



Guiding Seed Sector Transformation in Africa: Durable solutions to systemic problems

Online Conference: June 21-23, 2021

Programme

All information: www.issdafrica.org

Participation information:

<http://www.issdafrica.org>

GUIDING
SEED SECTOR
TRANSFORMATION
in AFRICA



Introduction

Increasing the availability and use of quality seed of new, improved and preferred varieties will drive the agricultural growth necessary to sustainably feed a growing population in a changing climate. Diverse investments around the world have enabled innovation on the production, marketing and use of quality seed as well as learning on improved governance to transform and deliver effective, inclusive and sustainable seed sectors.

However, where some initiatives find success, others continue to face difficulty. An opportunity exists to bring international experiences and expertise together to share lessons, test the durability of solutions, and explore their potential to overcome root causes of common problems.

Shaping a transformative global agenda

2021 sees multiple important global summits including, COP-15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Climate Change Conference; UNFCCC COP-26, the Nutrition for Growth Summit, and perhaps most importantly; the UN Food Systems Summit.

A key objective of the conference is to jointly explore the contribution of our collective seed sector transformation efforts to critical food system outcomes, as well as these other key targets. The conference will challenge contributors and participants alike to frame and direct their activities, insights and ideas to this higher-level, aiming to equip attendees with a repertoire of perspectives and aligned ambitions to carry into these upcoming processes.

Guided by transformation

Defining the contribution of the seed sector to food system outcomes calls for a well-defined and aligned understanding of the transformation that partners are working on. What is the vision that underpins activities and what are we learning of the pathways to best achieve this? The conference will use such a point of departure to frame proceedings; participants will be challenged to test today's innovations in how the seed sector is functioning for their potential in realising future ambitions.

Guided by triggering propositions from keynote speakers, debate will examine whether current strategies are robust and dynamic enough to achieve shared targets. A programme of engaging sessions from diverse partners will give space for learning on a range of key topics and system innovations. Sessions will explore the inclusivity, sustainability and efficacy of combinations of technical and system innovations and what lessons have been learned from their design, development and implementation.

Woven into every session will be the need to show how actions have succeeded or could be strengthened by embracing complexity, managing adaptively and harnessing social capital in the seed sector. Sessions will not rely on linear presentations but rather see numerous interactive dialogues, panel discussions and debates that will challenge the audience to be active and critical. Daily closing plenary sessions will capture and elevate the key reflections from each session, framing a clear narrative on how transformation can improve seed sector performance and contribution to food system outcomes.

Specific conference objectives

Participation in this conference will strengthen strategic linkages, collaboration and flows of knowledge between key stakeholders in the seed sector. It will also contribute towards achieving the following outcomes:

- Key learning is generated on what system innovations are successful, for what reasons and in which contexts;
- Seed sector policies and programmes are strengthened through exposure to new solutions and insights;
- Seed sector stakeholders and programmes are supported to embed their activities in wider global agendas.
- Scenarios for the African seed sector for the coming decade are debated in terms of impact and likelihood for the development of future-proof strategies.

Building on successes and lessons learned

2021 also sees important milestones for a number of organisations, programmes and platforms related to seed sector transformation in Africa. The conference will provide a platform to learn from experience and inform future activities. In particular, the conference organisation is driven by partners of four ISSD programmes: the ISSD Africa Community of Practice, ISSD Ethiopia, ISSD Plus in Uganda, and PSSD Burundi.

The conference has the ambition to strengthen the many exciting upcoming initiatives that partners are collaborating on extensively.

The African Union Commission and partners are launching the African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform (ASB PP). The ASB PP provides for a number of working groups enabling collaboration on key topics with a wide array of stakeholders.

Additional initiatives on the horizon and aligned with the conference objectives include the emerging CGIAR Community of Excellence on Seed Systems Development, the Collaborative Seed Programme (CSP) in Nigeria, the Accelerating Agriculture and Agribusiness in South Sudan for Enhanced Economic Development (A3-SEED) and the programme on Integrated Seed Sector Development in the Sahel (ISSD Sahel) in Mali and Niger.

Monday 21st June (All times CEST)

Time	Title	Overview	Speakers	Webpage
09:30 – 10:50	Opening session	Join the opening session to hear inspiring words from key invited dignitaries. A panel of experts gives the conference further momentum with triggering propositions to guide our collective thinking during the conference.	Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wageningen University & Research Ministry of Agriculture, Uganda The African Union Commission	Link
11:00 – 11:50	Seed sector transformation for food system outcomes	Join this session to explore an integrated framework placing the seed sector within food system transformation	Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WUR-WCDI) Royal Tropical Institute ISSD Uganda Sahel Consulting: Agriculture & Nutrition	Link
12:00 – 12:50	Local seed business models revisited: silencing the critics of its sustainability	Join us in examining the impact and scalability of local seed business models in Ethiopia, Myanmar and Uganda	Gareth Borman, WCDI Christine Joyce Adong, ISSD Uganda John MacRobert, Mukushi Seeds Abishkar Subedi, WCDI (ISSD Myanmar)	Link
13:00 – 13:50	Informing roles for novel ICT and disease diagnostics in seed quality assurance	Join this discussion session and help shape policy recommendations on cost-effective, novel quality assurance mechanisms.	Margaret McEwan, CIP Lava Kumar, IITA Bramwel Wanjala, KALRO George Swella, TOSCI George Ngundu KEPHIS Elohor (Mercy) Diebiru-Ojo, GoSeed	Link
14:00 – 14:50	Game-changers for EGS: pathways to sustainable commercialization	Join the session to hear new insights from a comprehensive continental review and help pick out key recommendations on the way forward.	Boudy van Schagen, KIT Chris Ojiewo, ICRISAT Hellen Opie, Researcher, NARO Steven van der Merwe, African Seed Production Services Takemore Chagomoka, Seed Co West and Central Africa	Link
15:15 – 16:00	Game-changers for seed sector transformation in Africa	Interactive discussion and synthesis of the day. Taking forward key recommendations to boost sector transformation for food system outcomes	WUR-WCDI Invited rapporteurs Conference attendees	Link

Tuesday 22nd June (All times CEST)

Time	Title	Overview	Speakers	Webpage
10:00 – 10:50	Pathways encouraging farmers' continuous interest in new varieties – learning from private sector experiences in the vegetable sector	Join with leading companies as they discuss the context in which they operate and what lessons can be learnt for seed systems relevant to cereals and pulses.	Annet Kizza, East West Seeds Knowledge Transfer Harald Peeters, Rijk Zwaan Rutger Groot, East West Seed Knowledge Transfer Sylvaine Coulibaly, Rijk Zwaan	Link
11:00 – 11:50	The price is right: unpacking farmers' perceptions of seed affordability	Join this important session as we explore the extent are farmers willing to pay for quality seed, and the drivers of their perceptions of affordability and value	Wageningen University ISSD Uganda	Link
	Putting seed sector transformation at strategy level: experiences from Ghana and Myanmar	Join this session as we zoom in on experiences that foster system innovation in seed policy & regulatory frameworks in Ghana and Myanmar.	Resilience BV National Seeds Council, Ghana WUR-WCDI	Link
12:00 – 12:50	Seed sector transformation in practice: ISSD/PSSD Burundi	Join this session to learn from experiences in bringing transformational innovation to the seed sector in Burundi.	Bastiaan, Huesken, IFDC Tom van Maurik, KIT Reps from programme partners	Link
13:00 – 13:50	Seasonal scenario planning for matching seed supply and demand	Join this session to help shape a planning and forecasting tool to improve the matching of seed supply and demand.	Alliance Bioversity & CIAT Seed Co, Zimbabwe WUR-WCDI	Link
14:00 – 14:50	Policy entrepreneurship as a game changer in seed sector transformation	Join this session to learn how people and organisations can be the game-changing innovation that complex systems transformation calls for	Wageningen University ISSD Ethiopia	Link
	Analysing fragile seed contexts	Join this session and help shape a tool to improve analysis and interventions in seed sectors in fragile states.	Mercy Corps SeedSystem.org	Link
15:00 – 15:50	Inclusive seed delivery & extension: Supporting seed champions to reach the last mile	Join this session and help shape policy recommendations that build on experiences of using emerging info and financial tech to improve seed system inclusiveness.	IFPRI (CGIAR-Gender) ACRE Africa Digital Green AGRA	Link
	Developing a nascent forage seed sector in East Africa : potential for quality, improved forage seed business models	Join this session to hear emerging insights from a project on feed and forage seed business models and help draw critical lessons for wider African forage seed development.	Royal Tropical Institute International Livestock Research Institute NaLIRRI Advantage Crops Limited / Barenbrug	Link
16:00 – 17:00	Seed system development in One CGIAR	Join this session to hear how the One CGIAR reformation process will nurture and promote the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for present and future generations.	Dr. David Spielman, IFPRI-PIM Dr. Marja Thijssen, WUR-WCDI Dr. Carlo Fada, Alliance Bioversity International and CIAT Dr. Alessandra Galie, ILRI Dr. Ian Barker, Director, Global Potato Agri-Food System Programme, CIP	Link

Wednesday 23rd June (All times CEST)

Time	Title	Overview	Speakers	Webpage
10:00 – 10:50	An investor guide for Africa: generating seed market intelligence	Join this session and help shape a support service to guide strategic investments in Africa's seed markets.	Gareth Borman, WCDI Elijah Mwashayenyi, East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer Edward Mabaya, Cornell University	Link
	Scaling of Community Seed Banks – Protocol Launch	Join this session as we launch the Protocol and explore how it can support strong linkages and collaboration.	Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT), Seed Savers Network-Kenya National Agricultural Research Organisation – Plant Genetic Resources Centre (NARO-PGRC) Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT WUR-WCDI	Link
11:00 – 11:50	Seed sector transformation in practice: ISSD Uganda	Join this session as we celebrate and explore the transformation innovation from a decade of ISSD Uganda	ISSD Uganda Programme partners from Uganda and internationally.	Link
12:00 – 12:50	Lessons learnt from East Africa for planning an ISSD programme in West Africa – seed demand creation	<i>Note: Francophone session</i> To support the formulation of new programmes, in this session, we zoom in on the experiences with creating demand for seed using a last-mile approach in Burundi.	Bastiaan, Huesken, IFDC Tom van Maurik, KIT Reps. of ISSD Burundi Reps. of ISSD Sahel	Link
	Promoting and supporting sensible seed sector regulation	Join this session to help synthesise clear policy recommendations as well as modalities to support to national regulatory bodies to implement sensible regulations.	Margaret McEwan, CIP David Spielman, IFPRI Lava Kumar, IITA Marja Thijssen, WUR-WCDI Rep. ISSD Uganda Mainza Mugoya, TASA!	Link
13:00 – 13:45	Conference Synthesis and close: Game-changers for seed sector transformation in Africa	Interactive discussion and synthesis of key conference insights and discussions. Plenary confirmation of key recommendations to boost sector transformation for food system outcomes	WUR-WCDI Invited rapporteurs Conference attendees	Link

After the closure of the conference, attendees are encouraged and supported to attend the proceeding event:

14:00 – 17:00	African Seed & Biotechnology Partnership Platform	Inaugural meeting of the General Assembly of the African Seed and Biotechnology Platform	AUC Dept. of Rural Economy & Agri. Invited speakers Selected reps. of ASB PP Platform	Meeting Link
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Organisation & Support

Organisation of the conference is enabled through support from a number of sources including the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the Embassies of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Burundi, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan and Uganda.

Organisation of the conference is led by Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WC DI) and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT). Multiple partners are involved in the organisation and hosting of the conference including [ISSD Africa lead partners](#), The African Union Commission and partners from seed sector development programmes in Burundi, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan and Uganda.

Contact

For any questions on the organisation of the conference, please contact: james.mulkerri@wur.nl