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

**Farmer-saved**
- Food crops
- Cowpea, millets, sorghum, banana, cassava
- Local varieties and introduce and recycled improved varieties
- Farmer seed
- Farmer-saved and exchange, local markets

**Community-based**
- Major food and cash crops
- Beans, cowpea, pigeon pea, green grams, millets, sorghum, maize, banana, potato
- Local varieties and introduced and recycled improved varieties
- Farmer seed
- Farmer-saved and exchanged, local markets

**Relief**
- Food security (subsistence) crops
- Beans, maize, cassava
- Local, improved and imported
- Various
- Free distribution, voucher schemes

**Local Seed Business**
- Major food and cash crops
- Beans, rice, maize, sorghum, potato
- Improved varieties released through public programmes
- Standard, QDS
- Distribution and marketing

**National companies (public – private)**
- Major food and cash crops
- Beans, rice, maize, sorghum, potato
- Improved varieties released through public programmes
- Certified
- Marketing through agro-dealers and distribution through input schemes

**Multi-national companies**
- Cash crops
- Maize (hybrids), exotic vegetables
- Improved varieties released through private breeding programmes
- Quality
- Direct marketing and through agrodealers

**Closed value chains**
- Plantation and greenhouse cash crops
- Sugar cane, tea, cotton, tobacco, flowers
- Improved varieties released through private breeding programmes
- Quality
- Seed import for use within value chain

Informal, Intermediary, Formal
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
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”

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