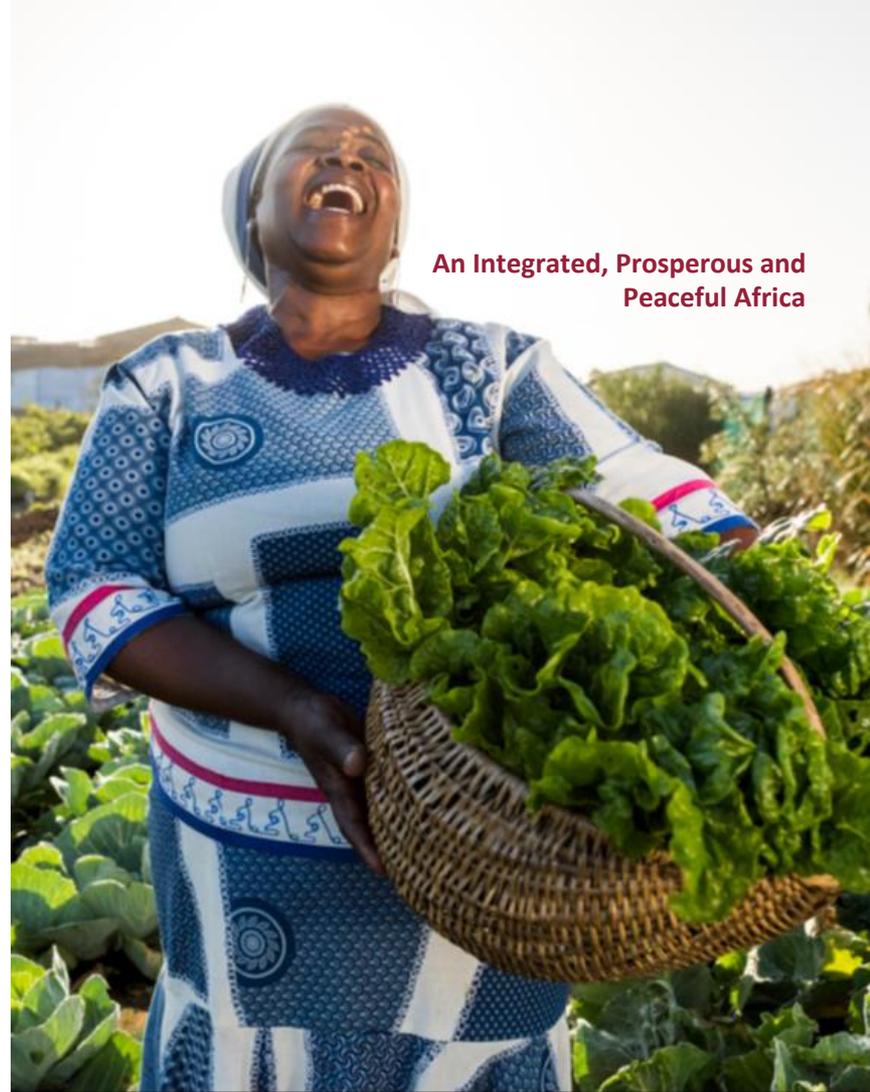




# Guidelines on Harmonization of Seed Policies and Regulatory Frameworks and Use of Biotechnology in Food and Agriculture in Africa

**AFSTA Congress 2021**  
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**An Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa**

## **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)**

- **Africa's policy framework for agriculture-led development and transformation since 2003.**
- **Aimed at reducing poverty and increasing food security and nutrition on the continent.**
- **Reinforced in 2014 through the Malabo Declaration on Agricultural Transformation**



Reduce poverty by half,  
by 2025, through  
inclusive agricultural  
growth and  
transformation

Ending hunger by 2025

Boosting intra-African trade  
in agricultural commodities  
& services

Enhancing investment  
finance in agriculture

Enhancing resilience of  
livelihoods & production  
systems to climate  
variability and other shocks

Recommitment to  
the principles and  
values of the  
CAADP process

Strengthening mutual  
accountability to actions  
and results



## THE CAADP MALABO COMMITMENTS

03



### Ending Hunger by 2025

- At least **double agricultural productivity** (focusing on Inputs, irrigation, mechanization)
- **Reduce Post-Harvest Losses** at least **by half** by 2025
- Improve Nutrition: **reduce stunting to 10% and underweight to 5% by 2035**

04



### Halving Poverty through Agriculture by 2025

- Sustain annual **agricultural GDP growth of at least 6%**.
- Establish / strengthen **inclusive public-private partnerships for at least 5 priority agricultural commodity value chains** w/ strong linkage to smallholder agric.
- Create **job opportunities for at least 30% of the youth** in agricultural value chains
- Preferential entry & participation by **women and youth** in gainful and attractive agribusiness

## THE CAADP MALABO COMMITMENTS

05



### Boosting intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities & Services

- **Triple intra-Africa trade** in agricultural commodities and services by 2025
- Policy: Fast track **Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** & transition to a continental **Common External Tariff (CET)** scheme
- Policy: Facilitate agriculture-related trade negotiations and partnership agreements

06



### Enhancing Resilience to Climate Variability

- Ensure that by 2025, **at least 30% of farm/pastoral households** are resilient to shocks
- Enhance **investments for resilience initiatives**
- Mainstream **resilience and risk management**

## Importance of quality seeds to achieve the Malabo goals

- “Well-adapted and nutrient dense crops, are like a vaccine of sorts for hunger and under-nutrition. Improved varieties of crops will be able to render farming resilient to climate stresses, help improve nutritional outcomes and improve soil health. They boost yields, ensure food sufficiency in farm households and increase earnings”

*Chris O. Ojiewo, Theme Leader, Seed Systems, CGIAR System Organization*



## African Seed and Biotechnology Programme ASBP

Endorsed as a strategic framework for the development of the seed sector in Africa **8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia January 2007**

### **Problem Statement:**

- Africa has not been able to take full advantage of the advances in seed sector development,
  - weak seed production and distribution systems,
  - inadequate supply of quality seed,
  - lack of access to improved germplasm,
  - weak entrepreneurial capacity of small- and medium-size seed enterprises, and
  - inadequate implementation of seed policies and international agreements and conventions.
- African seed systems are still struggling to produce and distribute high-quality varieties in sufficient quantities to reach a critical mass of smallholder farmers

**Goal of the ASBP:** To contribute to increased food security and nutrition and to poverty alleviation in Africa, through the establishment of effective and efficient seed systems and enhanced application of biotechnologies and methodologies within the seed sector

### Specific Objectives:

- Enhanced national capacity for improved seed production, multiplication and distribution to better supply farmers with high quality seed that enables them to respond to changing environmental conditions and market demands.
- Improved seed quality assurance procedures in place to ensure sustained production and distribution of high quality seed to farmers.
- Strengthened linkages between the formal and informal seed sectors to better understand and respond to farmer needs, including small-scale and women farmers.
- Effective seed policies and regulations in place to enable and promote increased seed trade among African nations.
- Enhanced capacity for the conservation and sustainable use and development of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, to ensure adapted crop varieties are available to meet future farmer needs.
- Increased capacity to utilize tools of biotechnology to enhance plant breeding and high quality seed production.
- Increased capacity to implement biosafety measures in relation to seed production and distribution and plant genetic improvement, to protect human health and the environment.
- Establishment of model codes of conduct for seed used in emergency situations.

# Rationale

- In 2nd BR Report endorsed in 2020 only 9 countries were on track for providing quality seeds to at least 90% of smallholder's farmers

## What we need in Africa

- A well-functioning seed system with an appropriate combination of formal, informal, market and non-market channels to efficiently meet farmers' demand for quality seeds

# Rationale

- Agricultural biotechnology such as tissue culture and micropropagation, molecular breeding or marker assisted selection, genomics, molecular diagnostics, genetic engineering, and lately genome editing has been beneficial in developing crop varieties to improving agricultural productivity and increasing the resistance of plants to pests and diseases.
- While very sensitive, GM are already in Africa and some countries do not only have legal frameworks to govern their use, but are using it at various stages. (12 countries and 10 crops that include staple crops such as maize, cassava, Rice Potato soybean Sorghum)



## **GUIDELINES FOR HARMONIZATION OF SEED POLICIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS**

### **Objective :**

The objective of the Guidelines is to support Africa Union, its Member States and RECs to develop/review their seeds policies and legal frameworks to facilitate cross border movements of seeds (formal, informal, market and non-market ) in order to enhance farmer livelihoods, National economies and food and nutrition security in Africa

It is envisaged that the Guidelines, will support AU member states to align their policy and legislative frameworks in order to at least achieve some level of policy and legal frameworks equivalency and enhance mutual recognition

## **GUIDELINES FOR HARMONIZATION OF SEED POLICIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS**

Based on best practices in the seed sector, the guidelines addresses:

- Plant breeders' rights to incentivize breeders;
- Phytosanitary regulations to facilitate transboundary trade; Continental SPS policy Framework;
- Recognition of international seed conventions and accreditation of seed laboratories;
- Variety Release Process;
- Recognition of the integration of Regional Economic Communities ;;
- Third party authorization of seed companies;
- The inclusion of other quality assurance systems and truthful labeling in the certification system;
- Coherence of seed laws to other enabling national laws such as tax, pricing legislations;
- Institutional arrangements
- Farmer-managed seed system
- Collection, Conservation and sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources
- Animal and African wild seed sectors
- Cross cutting issues ie Women and Youth; Climate change, seed distribution in emergency situations

## CONTINENTAL GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN AFRICA

### Scope and guiding principles

- Living/Genetically Modified Organisms (LMOs/GMOs), requiring biosafety regulations.
- harness agri-biotech application (GM- and GE crops) in Africa without compromising the biosafety integrity and regulations
- The precautionary principle
- Countries are sovereign and may decide or not to introduce GM in their countries

### Purpose

- build confidence and Strengthen collaboration on:
  - information/data sharing,
  - commonly agreed or harmonized risk-assessment procedures
- for African countries with no biosafety regulatory systems for unknowingly import or transit GE products
- provide guidance for handling trade-related transboundary movements of GE commodities and derived processed products in the context of the AfCFTA

## **Objective:**

- Enhance transparency and create confidence among AU MS, enhance public awareness to allow consumer making informed decisions on the choice of the products

## **Guidelines focuses:**

- Trade-related transboundary movements of GE products
- A functional biosafety regulatory system
- Confined Field Trials of Genetically Modified crops
- Public awareness and participation in biotechnology



**THANK YOU**