

ISSD Africa



ISSD Africa Tanzania National Seminar Dar es Salaam, 10th Feb 2016



Group Photograph during the ISSD Africa National Seminar in Tanzania, 2016

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1. Executive summary

Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) is an approach that aims to access quality seed by smallholder farmers (SHFs) by integrating both formal and informal seed systems in Africa. The ISSD has been designed to foster participation of both public and private actors in the demand- driven seed chains, thus support farmer's ability to produce food sustainably and stimulate economic growth.

The ISSD has been implemented in 10 countries in Africa including Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Bukina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Zambia, Burundi & Ethiopia. The pilot phase of the project started in September 2014 and will run through August 2016. In making sure that the project objectives are reached, a stakeholder's seminar was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania to discuss results of the implemented activities. Thus, this report summarizes the main issues discussed during the seminar.

2. Introduction

The National Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) Africa seminar was held at Peacock Hotel in Dar es Salaam on 10th Feb 2016. About 29 seed stakeholders who were officially invited for the seminar were given an opportunity to register themselves for the seminar followed by a brief self introduction. Details for all participants are shown in Table 1.

Official opening of the seminar was done by a representative of the Assistant Director of Agricultural Inputs from the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries Mr. Canuth Komba at 9:00. He started by welcoming invited participants to the ISSD Africa national seminar. The Director talked about among other issues; the importance of seed sector in the region and strongly emphasized that quality seed availability is an important top agenda in the agricultural sector in Tanzania, the region and development partners as a whole.

In his speech, he explained that the access to quality seeds by smallholder farmers has a great bearing on the efficiency of other inputs such as fertilizer, agro-chemicals, irrigation and labor. Adequate availability of quality seed supplied timely with affordable prices and at the right time and place is very critical in agricultural development. Enhanced collaboration between Public and Private Sectors under the framework of Public Private Partnership (PPP) has proved very useful in overcoming some of challenges. He further indicated that strong Government commitment in seed industry development is also demonstrated by the review of the existing Acts and Regulations and harmonization of regional policies in order to stimulate growth of seed trade in the region.

After official opening of the seminar, the participants of the seminar clapped hands as sign of appreciation to the Director's remarks.

3. Project Introduction, Objectives and Program

The ISSD Country Focal Point Mr. Raphael Laizer presented a brief comprehensive background and objectives of the Project as per seminar program (Table 2). In his introduction, he explained that ISSD Africa is a Sector-wide inclusive approach that enhance reliable access to quality seeds by small holder farmers (SHFs) and is implemented in 10 countries within the continent including Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Bukina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Zambia, Burundi & Ethiopia. The pilot phase of the project started in September 2014 and will run through August 2016. The ISSD Africa 1) builds seed programs upon a diversity of seed systems and 2) strengthens seed enabling environment. The main goal of ISSD Africa is to work on complex challenges that are strategic to development of the dynamic and market oriented seed sector in Africa. The outcome of the current phase will lead to formulation of 5 years Comprehensive Program on ISSD in Africa.

Mr Laizer further emphasized the importance of quality seed as a key input to improved farm productivity, food security and economic development and mentioned the objectives of the current national seminar as:

- ✓ To present the synthesized findings of the action learning projects across the continent to national stakeholders
- ✓ To embed the synthesized results of the different action learning projects in a wider seed sector and policy context and link to national policy processes
- ✓ To discuss how to translate the results into a change agenda and to propose concrete entry points for change as input to proposed comprehensive program on ISSD Africa

After this brief speech, participants were allowed to raise any issues or ask questions for clarification: One major issue raised was on clarifying about relationship between ASARECA led ISSD and ISSD Africa and the answer was clearly given by the Focal Point as two different projects but related. ISSD Tanzania project had some delays to takeoff but is currently at an advanced stage for approval by BMGF and ISSD Africa is one running which concentrated more on desk and field studies to understand better the seed systems and business for smooth formulation of ISSD Africa programme.

4. Presentations and discussions of synthesized findings on promotion of seed entrepreneurship

Presentation on this section was done by Mr Laizer. His presentation was mainly focused on findings of common challenges and research questions of relevance to ISSD Africa as broad and Tanzania specifically.

After his comprehensive presentation, participants were invited to ask questions, comment or seek clarification on the presentation. The main raised issues were:

1. Possibilities to narrow down the report to specifically show information/abstract for Tanzania and if that can be compared to what is going on elsewhere in Africa
2. Think/comment on how to solve difficulties related to access of breeder seeds by QDS farmers and seed companies
3. Comment on how farmers can cope with the challenge of increased cost of certified seeds which seems to be due to high inspection costs
4. Comment on what should be the contents of truthfully labeling on for example QDS grades
5. Comment on how farmers can be able to differentiate different seed grades, for instance farmers seems to be unable to distinguish between QDS and certified seed
6. What about vegetative propagated seeds (certification and trade due to lack of standards)
7. Clarification was needed on why there is the term '**development**' on the ISSD, i.e. "**D**" but results not showing issues to seed sector **development** in terms of trained seed expert/inspector capacity building, farmers capacity and institutional/facility capacity improvement
8. The presenter was asked to comment on:
 - a. Trade value chain of seeds in Tanzania:
 - b. The level of Government support and partnership in the seed industry
 - c. Involvement of advocacy groups
 - d. Cost of seeds in relation to taxes in Tanzania
9. The presenter was also asked to show a clear roadmap of the project from this time to end of project in August

The answers to these issues were clarified by the Focal Point, Mr R. Laizer.



Mr. Raphael Laizer Presenting Findings on Promotion of Seed Entrepreneurship at Peacock Hotel, Dar es Salaam on 10th February 2016

5. Presentations and discussions of synthesized findings on increasing access to varieties in public domain by Jean Cloude

This presentation was done by Jean Cloude His presentation was on issues related to availability, access and use of seed varieties. The main research questions presented were on what novel of mechanisms, innovative modes and how to evaluate user agreement. Some other issues were on challenges for self pollinated and propagated crops. After presentation, participants were allowed to ask question, comments, contributions and seek clarification.

One major issue that was raised by participants was on Breeders' right. Much that Tanzania has accessed public varieties to the private sector, only few companies show up in tenders. One other concern why private sector doesn't show up is because many breeders' seeds/ released varieties are not protected, and it's only the protected varieties that can be accessed. One possible example to explain that was for instance beans where only two out of thirty varieties are protected.



Mr. Jean Cloude Presenting Findings on Improving Access to Varieties in Public Domain at Peacock Hotel Dar es Salaam on 12th February 2016.

6. Discussion Groups: Linkages to national policy processes

This section was mainly group discussions. The seminar participants were divided into four main groups to discuss issues presented. Four discussion groups were formed and each was given a theme to focus on:

Group 1:

Members: Damas Marand, Hamis Mtwenzi, Joyce Mosile, Elia Marandu, Upendo Mndeme

Theme: Linkage and collaboration in improving seed industry

On this theme, group 1 presented a summary of main aspects to focus on:

a. Policy makers

- Local : MALF (Seed act, PBR act, Agric policy), LGA (Government seed circular)
- International (ISTA + OECD, UPOV, AFSTA)

Note: 1) Varieties that are already released and protected by PBR Act are available for licensing, 2) The Government law are user friendly (Agric commercialization)

Challenge(s): Access of the unprotected variety

b. Stakeholders and roles

- Policy makers:
 - promotion of funding
- International organization
 - Support and collaborations
- Development partners (NGOs)
 - fund raising
- Seed companies
 - multiplication and dissemination
- Regulatory bodies
 - Quality control
- Research
 - developing varieties
- Farmers
 - Access and marketing

c. Projects

- AGRA
- SUA-TOAM
- Good seed initiative
- BMGF

d. Events

- National seed committee variety release

Group 2:

Members: Julita E Bulali, Canuth Komba, Mary Mgonja, Kheri Kitenge, Frank Mushi

Theme(s)

1: How can service provision of external quality control in Tanzania be improved?

- Establish Zonal offices (work on progress) for seed certification and continuous capacity building of staff and enhancing the institutional capacity of the offices
- Enhance the use of ICT in the processes of seed certification value chain
- Increased logistical and other facilitation needed to enhance efficiency

2. Is the current QDS system in Tanzania the answer to improved availability of quality seed? If no how can it be improved?

Answer: **YES/NO**

QDS has partially been the answer especially for crop varieties that are **not of interest** to the private sector.

Due to QDS been a partial answer, the following improvements can be recommended:

- Improve seed packaging and extend the coverage beyond the ward as long as there has been external quality control
- Quality control to be done according to the specified standards for QDS seed production
- Capacity building for all actors in the QDS seed production value chain.

3. Is truthfully labeled seed an option for Tanzania? If so for which crops

Answer: **NO**

TANZANIA has not reached the stage for self-seed certification

Group 3:

Members: Geoffrey Mkamilo, Steven Magige, Bob Shuma, John Mbanu

Theme(s):

QN 1: Financial Institutions have stringent criteria (5c's) which most stakeholder seed producer cannot meet:

Answer: **YES/NO**

- Company get credit in whole sale thus reasonable interest rate
- Usually coy pack the credit with other services
- Training –incentive to produce seed
- Reduce risk to stakeholder seed producers

QN 2: Scope for inventory credit for seed in Tanzania

Answer: **YES**

- There is Policy in place and Government support/ political will,
- Financial institution willing to support: CRDB through PASS, Exim, NMB, Agric Bank and TIB

QN3: What to do to improve profitability of low profit margin crops ?

- Multiple revenue streams (e.g. in case of cassava leaves, seeds and the roots)
- BAP-quality and quantity
- Linking to output market-processing, fresh
- Policy like Nigeria-blending 20 or 50% of cassava with other food material
- Certification : Add value hence more price

Group 4:

Members: Daina Muyuwanga, Eduard Kanju, Gration Rwegasira, Benard Mkumbo

Theme: Which current ISSD Africa themes or topics are relevant for Tanzania and need action?

| What is happening (question) | Desire change | Key step | Stakeholders | ISSD support |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| QN1.Limited information about new varieties on crop with no bodies | Making end user aware of new variety | Purposeful remitters to extensive system and farmer societies | Extensive(local Government) and project, mass media specialized program | Promotion system for new seed |
| Weak link between research- extension-private sector -farmer | Stronger working relationship and connection among parties | Structural change to link the parties, make the agriculture policy on info access functional | Central Government, LG, NGO and development partners | Strengthened access to information by translating existing policies to action |
| Limited conceptualization by seed developers on the distribution channel of the new varieties | Linkage between variety development and dissemination channel including multiplication and access points | Comprehensive mechanism of working together among parties eg the cassava case | CGIAR, ARIS, LGAs, Project companies, CBO, etc | Support innovation end user plat form, networkers, etc -ICT system, strengthened community involvement in variety breeding |
| QN2. Difficulties in accessing foundation seeds due to lack of dedicated multipliers | Availability of adequate supply of foundation seed | Dedicated fund from the Government -provision of subsidies -partnership with the private sector | GoT, LGAs and private sector, public institution (Universities and ARIS) | Support advocacy by the Government and development partners on policy change to allow direct funding and subsidies to private sector |
| QN 3: There are agreement between the public sector and public sector + right of transfer (standard material transfer agreement authorization) | Allow substantial ownership of right to allow more commercialization | Work out separate modalities to allow commercialization of innovations | GoT, Public sector, private sector and seed companies | Facilitate stakeholders discussions and policy advocacy in commercialization of innovation |

7. Discussion groups: Identifying concrete entry points for change (as input for proposal development)

This section was mainly group discussions. The seminar participants were divided into two main groups:

Group 1:

Members: Mary Mgonja, Canuth Komba, Bob Shuma, Steven Magige, Geoffrey Mkamilo, Edward Kanju and Joyce Mosile

| Them/topic | Current situation | Desired change | Key steps | Stakeholder involved | Possible support | ISSD |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--|------|
| Variety of public domain | ASA produce available public variety based on demand | -Build capacity - infrastructure -human resource | Government revisit ASA mandate framework to go with time change | MALF | Support review of the Government revisit capacity building | |
| | Licensing existing Government 2011 circular for licensing public variety | Review tendering system -capacity building to all stakeholder involving in the seed licencing system -encourage public breeders to protect their newly developed varieties so that they can be available for lincensing | Review public variety licensing -Awareness creation on the importance of protection their newly developed varieties + memebership ti the UPOV | Public and private MALF-PBR | Support capacity building -support review of licensing -support the awareness creation | |

Challenges to be tacked at continental level next phase of ISSD Africa.

- Harmonization of standards e.g. Seed Act, PBR Act, ISTA + OECD
- Mitigate climate change , crop seeds, emerging diseases (option, diseases e.g. MLND in maize)
- Seed movements and seed-born (new) diseases
- Developing centers for generating information on statistics to show number of activities, seed demand by farmers, etc.
- Low possibilities of all involved countries in the harmonization to domesticate what is agreed



A section in one of group discussion during the national ISSD Africa seminar on 10th February 2016 at Peacock Hotel, Dar es Salaam

Group 2:

Members: Kheri Kitenge, Elia Marandu, Fank Moshi, Gratian Rwegasira and Daina Muywanga

| What is happening | Desired change | Key steps | Stakeholders | Possible ISSD support |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1. Limited scope to SHF except to large companies -subcontracting is a common scenario | SHF be allowed access to seed credits to qualify the significance of seeds | Advocacy for a change in banking policy to allow credit facilities for seeds -Encourage formation of seed growers association (SACCOS) to fit into existing banking regulations/policies | Seed multipliers, banks, GOT (Ministries), private sector | Platform for advocacy in changing of seed credit policies by financial institutions |
| 2. Centralised in ARIs of few seed farms | Improve access to credit and allow capture of larger market segment | Decentralize seed multiplication - research and training and promotion to encourage multiple use of products from the crops | Researchers (ARIs and Universities), LGA, Private sector, etc -seed multipliers | Solicit initial funding to kick-start the decentralized multiplication also research training and promotion |
| Challenges to be tackled at continental by ISSD next phase | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to credit facilities by seed multiplier • Improve regional policy on seed multiplication and trade to allow for a wider coverage-regulate seed trade • Agricultural subsidies to benefit low profit seeds eg. Cassava, sweet potatoes, legumes etc | | | | |

8. Conclusion and Way Forward

The seminar was officially closed by three participants from TASTA (private sector), Local Government and CIAT giving their conclusive remarks at 6 pm. In their concluding remarks they thanked the organizers and expressed his appreciations to ISSD Africa in enhancing partnership in tackling the seed sector challenges for improvement of access to quality seeds by smallholder farmers in the continent. They all emphasized the importance of quality seeds, favorable policies, and strong research and extension systems in Agricultural development. The main issues discussed were very important for ISSD Africa that really needs further steps to be implemented in the anticipated comprehensive ISSD Africa programme for achievements of the expected outcomes.

9. Annexes

Annex 1: List of participants to National ISSD Africa Seminar in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

| S.No | Name | Institution | Title | Contact |
|------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| 1. | Mr. Raphael Laizer | ISSD | Country Focal Point | 0767659296 raphaellaizer55@yahoo.com |
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| 6. | Elia Marandu | MALF | RD CROPS | 0766060618 Marandu13@gmail.com |
| 7. | Dr. John F.G. Mbanu | AGITF | PAO | 0786884350 Hmbano@gmail.com |
| 8. | Mr. Canuth Komba | MALF | I/Charge Seeds Unit | 0784509420 cqkomba@gmail.com |
| 9. | Mr. Frank Mushi | TANADA | Secretary | 0754267374 frank55rm@yahoo.com |
| 10. | Dr. Edward Kanju | IITA | Research Scientist (Cassava Breeder) | 0754897182 E.Kanju@CGIAR.org |
| 11. | Ms. Julitha Bulali | LGA Mkuranga | DAICO | 0684086910 bulalidahwa@yahoo.com |
| 12. | Denny Ally | MALF | FPEO | 0754944265 Dhaji2010@gmail.com |
| 13. | Dr. Hussein Mtwenzi | TOSCI | CSCO | hmtwaenzi@yahoo.co.uk +255754496516 |
| 14. | Mr. Bob Shuma | TASTA | Secretary | bobshuma08@hotmail.com 0767653320 |
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| 16. | Dr. Mary Mgonja | AGRA | Country Head | 0784658201 mmgonja@agra.org |
| 17. | Mr. Damas Marandu | CABI HORT Tengeru | Vegetable Researcher | 0754267751 damarandu@yahoo.com |
| 18. | Joyce Mosile | MALF | Registrar Plant Breeders Rights | jojomosile@yahoo.com 0753143675 |
| 19. | Ms. Grace Gitu | AFSTA-NAIROBI | Country Rep | graceuwig@gmail.com |
| 20. | Ms. Daina Muywanga | LGA Mvomero | DAICO | 0754624393 dmuywanga@gmail.com |
| 21. | Dr. Geofrey Mkamilo | NARI | National Coordinator Roots and Tuber Crops | 0784795389 geofreymkamilo@yahoo.co.uk |
| 22. | Dr. Ernest Mbega | NM-AIST | Lecturer | 0754649585 mbegaernest@yahoo.co.uk |
| 23. | Mr. Methew Declek | CSTC | Managing Director | 0785586559 mgwdeklerk03@gmail.com |
| 24. | Dr. Gration Rwegasira | SUA | Seed Entomologist | grwegasira@yahoo.co.uk |
| 25. | Bernad Mkumbo | MALF | PAO | 0713360593 bernadmkumbo@yahoo.com |
| 26. | Rubyogo J. Cloude | CIAT-TZ | Facilitator Access to Varieties in Public Domain | j.c.rubyogo@cgiar.org |
| 27. | Mr. Kheri Kitenge | CIAT | Researcher Maize programme | 0754855298 kmitenge@gmail.com |
| 28. | Shenali Nyoni | MALF | AD- AGRIC | nssnyoni@yahoo.com +255754309327 |

Annex 2: Programme for ISSD stakeholders Seminar in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

| Time | Event | Responsibility | Remarks |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 08.00-08.30 | Pax Registration | Secretariat | Mbega/Muro |
| 08.30-09.30 | Participants Self Introduction | ISSD Country Focal Point | Mr. Laizer |
| 09.30-09.45 | OFFICIAL OPENING | Guest of Honor | Canuth Komba |
| 09.45-10.00 | Project introduction, Seminar objectives & Programme | ISSD Country Focal Point | Mr. Laizer |
| 10.00-11.00 | Presentations and discussions of synthesized findings on promotion of seed entrepreneurship | ISSD TWG 1:Facilitator, Mr. Laizer | Chairperson: Dr. Mkamilo |
| 11.00-11.30 | COFFEE/TEA BREAK | All | Mr. Njohole |
| 11.30-12.30 | Presentations and discussions of synthesized findings on increasing access to varieties in public domain | ISSD TWG 2: Facilitator , Jean Cloude | Chairperson: Dr. Mgonja |
| 12.30-1.00 | Discussion Groups: Linkages to national policy processes | Facilitator | Dr. Karanja |
| 1.00-2.00 | LUNCH BREAK | All | Mr. Njohole |
| 2.00-3.00 | Plenary presentations and feed back | Group Members | Group Leaders |
| 3.00-4.00 | Discussion groups: Identifying concrete entry points for change (an input for proposal development) | Facilitator | Ms. Gitu |
| 4.00-4.30 | COFFEE/TEA BREAK | All | Mr. Njohole |
| 4.30-5.30 | Plenary presentation and discussion | Group Leaders | Group Leaders |
| 5.30-5.45 | CLOSING | TASTA, LGA, CIAT | Brief Conclusive remarks |
| 5.50 | Logistics | ISSD CFP | Mr. Laizer |

Annex 3: List of Objectives and Questions used to guide small groups discussions

The objectives of the seminar were:

1. To present the synthesized findings of the action learning project across the continent to national seed sector stakeholders in Tanzania
2. To embed the synthesized results of the different action learning projects in a wider seed sector and policy context and **link them to national policy processes** and
3. To discuss how to translate these results into change agenda and to propose **concrete entry points for change as input for the proposed comprehensive ISSD programme for Africa.**

The Questions to lead the discussions

Both Themes

1. How do you link the synthesized findings to National Policy Processes?

- ✓ Who to link to or collaborate with
 - a Which policy makers
 - b Which stakeholders
 - c Which projects
 - d Which events

2. What are your Proposals as Entry Points for Changes, Important Inputs for Consideration in the Next Comprehensive ISSD Africa Programme ?

- a. Which current ISSD Africa themes or topics are relevant for Tanzania and need action

| Theme/Topic | Desired change | Key steps | Stakeholders involved | Possible ISSD support |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

- b. What Challenges which need to be tackled at continental level in the next phase of ISSD Africa?

3. Promoting seed entrepreneurship

- a) How can the service provision of external quality control in Tanzania be improved?
- b) Is the current QDS system in Tanzania the answer to improved availability of quality seeds, if no how can be improved?
- c) Is truthfully labeled seed an option for Tanzania, if so for which crops?
- d) Is channeling finance through seed companies/out growers the solution for smallholder's seed producers in Tanzania?

- e) Is there scope for inventory credit for seed producers in Tanzania?
- f) What could be done to improve profitability in production of low profit seeds such as sweet potatoes, cassava and cowpeas in Tanzania?

4. Improve Access to Varieties in Public Domain

- Access to information on varieties,
- Access to Foundation Seed and
- Agreements between private suppliers and private users of varieties.

Annex 4: Opening Speech

OPENING REMARKS DELIVERED BY MR. SHENALI NYONI ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AGRIC. INPUTS DURING THE NATIONAL SEMINAR OF THE PILOT PHASE OF INTERGRATED SEED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AFRICA (ISSD AFRICA) HELD AT PEACOCK HOTELS DAR ES SALAAM ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2016:

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my great pleasure to deliver the opening remarks of this important event on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Africa. My first task is to welcome you all, and express my sincere appreciation to you for availing your valuable time to participate in this important event despite your other equally important commitments.

Invited participants,

Let me also take this opportunity to thank the organizers that have organized this seminar for their time and efforts that has made it possible for all of us to be here today. I am aware that, the seed sector is not ferring well to meet the expectations of all stakeholders and this event can be a better avenue for you seed sector stakeholders who are here today to share your enormous experiences you have on the challenges and opportunities regarding the sector. This National seminar is also an opportune time of raising awareness to the public on the importance of using quality seeds as a key input to improvement of crop productivity, food security and income.

Invited Participants,

The access to quality seeds by smallholder farmers has a great bearing on the efficiency of other inputs such as fertilizer, agro-chemicals, irrigation and labor. Adequate availability of quality seed supplied timely with affordable prices and at the right and place is very critical if we want to accelerate agricultural production. The majority of smallholder farmers in most Africa countries are still using farmers saved seeds from the local cultivated varieties. For example in Tanzania, about 75% of smallholder farmers are using their own saved seeds whereby 25% use quality seeds from the improved crop varieties and therefore prolonged use of farmer recycled seeds over multiple generations of cultivation which resulted to low agricultural productivity and persistent food and nutrition insecurity.

Invited Participants,

Inadequate access to quality seeds by smallholder farmers is contributed by many factors that include high prices, poor distribution network, lack of credit facilities, lack of entrepreneurship and quality seed production skills by agro-dealers, poor infrastructure, low purchasing power of the smallholder farmers, inadequate promotions of released improved varieties, weak research and extension services, lack of reliable market for farmers products and climate change just to mention a few.

The enhanced collaboration between Public and Private Sectors under the framework of Public Private Partnership (PPP) has proved very useful in overcoming some of these challenges. The strong government commitment in seed industry development is also demonstrated by the review of the existing Acts and regulations and harmonization of regional policies in order to stimulate growth of seed trade in the region.

Invited participants,

The quality seed availability and access has always been on the top agenda of Government and the Development Partners in Tanzania. This is evidence that, quality seed is a pre-requisite in achieving agricultural productivity and economic growth of the country. The formal and informal seed systems have played critical roles in the supply of seeds to smallholder farmers for effective crop production at variable yield levels depending on the genetic potential and source of the seeds.

Invited participants,

The Government recognizes the enormous contribution of FAO, DANIDA, WB, AGRA, and BMGF for their support to strengthen the seed system along the value chain in Tanzania.

The cumulative impact of these efforts resulted to increased quality seed availability in the country from 16,174 MT in 2007/08 to 28,602 MT in 2011/12 and latest 36,411 MT in 2014/15.

In the recent years, the production of Quality Declared Seeds (QDS) by either individual or farmer groups from basic and certified seeds obtained from Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) and big seed producing companies has increased access to quality seeds. However, lack of real potential and effective seed demand is a concern of most stakeholders

which are very instrumental in guiding the stakeholders in seed business. Similarly, the private sector has been complaining on the persistent shortage of basic seeds for the major food crops required for production of certified seeds needed by smallholders in various regions of the country. This resulted to some stakeholders along the value chain throwing the blames to both Agricultural Research Institutes (ARIs) and ASA for inadequate supply of pre-basic and basic seeds respectively. The government has therefore adopted the QDS production system to complement the efforts of seed companies producing certified seeds in order to increase the accessibility and utilization of quality seeds at community levels.

Invited participants,

Let me conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to Billy Melinda Gates Foundation and The Netherlands Government for their support to implementation of this Pilot Phase of ISSD Africa project.

I hope that in this one day seminar, you will have time to receive the findings of the action learning projects for comments, linking them to current national policy processes, translate them into a change agenda and finally propose concrete entry points to the formulation of five year comprehensive ISSD Africa program.

Invited participants,

With these few remarks, I now have the pleasure to declare the National Seed Sector Stakeholders Seminar officially opened.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING