



GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES IN PHYTOSANITARY AND SEED QUALITY SYSTEMS; IMPACT ON SEED QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY

Muiru, W.M

**University of Nairobi** 

**Department of Plant Science & Crop Protection** 

**University of Nairobi** 

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University of Nairobi

http://www.uonbi.ac.ke



### Introduction



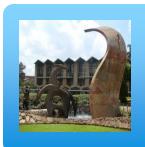
- ➤ Seed is a key input for improving agricultural productivity and ensuring food security.
- ➤ It is a preferred tool for re-establishing the livelihoods of farmers affected by disasters and to return them to a life of dignity, independent of handouts.
- Access to quality seed also facilitates food resource diversification and prevention of genetic erosion in rural agriculture.
- ➤ Seed trade is essential for both agricultural growth and regional seed security. (limited access to improved seeds)



# Introduction cont'd



- Seed production has to comply with numerous regulations and standards in order to access export markets.
- Due to diversity of national regulatory systems in the countries, farmers continue to be seed insecure
- ➤ Variations in national standards for seed certification and Itute quality control, and in quarantine and phytosanitary measures for seed, complicate the trading of seed between countries and cause difficulties for the efficient movement of emergency seed consignments.



# Global best practices in phytosanitary and seed quality systems



### (1) Harmonization of regulations governing seed quality

- > Equivalency of phytosanitary measures.
- Seed producers unable to comply are left out. Need for integrating informal seed producers
  - Impact of lack of harmonization: Reduced seed availability since such seeds cannot be exchanged freely.
- Harmonization promote the entry of new improved varieties and ease the movement of quality seed from countries with surplus to countries in need of seed.



# Harmonization of regulations cont'd



- Improved access to quality seed will contribute to seed and food security, and thus support efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty.
- ➤ Harmonization of seed regulations in SADC (Southern African Development Community) were developed by the SADC Secretariat through the Food, Agriculture and Ute Natural Resources (FANR).
- ➤ Harmonization: Crop Variety Testing, Registration and Release System, SADC Seed Certification and Quality Assurance System, and SADC Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures for Seed.



#### Benefits of the harmonization



- Lead to more seed availability as a result of removal of regulatory barriers
- Save time and resources because importing countries no longer need to re-test the imported seed
- Allow more efficient movement of seed in the region through the use of a common seed certification scheme, terminology, it the standards, procedures, seals and labels
- Establishment of transparent and science-based common standards and procedures for seed movement





### **Need for harmonization**

- ➤ A survey on sector policy in eastern and central Africa concluded that enactment and implementation of harmonized seed policies, regulations and procedures was needed.
- ➤ Technical agreements on seed policy harmonization needed in five key areas: variety evaluation and release; seed certification; plant variety protection; phytosanitary regulations and seed import and export procedures

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➤ Technical agreements on standards, procedures and regulations for the seed industry based on best practices and scientific evidence were developed



# (2) Registration of landraces or and other local varieties



Developing procedures for registering landraces upon making available

- Description of the variety in terms of performance (value for cultivation and use [VCU]), distinct, uniform, stable
- Farmer experiences during cultivation
- Its name(s) as well as the merits of the variety

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- Impact
- Bringing procedures of ensuring quality to the landraces by recognising these varieties and subjecting them through certification process
- •Has the benefit of bringing quality and ensuring availability



# (3) Participation of regulators in all decision making fora



•The membership/representation and participates NPPO has in/partners with governing and decision making bodies and forums locally, regionally and internationally:

#### Locally

- ➤ Ministry of Agriculture
- > Research institutions
- **>** Universities

#### Regional

> EAC, COMESA

#### International

➤ IPPC, ISTA-OECD, CODEX

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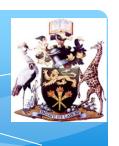
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# Participation of regulators in all decision making fora cont'd

- There is need to address the gaps in policy and practice regarding production and trade in seed across countries
  - Ensuring that countries acts are consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Protection of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to which the countries are signatories.
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  - Nurturing of transparency, participatory inter-institutionality and multi-disciplinarity is essential.



# (4) Public-private partnerships



- •The Eastern Africa Seed Committee (EASCOM) exemplifies a publicprivate partnership that evolved to address the gaps in policy and practice regarding production and trade in seed across 11 countries in eastern and central Africa.
- •It is evident that regulatory reforms require inclusive participation
- Need to bring together representatives of the private sector through the national seed trade association; the technical arm through the national breeders' association; the regulatory arm through the national seed certification agency, and the policy arm through the ministry of agriculture
- Overall benefit in partnerships--increased investments in the seed sector, increased seed production, access to more varieties, and increased competition.



## **Public-private partnerships**



- Farmers are teaming up with:
- private-sector seed companies where farmers are linked as outgrowers to a private seed company (e.g., Kenya Seed company)
- Farmers are organised in groups and work with research institutes (e.g., KARI)

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- Regulatory bodies to focus on the quality aspects of seeds thus managing the risks
- ➤ Facilitation of partnerships that bring private sector and public/regulatory authorities together to discuss, build trust, reach consensus and foster collaboration on key issues.



# (5) Continuous capacity building



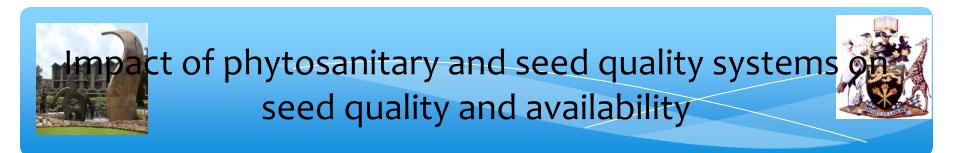
- To support the smooth implementation of the harmonised regulations
- To address the emerging issues in pests, pest detection, management methods
- To allow continued review and update of existing phytosanitary measures
- Encouraging and supporting on-farm seed production by farmers is seen as one approach to sustainable seed delivery in Africa
- Human resource development and skill upgrading/training programmes for Scientists, Researchers and others.
- Obtaining ISO Quality certification for major PQ Stations



# (6) Fostering, building, partnership and synergies



- ➤ Recognition of the differences as well as the importance of the various technical experts is vital
  - > scientists and policy makers who have to domesticate the agreement
  - >regulators who have to enforce implementation
  - > legislators who enact the agreements into bills and laws.
- ➤ Bringing these diverse teams together
  - ➤ to forge common understanding to achieve the desired goals helps to maintain a healthy balance between encouraging competitive production of seeds and providing oversight for implementing quality control/assurance schemes.



#### **Seed quality**

Ensures seeds of high quality and disease free

#### Seed availability

- Systems for instance where the informal systems are integrated in the production of certified seeds ensure more availability of improved and quality seeds to the farmers
- Phytosanitary rules if not harmonized well can serve as a barrier to accessing export market and farmers to obtain quality seeds
- Excessive high standards results to rejection and destruction of good quality seeds—case of Ethiopia
  - 'There is no perfect seed legislation anywhere in the world and the laws and regulations may need to be frequently amended in response to changing circumstances'. It is therefore recommended that standards be reviewed and revised as necessary to comply with international standards and otherwise to determine what is appropriate for each variety





# Thank you SEMISUON

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