

# Special Interest Group on Field Crops (SIGFC)

Chair SIGFC  
Johan Pieterse

# Steering Committee members

- **Chair** .....Woldemariam Worede(**Pioneer**)
- **Vice Chair**.....Johan Piertse(**Klein Karoo**)
- **Secretary**.....Grace Gitu(**AFSTA**)
- **Members**.....Calivin Fambiasi(**Seedco**)
  - B.Maruthi Prasanna(**CIMMYT**)
  - Phillippe Lesigne(**Monsanto**)
  - Denias Zaranyika(**AFSTA Board/seedco**)
  - Riadh Gabsi(**AFSTA Board/Tunisia Seed**)
  - Justin Rakotoarisaona(**AFSTA**)
  - Duncan Onduu(**STAK**)
  - Yakubu Atar Stephen(**Da-Allgreen Seeds**)
  - Adel Ibrahim Midany(**ESIA**)

# 2013 Activities

- **Launch of SIGFC during 13<sup>th</sup> AFSTA congress in Mauritius**
- **Registration of members; First 37 member registered**
- **Election of steering committee**
- **Identified issues of common interests**
  - Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease in East Africa
  - Climate changing and impact to seed industry
  - Biotechnology concerns in Maize, Cotton, Soyabeans etc
  - Phytosanitary concerns in seed movement
  - International Treaty on PGRFA and link to private sector
  - Low market attraction in Sorghum, Millet and others
  - Slow Variety Release Processes
  - Plant protection concerns; ARIPO, OAPI, UPOV
  - Slow Implementation of Regional Harmonised regulations
  - Challenges on achievement of variety potential by farmers

# 2014 Activities

- **Steering Committee meetings**
  - 1 physical meeting and 2 skype meetings
- **Annual meeting during 14<sup>th</sup> AFSTA Congress in Tunisia;**  
Discussions and Project Proposals
  1. Establish volumes and values of crops, country by country
  2. Asses proportion of certified versus farm saved seeds
  3. Establish the measures used to protect breeders and farmers
  4. Lobby for implementation of RECs harmonized regulations
  5. Determine impact of MLN in seed production in Africa
  6. Development of a crop variety catalogue for Africa
  7. Arbitration issues
  8. Survey to establish public perception on GMOs per country
  9. Asses the impact of striga weed in seed production in Africa
  10. Investigate ways of improving seed quality in humid agro-zones e.g West Africa

# 2015 Activities

- **Steering committee meetings**
  - 1 Skype meeting
- **Annual meeting during 15<sup>th</sup> AFSTA congress in Zimbabwe**
  - a) Presentation**
    - management of MLN in Eastern Africa by **Dr. B.M Prasanna (CIMMYT)**
  - b) General discussions mainly on;**
    - Engaging experts to present on topical issues
    - Curbing the rising 'fake seed trade'
    - Updates on implementation of RECs harmonized regulations. COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, SADC
    - Phytosanitary regulatory framework on seeds
    - Awareness of ITPGRFA / Genetic access and benefit sharing
    - Appropriate seed information for the seed industry

# 2016 Activities

- **Steering committee meetings**
  - Held 3 Skype meetings
- **Annual meeting during 16<sup>th</sup> AFSTA congress in Kenya**
  - **Consortium** on Theme: *“Expanding Access to Market and Investment in Seed Business of Field Crops in Africa”* with experts speakers on:
    1. Climate Change and Impact on Field Crops Production in Africa by **Dr. M.Obaro, Kenya**
    2. Update on MLN Management in Eastern Africa by **Dr. B.M Prasanna, CIMMYT**
    3. Biotechnology Consolidated Information Related to Field Crops Production in Africa by **Dr. M. Karembu, ISAAA**
    4. Seed Trade Opportunities in Dryland Field crops by **Dr. M.Siambi, ICRISAT**
    5. Experiences in Field Crops Seed Trade under International Seed Regulations by **K. Wekulo, Kenya**

## **-Seed information for the seed industry**

- baseline study in 8 countries for 4 crops(Maize, Sorghum, Wheat, Rice)
- NSTAs in focus country to gather information using a datasheet from AFSTA

# Activities 2017

- **Steering committee meetings**
  - Held 3 Skype meetings
- **General meeting during 17<sup>th</sup> AFSTA congress, Senegal**

**Presentation from experts on;**

  - a) The Prospects of Rice Production in Western Africa' by **Dr.Saidu Bah(Africa Rice)**
  - b) Regional Seed Certification : Challenges and Opportunities in Africa **by Simon Kibet (KEPHIS)**
  - c) Updates on management of MLN in Maize production in Africa by **Francis Mwantuni (CIMMYT)**

## **Baseline study**

NSTAs facing challenges in gathering information

# Proposed Activities 2018

- **Steering committee meeting**
  - Skype meetings; 1 held and 2 more proposed
- **Annual meeting during 18<sup>th</sup> AFSTA congress, Egypt**  
**topics presented**
  1. Climate change impact on maize seed production: case for Southern Africa **by Calvin Fambisayi - SeedCo**
  2. Closing the gap between the potential and obtained results of improved maize varieties: Case for Ethiopia **(Dr. Walter Mupangwa, CIMMYT)**



# SIGFC Achievements

- 59 registered members
- Active steering committee
- Specific topic Expert presentations
- Annual meetings

# Challenges

- Limited learning experience from advanced SIGs
- No funds for steering committee meetings
- Virtue meeting connectivity challenges
- Lack of funds to support experts to annual meetings
- No resources to participate in seed forums
- No funds for development of a seed database
- Lack of funds to carry out projects proposed by members
- Expanding members of the steering committee

# WAYFORWARD

- Steering committee be supported to learning experiences to SIGs of ASTA, APSA , EU etc
- AFSTA to solicit for funds to support proposed projects
- Members to be active in supporting SIGFC