

Updates on SIGV Activities

Dr. Lukeshni

Steering Committee members

- **Chair**Lukeshni Chetty(SANSOR)
- **Vice Chair**.....Monsanto
- **Secretary**.....Grace Gitu(**AFSTA**)
- **Members**.....Phillippe Lesigne(**Monsanto**)
 - Denias Zaranyika(**AFSTA Board**)
 - Riadh Gabsi(**AFSTA Board**)
 - Justin Rakotoarisaona(**AFSTA**)
 - Duncan Onduu(**STAK**)
 - Supply Chisi(**STAM**)
 - Raman Sehgal (**Hytechseed**)
 - Deaconess T. Stella(**Tecni Seeds**)
 - Adel Ibrahim Midany(**ESIA**)
 - Representative Simlaw seed co.

2013 Activities

- **SIGV launch during 13th AFSTA congress in Mauritius**
- **Registration of members; First 21 member registered**
- **Election of steering committee;**
- **Members issues of common interests**
 - Lack of quality seed availability and production issues both biotic and abiotic
 - Postharvest management and Marketing
 - Seed market analysis; value and trend
 - Stakeholders involvement and interests
 - Establish country by country phytosanitary measures
 - Collaboration with relevant vegetables stakeholders
 - Steering committee to learn from advanced association; ASTA, APSA, EU etc
 - Trade ethics and arbitrations

2014 Activities

- **Steering Committee meeting held**
 - 2 skype meetings
- **Annual meeting during 14th AFSTA Congress in Tunisia held;**
 - a) **Consultative meeting that recommended;**
 - Construction of SIGV theme statement
 - List SIGV members and their area(s) of interest; breeding, seed production, marketing, regulatory etc
 - Assess the representation and impact of SIGV interests in the RECs harmonized seed trade regulations
 - Work with Biotechnology experts to represent vegetables seed trade especially on biosafety issues
 - Engage with policy makers on vegetable seed subsidy programs to reduce seed market distortions
 - Represent the interests of vegetables seed trade at the national, regional and global vegetables development initiatives
 - Development of Africa vegetables variety catalogue for members
 - Project proposals:
 - survey studies to establish proportion of indigenous versus exotic ,
 - Vegetables market value and size
 - phytosanitary measures applied on country by country

2015 Activities

- **Steering committee meetings**

 - 3 Skype meeting

- **Annual meeting during 15th AFSTA congress in Zimbabwe held;**

 - a) Vegetables colloquium sponsored by WorldVeg**

 - Theme: Strategies to sustain vegetable seed supply in sub-Saharan Africa*

 - Topics;**

 - 1. Harnessing the potential of vegetable seed industry in Africa –locally developed varieties vs. imported ones by **Dr. Sonja L Venter**.

 - 2. Vegetable seed regulatory systems in Africa: What can be done to expedite commercialization of improved varieties? By **Ms Guat Hong**,

 - 3. Role of agro-dealers in vegetable seed commercialization in sub-Saharan Africa and the critical linkages in sustainable seed supply by Dr. **Abdou Tenkouano**

 - b) Discussion on improving SIGV performance**

 - Members appreciated the colloquium and the expert speakers

 - Urged steering committee to engage more experts to speak on topical issues

 - AFSTA to consider sponsoring topic expert speakers to the annual meeting

 - Steering committee to address the concern of

 - e-phyto certification awareness

 - management of Invasive pests of *tuta absoluta*,

 - status of Countries vegetables Certification

 - addressing the rising 'Fake' seed trade

2016 Activities

- **Steering committee meetings**
 - Held 3 Skype meetings
- **Annual meeting during 16th AFSTA congress in Kenya**

a) Held a Vegetable Symposium:

Theme: *Vegetable seed for smallholder farmers: improving access and quality to an untapped market*

Topics:

1. Research on vegetable seed systems for smallholders: Impact, market pathways and future perspectives by **Victor Afari-Sefa (WorldVeg)**
2. Donor roles in vegetable seed systems: Feed the Future and beyond by **Mark Husienga (USAID)**
3. Lightening the seed regulatory burden for seed of staple crops – lessons from the vegetable seed sector by **Richard Jones(AGRA)**
4. Taking notes from Asia: transforming vegetable farming in tropical Africa through private sector initiative **by Bert Van Der Feltz(East West Co)**

b)Discussions

- members appreciated the symposium and speakers
- Donors to engage more with seed associations in their vegetables development initiatives
- Steering committee to consider awareness on e-certification system

c) Pilot baseline study for development of seed database

- 8 countries: Egypt, Tunisia, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe
- 10 species: Tomato, onion, carrot, cabbage, spinach, cucumber, pepper, eggplant, squash, amaranthus
- NSTAs to lead the data gathering in the focus countries
- Survey questionnaire to be adopted

Activities 2017

- **Steering committee meetings**
 - Held 2 Skype meetings
 - **Annual meeting during 17th AFSTA congress in Senegal held**
- a) Presentations on**
1. Update on Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) Project by **Dr. Afari-Sefa (World Veg)**
 2. Vegetable Breeding Consortium for Africa by **Dr. Dubois (WorldVeg)**
 3. Promoting the African vegetable sector: the Rijk Zwaan experience
- b) Discussion**
- Members appreciated the speakers
 - WorldVeg urged to involve AFSTA in the various initiatives
 - Recommendation to give a company in the country AFSTA congress is held, to give trade experiences
 - AFSTA to solicit for fund to run projects identified by members

Proposed Activities 2018

- **Steering committee meeting**
 - Skype meetings; 1 held and 2 more proposed
- **Annual meeting during 18th AFSTA congress, Egypt**
 - a) Topics presented;**
 1. ISPM 38 updates and its implication to seed trade in Africa by **Michael Keller**
 2. True Potato seed by **Rien Van Bruchem**
 3. Vegetables improvement at World Veg from genetic resources to commercialization **by Mohamed Rakha**
 4. ISF/ISTA vegetable seed regulation by **Rob Keene**

SIGV Achievements

- Registered 43 members
- Active steering committee
- Progressively addressing members issues of common interests
- Successful annual meetings

Challenges

- Need for Learning experiences from advanced SIGs eg ASTA, APSA, ESA etc
- Steering committee face Skype connection challenges; consistent rescheduling
- No funds to support physical meetings of Steering committee
- No funds to conduct proposed projects
- Lack of resources for outreach programs

Way Forward

- Learning visits to advanced SIGVs of ***APSA,ASTA,ISF, SANSOR etc***
- AFSTA to solicit for funding to proposed projects: ***surveys on market value and statistics, indigenous versus exotic***
- *Facilitate access to germplasm from WorldVeg*
- AFSTA to participate in key fora making decisions on vegetables production in Africa; ***ISPM, OECD,UPOV,ISTA,AU,RECs, WorldVeg***