

ISSD Africa

Piloting Phase for a Comprehensive Programme on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Africa

Sept 2014 – Aug 2016



The seed sector is complex



What is Integrated Seed Sector Development?

- **ISSD is a sector-wide inclusive approach that**
 - Builds seed programmes upon a diversity of seed systems
 - Strengthens seed sector governance

Creating vibrant, market-oriented and pluralistic seed sectors, enhancing farmers' access to quality seed of superior varieties, thereby contributing to food security and economic development



Seed systems

Farmers gain access to seed from diverse seed sources

Characterizing seed systems:

- Domains: public, private, informal, formal, mixed
- Type of crops: food crops, cash crops
- Type of varieties: landrace, improved, exotic, hybrid
- Type of seed quality assurance: informal, QDS, certified, ...
- Seed dissemination mechanism: local exchange, marketing, agro-dealers

National private companies

Major food and cash crops

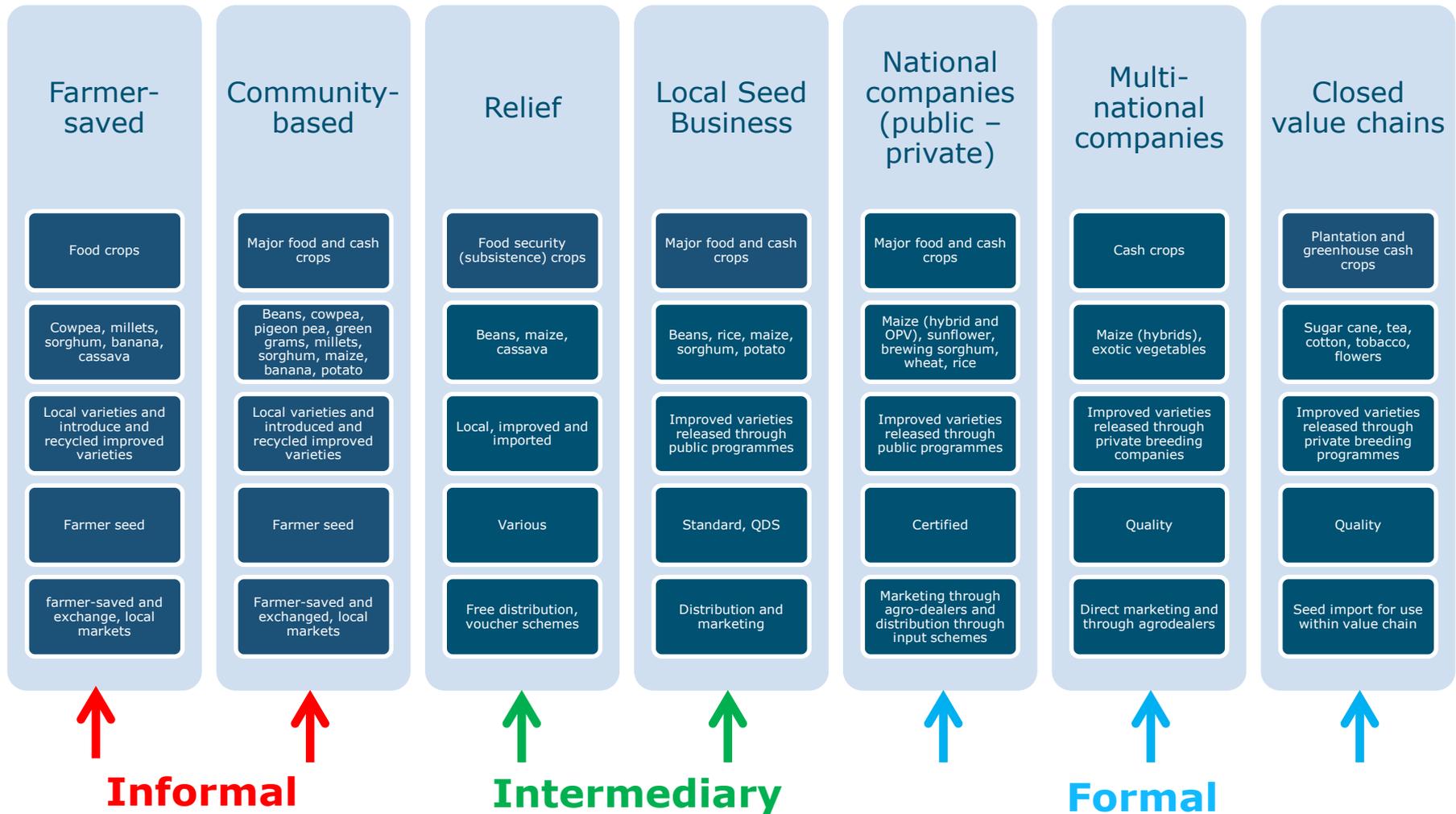
Maize (hybrid and OPV), sunflower

Improved varieties through public breeding

Certified

Agro-dealers and input schemes

Informal, intermediary & formal seed systems



ISSD guiding principles

Foster pluralism and build programmes upon a diversity of seed systems

Work according to the structure of the seed value chain

Promote entrepreneurship and demand/market orientation

Recognize the relevance of informal seed systems

Facilitate interactions between informal and formal systems

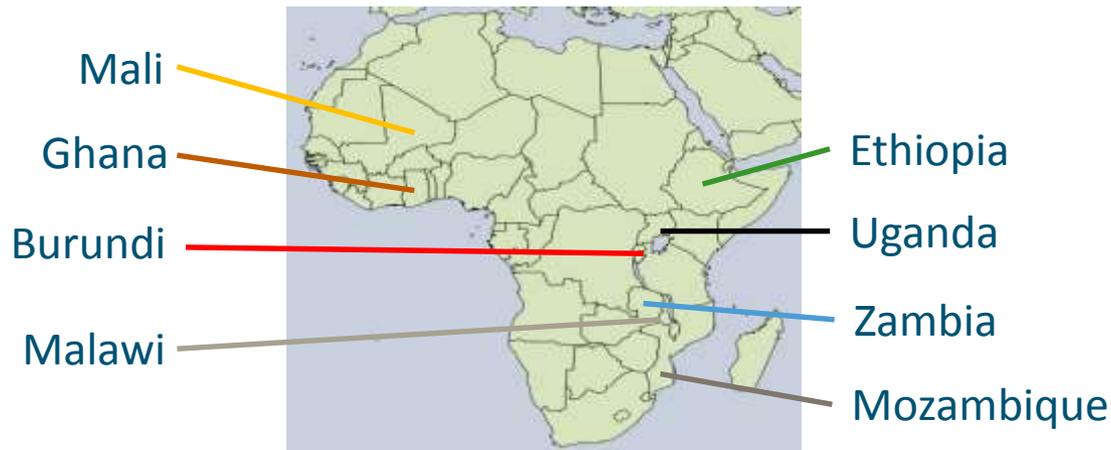
Enhance complementary roles of the private and public sector

Support enabling policies for a dynamic seed sector

Promote evidence based seed sector innovation

ISSD Africa assessments: 2009 - 2013

- Network of national task teams and international partners working under umbrella of the African Seed and Biotechnology programme of AUC
- Studying applicability of the ISSD approach in different national contexts
- Exchanging experiences at continental level



Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Agriculture and Innovation



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



WAGENINGEN UR
For quality of life



**Self Help
Africa**



AUC-ASBP ISSD Communiqué

"A pluralistic approach to seed sector development is required to optimally serve objectives of food security, economic development, entrepreneurship and biodiversity"



AFRICAN UNION
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Communiqué on Integrated Seed Sector Development

AU-African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBP)

Integrated Seed Sector Development - Africa Project

Delegates from AU Member States and regional organisations in Africa discussed seed sector development in a meeting organised by the African Union Commission and Wageningen University and Research Centre, financially supported by the Government of the Netherlands. The meeting took place from the 10th to the 11th of May 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This synthesis workshop was preceded by a workshop held in Addis Ababa in October 2010, seed sector assessments and consultative multi-stakeholder workshops in Ethiopia, Mali, Malawi, South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia.¹

Recognising that seed is the basis of all crop production and carries the genetic information for capturing the benefits of improved farming systems. Seed is thus at the heart of food security policies at the Continental, Regional, National and household levels. Seed is also a commodity that is the subject of promoting agricultural economic development and entrepreneurship. Seed is a key aspect of biodiversity, making it also a subject of climate change adaptation and environmental policies.

Recognising that different subsectors in agriculture make use of different seed systems, which all have specific values and limitations. The bulk of seed used in Africa is produced by farmers themselves, despite important advances in public and private sector involvement, particularly for maize, and alternative community based initiatives supported by researchers and development agencies.

Whereas countries have taken important steps to develop their seed systems, significant challenges remain to increase seed quality and seed security for all crops, particularly the cereals, pulses and vegetatively propagated crops that are key to food security. Addressing these issues is important as countries begin to implement their agricultural development strategies and investment plans developed on the principles of the African Union endorsed Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

Whereas developments in the seed sector of different African countries differ, several common experiences can be drawn to inform seed sector development strategies at National, Regional, and Continental levels.

Piloting phase: 2014 - 2016

For a comprehensive programme on **Integrated Seed Sector Development in Africa**

- Establishment of an African-embedded structure and innovation network of experts, seed programmes, associated organizations
- Working on complex challenges of strategic importance to the seed sector
- That by their nature are better addressed at continental level



Piloting phase: prioritized themes

- Themes prioritized through intensive consultative process:
 1. Common challenges to promoting entrepreneurship in seed value chains
 2. Access to varieties in the public domain
 3. Matching global commitments with national realities
 4. Seed Sector Development to Support CAADP Implementation within the Framework of the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme

How to work on the themes?

Guided by thematic working groups

- With recognized experts on the theme
- Who guide further definition of the theme
- And design action, research and learning activities
- And facilitate the formation of strategic partnerships

With national partners

- Collaboration with existing national seed programmes
- Through action research, innovation trajectories, policy dialogues, capacity strengthening, and joint learning

What has been done thus far?

Thematic working groups

- Have further defined and delineated these themes, identifying their most relevant issues
- Through the analysis of these issues, have identified where breakthroughs are needed
- Prioritizing 3-4 main questions that each theme aims to address through action, research and learning

Identifying national partners

- With whom, how, where and when action, research and learning can take place

Beyond 2016: Comprehensive programme

What do we want to achieve?

- An African owned enabling structure and network, which creates a favorable environment for innovation
- On current and additional themes
- Facilitating partnerships and the exchange of proven strategies, modalities and methods to effectively address complex challenges
- With partners committed to bringing these to scale
- Enhancing farmers' access to quality seed of superior varieties, thereby contributing to food security and economic development in Africa



Coordinating partners

- African-based Secretariat:
 - Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Egerton University
- In close collaboration with:
 - Centre of Development Innovation, Wageningen UR
 - Royal Tropical Institute
 - Future Agricultures Consortium
- ISSD Africa Advisory Board



More information

- www.issdseed.org
- www.future-agricultures.org/issd-africa

