



# **Progress in Seed Policy Harmonization in the**

## **East African Community**

**AFSTA CONGRESS**

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# Introduction

EAC as one of the 8 RECs under AU



**Membership of EAC  
Partner States**



Population – 146 Million and GDP USD 147 billion

# EAC INTEGRATION PROCESS

## EAC Vision

The **Vision** of EAC is a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa

**Customs Union**

**Common Market**

**Monetary Union**

**Political Federation**

**Single Customs Territory**

**4 Freedoms & 2 Rights**

**Single Currency**

**United East Africa**

*EAC Mission :to widen and deepen Economic, Political, Social and Culture integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments.*

# Introduction

- The EAC long-term Vision, Mission and commitments towards social and economic development are anchored in the **TREATY**

## **EAC Treaty- Areas of Cooperation**

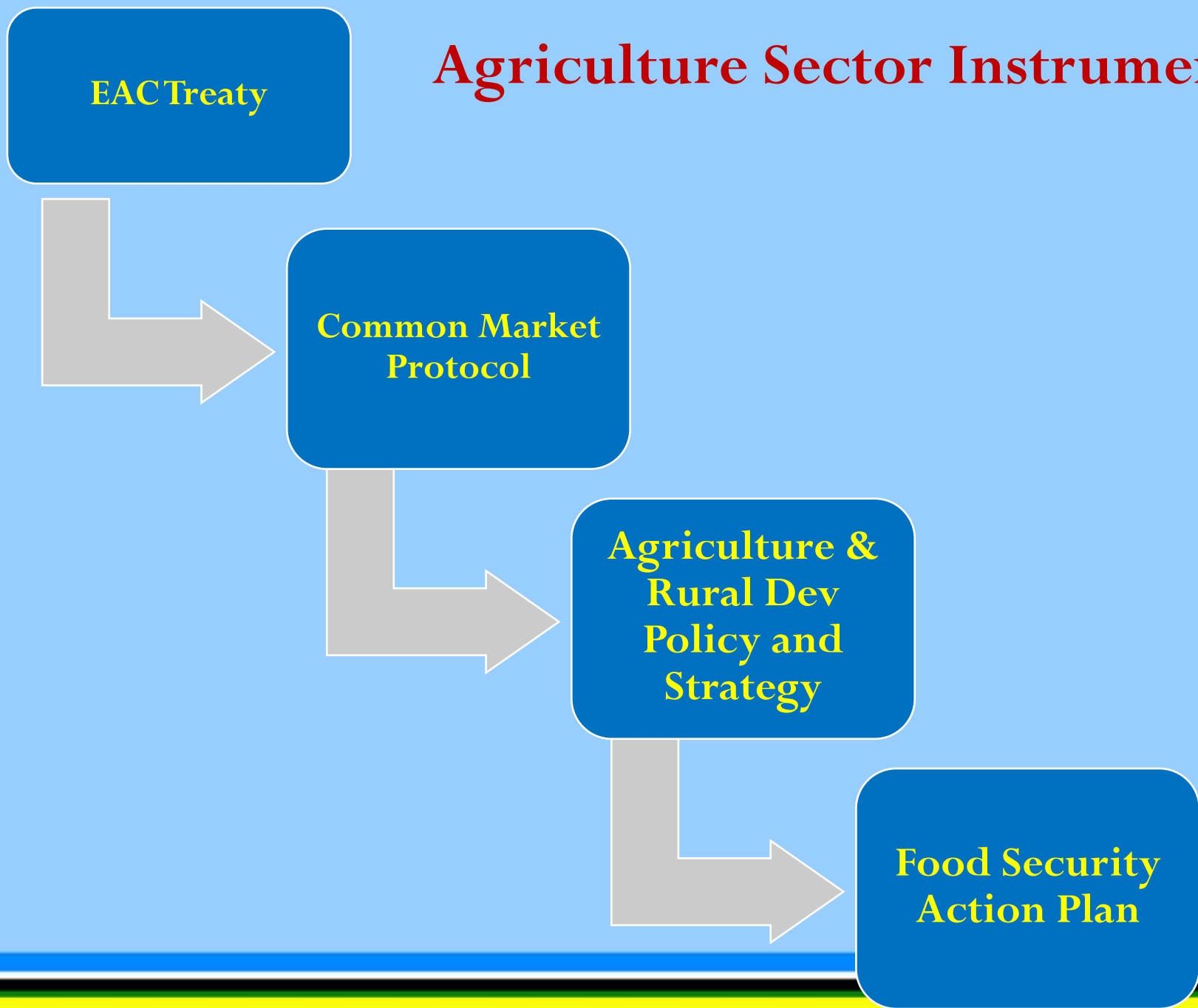
- Trade and Investment
- Industrial Development
- Monetary/Fiscal Affairs
- Infrastructure/Services
- Science & Technology
- Agriculture & Food Security
- Environment & Natural Resources
- Tourism & Wildlife
- Health
- Education
- Human Resources
- Defence/Security
- Civil Society
- Legal/Judicial Affairs
- Foreign Affairs

## Some of Projects and programs under Agriculture and Food Security Department Agricultural Sectors

1. Food and Nutrition Security
2. EAC CAADP programme
3. SPS agenda
4. Aflatoxin Prevention and Control project
5. **Harmonization of farm inputs ( seeds, fertilizers and pesticides)**
6. Livestock and fisheries
  - *Aquaculture development*
  - *Veterinary Governance*
  - *MRA*
  - *Pastoralism*

**The Sector is guided by the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security meets twice a year –made up Permanent Secretaries and Ministers Responsible for Agriculture in the region**

# Agriculture Sector Instruments





# Progress in EAC Seed Harmonization Process

## ***JUSTIFICATION FOR HARMONIZATION OF SEED RELATED MATTERS***

- In each Partner State, the seed industry is organized and managed under different policies, laws, regulations and registration procedures. These differences are prohibitive and hinder movement of seeds across the borders in the region.
- Differences in seed delivery pathways limit farmers' access to improved varieties and seeds thus limiting the impact of increasing agricultural productivity.

## **BENEFITS**

- Improved the delivery of improved varieties and seeds across region thereby contributing to improving agricultural productivity
- Enhanced farmers' access to quality seeds, facilitation of inter and intra-regional trade, and enabling expansion of market opportunities for seed traders and reduced transaction costs



# EAC Treaty - Article 106 on seed multiplication and distribution

## **The EAC Partners States shall**

- a) Strengthen cooperation in quality seed development and production through research and plant breeding
- b) Support cooperation in establishment of gene banks
- c) Enhance capacity in seed technology
- d) Initiate and maintain strategic seed reserves
- e) **Harmonize quarantine policies, legislation and regulations to ease trade in seeds**
- f) Create an enabling environment for the private sector seed multiplication and distribution

# Progress and status of harmonization

- **In April 2015-** the 8<sup>th</sup> Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security directed that harmonization of seed legislation and regulatory frameworks be accelerated
- Work on harmonization initiated taking into consideration provisions of the EAC Treaty and progress made by COMESA.

- Several meetings involving experts from EAC Partner State, ASARECA and the Private Sector convened to facilitate development of EAC harmonized seed framework
- In December 2015, the efforts culminated to a comprehensive framework to guide development of a harmonized Seed Legislation and Regulatory Framework. The prioritized areas in the framework are:
  - (a) Harmonization of variety evaluation, release procedures and registration protocols in the region
  - (b) Harmonization of seed certification;
  - (c) Harmonization of phytosanitary measures including import and export documentation
  - (d) Prevention of spread of pests of quarantine and non quarantine importance ; and
  - (e) Harmonization of plant variety protection systems

## Way Forward

- A document to guide harmonization of seed legislation and regulatory framework is in place
- The document to be submitted to the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security for endorsement by mid 2016
- Development of EAC harmonized seed regulatory framework ready for validation and adoption by December, 2016.
- Process aligned to the COMESA harmonized seed regulations (supported by ASARECA)

**1. Preparatory  
Stage Inception  
work**

**2. Verification**

- Secretariat
- Experts ( Partner States)

**3. Policy validation  
and internalization**

- National Level
- Regional Level

**4. Policy Approval  
Process**

- Sectoral Council of  
Agriculture & Food Security
- EAC Full Council

**5. Domestication  
& Implementation**

- Regional policy  
Implementation

**6. Monitoring &  
Evaluation**

- EAC Secretariat
- Responsible Ministries in  
the Partner States

**PARTICIPATORY EAC  
POLICY  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROCESS**  
*(People Centered,  
Private Sector  
Driven)*

# Acknowledgements

Development Partners and Stakeholders

Supporting EAC Seed Harmonization Agenda

- AGRA
- USAID REI
- ASARECA
- Seed Industry Stakeholders
- Members of EASCOM
- EAC Partner States

# *One People...One Destiny*

