

# BOOSTING GHANA'S SEED SECTOR THROUGH AWARENESS AND COMPLIANCE TO SEED LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

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Ghana's burgeoning seed sector has been marked by significant expansion, yet the adoption of certified seeds among farmers remains a challenge, hampering the agricultural value chain. Non-compliance with seed legislation has further compounded these issues, resulting in a lack of discipline and compromised quality within the sector. To tackle these pressing challenges head-on, the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG), in collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) – Ghana Seed Inspection Division (GSID) and funding support from the Feed the Future Ghana Market Systems and Resilience Activity, orchestrated a highly successful sensitization workshop on August 28 and 30, 2023 in Wa and Tumu respectively. This workshop was designed to elevate awareness and foster compliance with seed sector regulations and policies among various stakeholders.

The workshop surpassed expectations by attracting 117 beneficiaries compared to 100 targeted participants. The diverse assembly included seed companies, input dealers, farmer groups, and other stakeholders across the agricultural value chain with 18% being women.

The workshop featured presentations on key topics: the Plants and Fertilizer Act (Act 803) for regulating plant and fertilizer production, the Seed Certification and Standards Regulation (L.I 2363) for certifying and standardizing seeds, insights into the prospects of the seed industry, and the provisions in PFJ 2.0 aiming to enhance food security and sustainable agriculture. Lively discussions highlighted commitment to

The presentations engendered lively discussions among participants; demonstrating their unwavering dedication to enhancing agricultural practices with commitments to contributing their bit to improving agricultural practices and aligning regulations with practical implementation. Farmers lauded the value of regulatory frameworks, while seed producers stressed the significance of compliance. Extension officers contributed insights on bridging the gap between regulations and practical implementation, underscoring the need for regular effective farmer education.



In his closing remarks, Mr. Michael Kweku Dogor expressed gratitude to participants, reassuring them that their feedback and concerns had been meticulously noted. He urged them to apply the knowledge gained to bolster their businesses and elevate seed quality.

The knowledge gained on seed legislation is likely to positively impact members' businesses by helping them navigate and comply with relevant regulations, fostering a more transparent and compliant industry, and ultimately enhancing their market competitiveness.

The sensitization workshop accomplished its mission of raising awareness and promoting compliance with regulations governing Ghana's seed sector. It harmoniously brought together diverse stakeholders with a shared vision of advancing agricultural productivity and ensuring food security. With heightened knowledge and collaborative synergy, Ghana's seed industry is primed for transformative and sustainable growth.