

Seed Sector Reforms Gain Speed in DR Congo and Sierra Leone Thanks to TAAT Policy

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Background

Although seed is one of the most critical input in the production process, the seed systems in most African Countries are inefficient and therefore cannot deliver this critical input to farmers. Consequently, the deployment of seed-based technologies in most of these countries is inefficient and therefore the intended impact of these technologies is slow to achieve. DR Congo and Sierra Leone are some of the countries where seed systems needed substantial reforms. To solve the challenge, TAAT Policy initiated the process towards seed sector reforms to facilitate the creation of robust seed systems in RMCs as a step towards sustainable supply of quality seed. Based on the efforts of TAAT policy, important milestones have been achieved in the two countries as described in this success story.

Achievements

Under the auspices of the TAAT Policy Enabler Compact in DR Congo, TASAI team provided g technical support to local seed sector players who are implementing recommendations for addressing gaps in the seed industry that had been identified before the TAAT initiative.



One of the priority areas that TAAT policy in collaboration with other partners (SENASA, INERA (National Agricultural Research Institute), IITA, CIAT/Harvest Plus) and the University of Lubumbashi) was to develop a seed catalogue for DR Congo. The partners involved developed an updated seed catalogue and drafted a decree (*L'Arrete*) to legalize the updated catalogue, which will be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture for signing.

In Sierra Leone, TAAT Policy compact began a comprehensive review of Sierra Leone's seed industry. The process started with convening of a high-level stakeholder's forum that brought together key players in the seed industry in Sierra Leone. In addition, the TAAT Policy team met with the Director of Sierra Leone Seed

Certification Agency (SLeSCA), the Director General and Deputy Director General of the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI), the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and the Director General of Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture. From the initial stakeholder forums, the key challenges in the Sierra Leone seed sector which is at its infant stages were established. Identifying the

challenges at the initial stage was critical as the TAAT policy team embarks on the process of eliminating the policy related bottlenecks in the Sierra Leones Seed sector.



Stakeholders at the TASA I Sierra Leone seed sector workshop in Freetown. Participants in the front row include Dr. Joseph Kargbo, DG of SLARI (2nd left); Dr. Peninah Kariuki, AfDB Country Manager (centre); Dr. Matthew Gbuku, DDG SLARI (6th right).

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.

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