



TELA Maize Project

Summary Highlights of the TELA Product Launch Collaboration Agreement

(This summary is intended to provide transparency in understandable general terms for some of the key aspects of interest and importance to the public regarding the [TELA Maize Product Launch](#))

Background

The Product Launch Collaboration Agreement (“PLCA” or “Agreement”) was made on February 15, 2019 for a term of five (5) years between the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), and Monsanto Company (Monsanto) (each a “Party” and collectively the “Parties”) under the TELA Project (“Project”), which is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The goal of the Project is to secure the regulatory approval of, and the commercial introduction of biotech drought tolerant and insect resistant maize hybrids intended for smallholder farmers in at least four Sub-Saharan African Project partner countries by 2023. The Agreement provides guidelines for governing the Project, which has the objective of delivering drought-tolerant and insect-resistant maize varieties that have been improved through conventional breeding, molecular breeding and/or biotechnology for use by small holder farmers in South Africa and by any farmer in the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Intellectual Property Ownership

Monsanto granted to AATF a non-transferable, non-exclusive, royalty-free license to two insect-resistant traits, and a drought-tolerant trait, along with other supporting technology. This authorizes the inbred lines used to make the new maize varieties to be tested, made, distributed, licensed, sold, imported and exported in Sub-Sahara Africa, pursuant to the Project objectives. Each Party to the Agreement continues to own all intellectual property (“IP”) it owned prior to joining the Project and/or IP it developed independent from the Project. AATF, Monsanto and CIMMYT granted to each other royalty-free, non-exclusive license to use their preexisting IP in order to carry out the activities and obligations under the Agreement.

Implementation

AATF, as the grant award recipient, is responsible for oversight and general management of the Project plans. The Parties agree to comply with all aspects of the Project plans to reach the Project objectives. These Project plans may be updated from time to time by mutual, written amendment signed by all Parties, which updates must be consistent with the objectives of the Project. AATF is permitted to subcontract to one or more third parties under separate agreement for the transgenic seed production and deployment (commercialization).

The Agreement also includes intentions and obligations related to confidentiality, intellectual property, the grant of licenses to use the donated seeds and traits, and associated stewardship requirements.

Stewardship

Licenses from AATF to commercialization partners require a general stewardship plan designed to meet applicable stewardship and regulatory requirements to satisfy the terms of this Agreement, and to maintain the integrity, identity, purity and control of any material containing the transgenic events. Commercialization partners will be required to perform all duties associated with the transgenic events as required under the Agreement in accordance with all applicable country laws and regulations within countries where the varieties are made, sold, or grown. The Project partners recognize the importance of committing resources to build capacity throughout the seed value chain for the Project objectives to be realized.

A more detailed review of the Agreement can be found through this link: https://www.aatf-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/TELA-PLCA-Summary_Final_27-08-2019.pdf