Heemskerk: Private sector includes micro/small and medium scale seed enterprises we agreed in London

Andrea Burniske: Lloyd, some choices restrict others. Open-pollination is not an option if your neighbor has GMO Maize

Willem Heemskerk: Agreed, farmers decide where to get the seed and need options from different seed systems

Andrea Burniske: Thanks Willem!

Cecilia Gonzalez: Q: Are there efforts/investments to produce improved seeds/varieties regionally, and develop regional value chains that will continue sourcing seeds, benefitting smallholders, in the long-term? What kind of businesses/private sector players are involved (aside from the large seed companies we already know)?

Cecilia Gonzalez: *develop regional*

Andrea Burniske: There are those efforts within the US and Europe, - such as <http://www.seedsavers.org/About-Us/Mission/>

Andrea Burniske: But we tend to discourage this approach, or not to address it, in our development efforts. We can thank Trade Agreements for this, as well as WTO Ag Policy

Willem Heemskerk: ISSD Ethiopia and ISSD Uganda now also have been successful in producing quality seed (QDS type) by farmers for farmers as a business

Madeline Franklin: Great questions, Cecilia! I will second them.

Andrea Burniske: Willem, we are trying to promote this in Guinea just now.

Andrea Burniske: Can anyone suggest a seed storage person?

Willem Heemskerk: Andrea OK is that Guinea Conakry?

Cecilia Gonzalez: great examples Andrea, Willem, thanks!

Andrea Burniske: Guinea Faranah. ISAV - the ag institute

Cecilia Gonzalez: Thanks Madeline!

Willem Heemskerk: What about farmer seed producers going into foundation seed production as well or those crops that are more food security like such as cassava and sweet potato, millets.

indra klein: Q: From a funding perspective, how are we creating better strategies to 1) better educate potential project donors (foundations , corporate philanthropic arms, & ind donors on current needs and projected strategies (based on evidence-based data); 2) create committed funding streams (5-10 yrs) leveraged by existing partnerships as well as prospective donors/funders?

Andrea Burniske: ISAV wants to have seed storage capacity and to be able to produce and store and disseminate quality seed. We have a seed testing (viability and germination) person going, but need also a storage person. Hard to find

Charlee Doom: @indra please check out the COMSHIP document that I've shared

Charlee Doom: it is a regional approach and coordinated effort to improve the seed system in Eastern and Southern Africa

Lloyd Le Page: Q. Monitor Deloitte: How to get the yield growth and competitiveness witnessed in recent years in the Private Sector Archetype to be seen at scale in the other 3 archetypes?

Michelle Wen: Hi Michelle here from Agricultural Transformation Agency - Ethiopia.

indra klein: @Charlee, will do.

Michelle Wen: Q: how to encourage private sector when govt dominates hybrid sector (ifsystemic policy change is difficult?)

Lloyd Le Page: Q. What are the rates of yield gain and farmer use % in each one of the archetypes? And what is the Return on (Govt, Donor) Investment of each of the 4 archetypes?

Agrilinks: Cecilia- what is your organizational affiliation?

Michelle Wen: Q: what do you see as role of local private vs MNC private - how do they best work together if the local sector is very low scale?

Marius Ratolojanahary: Q: what the rates of farmers' adoption for each archetypes?

indra klein: Would you askCharlee to speak up please?

Cecilia Gonzalez: previously World Relief, I am now working on finishing a master's from Cornell University, and looking for a long-term opportunity in Food and Agriculture Systems, with a focus on cross-sectoral/integrated approaches

indra klein: Very hard to hear

PAUL ANANI: The lady's voice is very low

indra klein: Sounds like speaker is whispering

KDAD AV Tech: Charlee, if you're able to speak up, kindly do so.Charlee is joining us from Nairobi Kenya!

Cecilia Gonzalez: maybe she needs to get closer to the mic

indra klein: Unable to hear at all

Cecilia Gonzalez: yes

KDAD AV Tech: We can hear you.

Andrea Burniske: You are fuzzy, but audible

Lloyd Le Page: yes

KDAD AV Tech: Thank you. You're good

Agrilinks: Yes, keep goingCharlee

indra klein: Much better

Biniam Iyob: yes we can hear you

KDAD AV Tech: For those who are having issues hearing, I will say thatCharlee is joining us via phone from Kenya

KDAD AV Tech: I will private chat those who I've noticed are having issues, OR, please private chat me: KDAD AV Tech. Thank you.

Augustin Ngeleka: Now it is better

Agrilinks: Marius: What is your organization and location? We like to add with questions.

Marius Ratolojanahary: I'm sorry, I am Marius, independent consultant in Washington, DC

PAUL ANANI: Can the presentations be made available to us - for reference purposes

Stephen Mink: ForCharlee: on the COMESA Seed Harmonization Regulation, do the member countries now need to individually gazette the regional regulation so as to make it effective at the national level? This has been a major issue in ECOWAS, where their similar regional regulation, formalized in 2008, is still not being effectively implemented in most member states.

Agrilinks: Yes, Paul, they will be made available onAgrilinks.org after the event. You will receive a post-event email with the details.

Michael Dockrey: When we use the term "smallholder farmers" are we referencing single-season, upland farmers, generally working poor soils?

Lloyd Le Page: Q. How can USAID Southern Africa and USAID East Africa work more closely together to build harmony and efficiency between SADC -HSRS and COMSHIP and ASARECA?

PAUL ANANI: Thanks

Agrilinks: Stephen- where are you based and what is your affiliation?

Stephen Mink: Washington DC. Independent, ex-World Bank, Africa Region Agriculture Unit.

Lloyd Le Page: @Stephen - The COMESA regulations are in effect and enforceable in each member-state the moment they were published in the COMESA Gazette. It is not dependent on rate of domestication. (Different than SADC)

Agrilinks: Thanks Stephen.

Willem Heemskerk: Free flow of quality seed is one thing but free flow of release varieties (in one or more member countries) is another. The term seed varieties refers to both or is it meant to exclude the vegetatively propagated crops?

Andrea Burniske: Can you address concerns about threats of African seed law harmonization for farmers, consumers and food sovereignty in African countries, as well as biodiversity?

Stephen Mink: @Lloyd - thanks, COMESA has done well to go that route.

Lynn Brandenberger: Charlee, Many thanks!

Charlee Doom: my pleasure @Lynn

KDAD AV Tech: Yes, thank you again for joining us Charlee, I know it's late (early!?!?) there ...

Kristal Jones: Andrea, I have similar questions, about the role of seed law harmonization in the context of a more heterogeneous seed system like that outlined in the Deloitte-BMGF study.

Kristal Jones: I'm at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center at the University of Maryland.

Andrea Burniske: I know many of my Latin American colleagues have those concerns for their countries as well

Kristal Jones: Yeah, and I have colleagues in West Africa who are thinking about similar questions as ECOWAS moves toward harmonization.

Andrea Burniske: And I think U Maryland also has a partnership with ISAV in Guinea, where we are working as well?

Kristal Jones: Hmmm, not sure. I'm new here, and still learning about all that's happening. I'll have to look into that.

Lloyd Le Page: @pradeep...South East Asian countries have made POLICY decisions to increase demand

Jennifer Robinson: Andrea and Kristal, I believe that there is a relationship between U Maryland Eastern Shore and ISAVF. If I'm not mistaken I think some ISAVF faculty visited the university a year or so back. Before my time at Winrock, but I can check on that!

Andrea Burniske: Yes, thanks Jennifer - it was Eastern Shore - before or after they came here.

Madeline Franklin: Feel free to continue asking questions for our presenters!

Madeline Franklin: Also, hi Kristal! Good to have you online

Willem Heemskerk: In the SADC region there is some harmonization on the use of Quality Declared Seed and its quality regulations. This is not part of the COMESA harmonization I believe. How does this work out for countries like Zambia member of both?

indra klein: R there 2 conversations going on?

Andrea Burniske: How does this work with heirloom seed preservation?

Stephen Mink: For the panel: since most SSA countries have chosen to go the EU regulatory model route, what is the landscape of assistance to public sectors to build sensible capacity to undertake their responsibilities in these frameworks with regards to seed quality, accuracy of seed labeling, etc.

Agrilinks: Please try to state your organizational affiliation and country with questions.

Agrilinks: Indra- do you mind restating your affiliation and country?

Andrea Burniske: Stephen, here are some remarks about the EU model: <http://permaculturenews.org/2014/02/07/new-european-seed-legislation-winners-losers/>

Lloyd Le Page: Observation: "Zombie" varieties exist because of 3 main reasons. 1) They don't have reliable alternatives. 2) They have some characteristic that the farmer wants (taste, milling or cooking qualities, stability, predictability, etc) 3) Availability - cash flow, reach, timing, etc

indra klein: independent consultant, dc

Andrea Burniske: I think it is not appropriate to use the term 'Zombie' variety. I am fairly certain small farmers across the US and Europe, as well as other places, would take exception to this

PAUL ANANI: Lloyd is very right

Michael Dockrey: How much can be gained, in terms of HH income, for smallholder farmers (2 hectares or less) through the introduction of improved seed varieties, particularly when FtF limits the seed to primary grains and a few legumes? I

Madeline Franklin: Steven Mink, where are you joining us from?

Lloyd Le Page: @andrea ...I agree - Zombie was used by the presenter

Madeline Franklin: (we will be asking your question next)

Andrea Burniske: And, often, such as with maize, the crop doesn't actually provide nutrition!

Paul Bordoni: The local (or zombie) varieties have some very important organoleptic and cultural characteristics. In Zambia for example these traditional varieties are being evaluated by the Zambian Agricultural Research Institute together with small scale farmers.

Andrea Burniske: I know Lloyd. I was commenting on that,

Stephen Mink: S Mink joining from Washington DC. Independent (no institutional affiliation)

Andrea Burniske: How will climate change impact this scenario?

Andrea Burniske: This is rather an elephant in the room

Stephen Mink: @Andrea - thanks for the link. My concern is elsewhere, though. The US model relies on seed companies behaving because of their concerns about reputation in the market. The EU model gives the government a role in overseeing private company behavior. Most SSA governments have chosen the model which presumes that private seed companies cannot be entirely relied on to act in farmers' interest based on the company's reputational brand. So does the external partner community assist in building this public sector regulatory capacity?

Charlee Doom: or do you develop a hybrid

Charlee Doom: where you have private sector folks employing seed inspectors/doing some of the elements of the public sector b/c public sector is limited in its capacity and the private sector cannot continue to wait for them to catch up?

Andrea Burniske: @Stephen: Gottcha. Yes, I understand. Both systems have potential for abuse

Willem Heemskerk: On the role of large private companies and access to quality seed by smallholders see also: <http://www.accesstoseeds.org/>

Andrea Burniske: Thank you Willem! And this focus is responding to climate change need, something that is not at all discussed here

Lloyd Le Page: Lloyd Le Page: Q. Monitor Deloitte: How to get the yield growth and competitiveness witnessed in recent years in the Private Sector Archetype to be seen at scale in the other 3 archetypes?

Madeline Franklin: Steven, apologies, we might not actually get to your question.

KDAD AV Tech: Richard Tinsley, who often joins remotely from CO, is in the room!

Madeline Franklin: To all who have asked wonderful questions that have yet to be address:

Willem Heemskerk: ISSD Africa (www.ISSDseed.org) aims also at having large variety portfolios by farmers in different agro-ecological zones also in order to be resilient to climate change risks

Andrea Burniske: I have been looking at this site Willem! Thanks for sharing

Madeline Franklin: we will be sending the presenters a list of the questions that remain unanswered

Madeline Franklin: hopefully they will be able to address some of them, and if so we will post them on the event page!

indra klein: What changes in tech are being considered in facilitaing education of smallholders?

Andrea Burniske: The Access to Seeds Index is great!

Michelle Wen: q: are there any good models to support local private firms to share storage or seed cleaning and processing facilities?

Lloyd Le Page: Counterfeiting exists where there is unmet demand

Agrilinks: Thank you all for joining!

Agrilinks: We appreciate your attendance and encourage everyone to go to Agrilinks.org

Stephen Mink: @Madeline - no worries, there were lots of good questions, and informative responses!

indra klein: Thank you for a thought-provoking presentation and exchange.

Agrilinks: At Agrilinks.org you will find related content and can connect with colleagues!

Lloyd Le Page: @Agrilinks and Julie: Thanks

Agrilinks: YOu will also find all the post-event products there.

Agrilinks: Please take a moment to fill out the post-even polls.

Agrilinks: Sorry- event

Agrilinks: See you all onAgrilinks.org!

KDAD AV Tech: We'll leave the room open for another ten minutes or so; kindly fill out the polls!

Paul Bordoni: done. but how to submit??

Agrilinks: Thanks, Paul! They submit automatically as you click!

Paul Bordoni: super