

Harmonization in ECOWAS Leaps Forward:

TAAT Policy Mobilizes Efforts To Accelerate The Implementation Of Harmonized Seed Regulations In West Africa and The Sahel

TAAT POLICY SUCCESS STORY, JULY 2019

In June 2019, all key stakeholders in the seed industry within West Africa and the Sahel converged in Dakar, Senegal to deliberate on strategies for accelerating the implementation of harmonized seed regulations in the region. The event was jointly organized by AATF-TAAT Policy and CORAF and was graced by over 50 high level participants drawn from the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) representatives from ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS Member states, private seed companies and Development partners (AfDB, FAO, USAID, AGRA and AU). Speaking at the event, Dr. Jonas Chianu, the TAAT Task Manager at AfDB reiterated the commitment of the bank to ensure that African farmers can feed the continent. “Agricultural transformation is imperative in Africa to end extreme poverty, eliminate hunger and malnutrition, ensure that Africa becomes a major exporter of food products key”, said Dr. Chianu. Participants noted that there has been substantial progress since



High Level Delegates at the Dakar Meeting

the adoption of the Regional Seed Regulation on Harmonization of Rules Governing Quality Control, Certification, and Marketing of Plant Seeds & Seedlings in the ECOWAS-UEMOA- CILSS region in 2008. To date, the harmonized regulations have been domesticated by nearly all the member states. However, the path towards full implementation of the regulations has been bumpy hence delaying the numerous benefits that were anticipated from the harmonization process. Member states have been facing challenges ranging from low levels of awareness of the regulations among the implementing agencies.



Seed Industry stakeholders in West Africa attending the meeting to assess the status of Implementation of the regionally Harmonized Seed regulations in ECOWAS/CILSS/UEMOA

Other challenges include physical and human capacity deficiencies, legislative challenges and proliferation of fake seeds because of inadequate inspection capacity. By the end of the event, participants drew an action plan that will help to eliminate the identified bottlenecks hence moving the region closer to full implementation of the harmonized regulation. This will enable over 30 Million farmers in West Africa and Sahel to access and use quality seeds to enhance food production and productivity.

The TAAT Policy Enabler is one of the Compacts of the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), a programme of the African Development Bank. The TAAT Policy Enabler is Coordinated by AATF and aims at facilitating the creation of an Enabling environment in support for technology deployment and adoption by farmers in Africa. The Project is implemented jointly with IITA, CORAF and MMI Inc.

This story was compiled by Dr. Daniel Kyalo Willy

