



Launch Programme

Comprehensive Programme on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Africa

Pilot Phase: September 2014 – August 2016

Crowne Plaza Nairobi, 18 September 2014



LAUNCH PROGRAMME

- 09:00** **Registration**
- 09:30** **Coffee and Tea, Information Market**
- 10:00** **Welcome – Mary Mathenge**
Director, Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Egerton University, Kenya
- 10:10** **Overview of Programme and Introduction of Speakers – Lilian Kirimi**
Research Coordinator, Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Egerton University, Kenya
- 10:20** **Opening Remarks – Sicily Kanini Kariuki (MBS)**
Principal Secretary, State Department of Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
- 10:40** **Keynote – Janet Edeme**
Head of Division, Rural Economy and Agriculture Department, African Union Commission (AUC), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 11:00** **Endorsement – Walter de Boef**
Senior Program Officer, Functional Group Lead-Input Delivery, Agricultural Development, Global Development, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
- 11:15** **Endorsement – Gerbrand Haverkamp**
Policy Officer at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, The Netherlands
- 11:30** **ISSD Overview – Marja Thijssen**
UR ISSD Africa Coordinator, Centre for Development Innovation (CDI), Wageningen UR, The Netherlands
- 12:00** **Discussion Panel**
Chair: Mary Mathenge; Policy: Janet Edeme;
Institutional Support: Walter de Boef; Technical: Marja Thijssen
- 13:00** **Close and Lunch**
- 14:00** **Press Conference**

TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

- 14:30** **Welcome and Programme Overview – Lilian Kirimi**
- 14:40** **Overview of ISSD Africa Thematic Working Groups – Marja Thijssen**
- 15:00** **Parallel Sessions – In-depth Discussions on the Thematic Working Groups:**
TWG 1 – Common challenges to promoting entrepreneurship in seed value chains
TWG 2 – Access to varieties in the public domain
TWG 3 – Matching global commitments with national realities
TWG 4 – Supporting the AUC CAADP, ASBP and seed sector development

(Coffee and tea served in parallel sessions)
- 16:00** **Thematic Working Group Feedback**
- 16:50** **Plenary Discussion – Key Issues and Questions**
- 17:30** **Close and Reception (drinks, canapés, informal exchange)**

SPEAKERS



Janet Edeme

Head, Rural Economy Division, AU

Dr. Janet Edeme is presently the Head, Rural Economy Division in the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Over a career spanning 22 years, Dr. Edeme has worked and garnered experience as a Plant Pathologist, an Agricultural Development Specialist and a Policy Formulation and Development Analyst. Within the African Union Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, she is the focal point following up on the status of implementation of initiatives and programmes adopted by the AU Heads of State and Government, such as the implementation of the Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer, The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBP), The Policy Framework on Pastoralism, Women in Agribusiness Initiative and the Land Policy Initiative to name a few. She holds a PhD from the Department of Crop Protection and Environmental Biology of the University of Ibadan in conjunction with Texas A&M University, College Station, USA and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan, Nigeria. Dr. Edeme is a Nigerian and is married with children.



Mary Mathenge

Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Egerton University

Dr. Mary W. K. Mathenge is currently the Director, Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, which is under the Division of Research and Extension of Egerton University. She has over 15 years experience in policy research, analysis and advocacy and has interacted with both public and private sector players and other stakeholders at various levels. She has worked in various policy issues on key commodity value chains and inputs and participated in evaluation of several programs for government, development agencies, among others. Dr. Mathenge has previously worked as a Research Fellow at Tegemeo and is also a faculty member at the department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management, Egerton University. Dr. Mathenge holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University, a Masters and Bachelors degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nairobi and Egerton University, respectively.



Walter de Boef
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Dr. Walter de Boef is a Senior Program Officer, Seed Systems, and Functional Group-Lead Input Delivery within the Farmer Systems and Services initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Agricultural Development strategy. Walter addresses issues in input delivery with a strong focus on seed systems. The current portfolio in development includes Integrated Seed Sector Development Projects in Ghana and Tanzania, Uganda, Odisha (India), Mali and Burkina Faso; projects strengthening farming/community based seed systems in UP (India) and Ethiopia, development of a Comprehensive Program on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Africa, development of a Global and East Africa Access to Seed Index, as well as strengthening post graduate MSc programs on seed science, business and systems in Africa, strengthening Seed Trade Associations in Africa and promoting genuine seed and other inputs delivery systems in Africa through innovative technologies. Walter holds an MSc in Plant Breeding and a PhD in Communication & Innovation Studies both from Wageningen University. He has more than 20 years of experience working with seed sector development and plant genetic resources management, combining his technical background in plant breeding with an understanding of the circumstances faced by smallholder farmers in Africa, South Asia and Latin America.



Gerbrand Haverkamp
Ministry of Economic Affairs, The Netherlands

Gerbrand Haverkamp works as a policy officer at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Netherlands, Directorate-General for Agro. His fields of expertise are Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainable Trade of Agricultural Commodities and Food Security. In relation to seed policy, Gerbrand Haverkamp is responsible within the ministry for ISSD Africa and the Access to Seeds Index. Prior to working with the Ministry of Economic Affairs he worked for the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom relations on the Central Government Reform Program under the former Cabinet Balkende IV.



Marja Thijssen
Wageningen UR Centre for
Development Innovation

Dr. Marja Thijssen is senior advisor genetic resources and seed systems at the Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) of Wageningen University and Research centre in the Netherlands. At CDI she coordinates a multi-disciplinary team of professionals working on Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD). ISSD is a sector-wide inclusive approach that builds seed programmes upon a diversity of seed systems and seed value chains, which fosters pluralism. Moreover, in collaboration with a range of stakeholders, the ISSD approach addresses institutional bottlenecks in the sector and strengthens seed sector governance. Currently, ISSD programmes are implemented in Ethiopia, Uganda and Burundi, and are designed for Ghana, Tanzania and Mozambique. Marja coordinates the programme in Ethiopia. In addition she coordinates the continental ISSD Africa initiative. This initiative aims to work on complex challenges of strategic importance to the seed sector that are difficult to tackle at national level. The initiative aims to establish an African-embedded structure and network of experts, seed programmes and associated organizations. Marja holds an MSc in Plant Breeding and a PhD in Plant Cell Biology, both from Wageningen University. She has more than 15 years of experience working in development projects and international trainings on agrobiodiversity management, crop improvement and seed sector development in Africa, Latin America and South Asia.