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

Feed the Future Implementing Partner's Meeting Next Steps to Unlocking the Seed Sector

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Presentation by the Agriculture Policy Support Project



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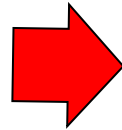
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APSP'S MANDATE

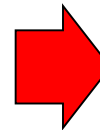
Goal

To improve the food security enabling environment for private sector investment



Purpose of APSP

To increase the capacity of the GOG, the private sector, and civil society organizations to implement evidence-based policy formation, implementation, research and advocacy and perform rigorous monitoring and evaluation of agricultural programs implemented under the METASIP



Specific Mandates w/Regard to Input Policy:

- > Improve policies that enable the private sector to develop, commercialize and use improved agricultural inputs to increase smallholder productivity and incomes
- > Enhance the implementation of improved policies, regulations, and administrative procedures as outlined by GoG-endorsed policy documents





ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED TO SUPPORT SEED POLICY

Technical expertise to GoG to develop/review policies, procedures, regulations to improve the enabling environment for increased private seed sector investments

Supporting Implementation of policies, procedures & regulations

Amplifying the voice of the private sector through advocacy and capacity building

- Harmonization of Ghana Seed Regulations to ECOWAS Seed Protocols
- National Quarantine Pest List
- Variety Evaluation and Release Manual
- Accreditation Manual for Seed Certification
- NARI's Licensing Policies and Licensing Agreements
- Guidelines/qualifying criteria for Production of Foundation Seeds

- Supported NSTL to regularize membership to the ISTA to continue process for its international certification
- Nation-wide education program on Plants and Fertilizer Act 2010 (Act 803) bringing in together relevant public and private stakeholders
- Research study to determine readiness of local researchers/organizations to undertake DUS & VSU testing
- Training of public and private seed sector stakeholders on the above policy instruments

- Supporting establishment of the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG) to champion policy reforms and lead the development of the Ghanaian seed industry
- Training of local seed companies on Seed Quality Management
- Development of a political/institutional strategy to promote implementation of the National Seed Plan





MOVING FORWARD: UNLOCKING THE SEED SECTOR (ST & MT ACTIVITIES)

Short-Term and/or immediate activities

- 1. Complete, approve, adopt and implement the legal/technical framework related to the seed industry, from the enactment of the Seeds Regulations to the approval of other procedures by the National Seed Council**

- 2. Conduct a full assessment of the seed private industry in Ghana with the following objectives:**
 - a. Determine the best market model for the Seed Industry to accomplish a proper seed utilization to maximize crop yields and land use.
 - b. Develop base models for the different kinds of companies competing in this market.
 - c. Present a plan to develop a private seed sector growth strategy, combining governmental and private initiatives

(Assessment to take on from the analytical process already initiated by ATT's GAP Analysis and AGRA's EGS Study for Ghana)





MOVING FORWARD...

3. The recommendations from the seed industry-wide assessment should be linked to the objectives/principles of the NSP. From a general perspective and based on a fact-finding mission conducted by APSP at the end of 2016 on what should be the priorities for implementing the NSP or eventually a National Seed Program the following came on top:

- ✓ Strengthening the Role of the Private Sector in Ghana's Seed Industry
- ✓ Assisting the private seed industry with improved seed processing infrastructure
- ✓ Developing seed marketing systems in Ghana
- ✓ Strengthening the role of the National Seed Council/Secretariat





MOVING FORWARD.....

Medium to long -term activities:

4. Implementation of a “NATIONAL SEED PROGRAM”, as per following components:

- a. Implementation of a Seed Sector Growth Strategy
- b. Strengthening of the role of the public sector as regulator of the seed industry, including:
 - i. in the short-term enhancing its technical capacities to inspect and certify private seed production (training of inspectors, improving lab facilities, etc.)
 - ii. in the medium term, enhancing their regulatory capacity to certify and accredit private players to conduct seed certification and other activities that can be implemented by the private sector
- c. Support to selected NARIs to expand research/adaptation leading to the release of new seed varieties
- d. Strengthening of NASTAG as industry watchdog to champion policy reforms to enable the private sector to expand investments in the seed industry





FINAL THOUGHTS

- ✓ Seed producers must understand that the production of certified seeds is a profitable business if undertaken with professionalism and dedication.
- ✓ NASTAG should:
 - a. Support its membership in becoming solid, trusted, reliable and efficient suppliers of high quality seeds in Ghana (production, marketing, trade)
 - b. Promote market demand for high quality seeds
 - c. Promote closer ties between seed producers and researchers, especially to expand R&D and multiplication of foundation seeds
 - d. Strengthen relationship with counterpart African seed trade associations contacted at the recent Congress of the AFTSA to receive technical support and exchange information on seed technology and trade
- ✓ Implementation of the NSP or a broader National Seed Program possible only if GOG determines that development of seed industry is a **NATIONAL PRIORITY** and allocates funds accordingly as local counterpart for potential bilateral and/or multilateral development cooperation.





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