

AGRA SeedSAT

Ghana



Stakeholder Validation Meeting

**June 07, 2022
Premier Best Western
Hotel - Accra Ghana**

WWW.AGRA.ORG



Agenda

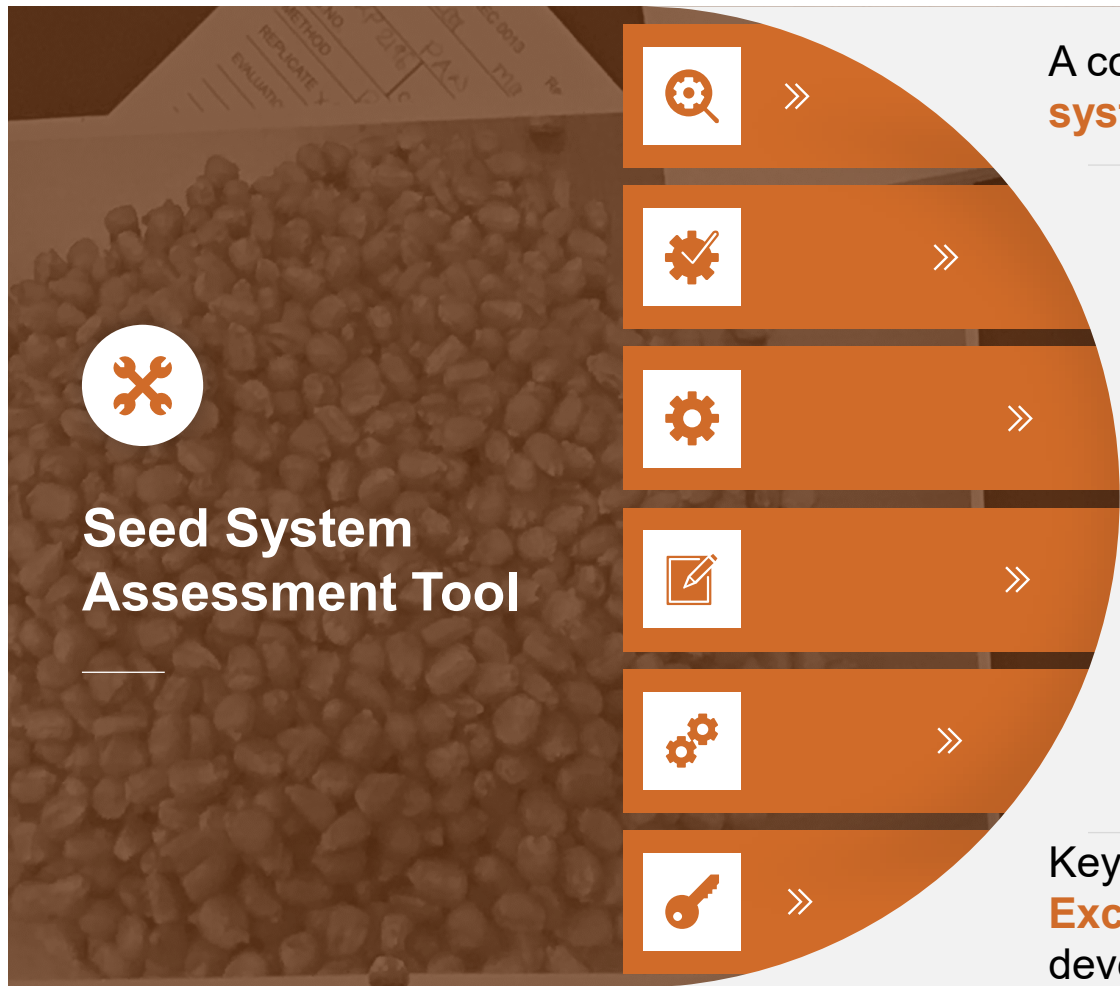


Time	Work Focus
8:30 - 9:00	Welcome, introductions and opening formalities
9:00 - 9:15	Review of goals and structure of SeedSAT and link to CESSA
9:30 - 10:30	<p>Presentation (10 mins each) and discussion of Group I thematic area country scores by strategic objectives</p> <p><i>Breeding, Variety Release and Maintenance</i> <i>Quality Commercial Seed Production</i> <i>Early Generation Seed</i> <i>Quality Assurance</i></p>
10:30 - 11:00	Health Break
11:00 - 12:00	<p>Continuation with Group II thematic area country scores by strategic objectives</p> <p><i>Seed Markets and Distribution</i> <i>Policy, Legal and Regulatory</i> <i>Farmer Awareness and Participation</i> <i>National Planning and Coordination</i></p>
12:00 - 12:45	<p>Presentation of Group I thematic area recommendations (10 minutes each) followed by stakeholder feedback and discussion</p> <p><i>Breeding, Variety Release and Maintenance</i> <i>Quality Commercial Seed Production</i> <i>Early Generation Seed</i></p>
12:45 - 1:45	Lunch break
1:45 - 4:00	<p>Presentation of Group II thematic area recommendations (10 minutes each) followed by stakeholder feedback and discussion</p> <p><i>Quality Assurance</i></p> <p><i>Seed Markets and Distribution</i> <i>Policy, Legal and Regulatory</i> <i>Farmer Awareness and Participation</i> <i>National Planning and Coordination</i></p>
4:00 - 4:15	Next steps and appreciation

George Bigirwa
Deputy Vice President-Program Innovations & Delivery - Technical
AGRA



Review: What is the Seed System Assessment Tool (SeedSAT)?



A comprehensive tool for **analysing national seed system functionality** with respect to best practices

Holistic assessment approach looking at the complete system, which is different from approaches such as TASAI or Access to Seed Index

177 **scored indicators** spread across 8 Thematic Areas

Not a longitudinal data gathering approach, like TASAI -- rather it is focused on a full systems view via collaboratively scored indicators with **supporting rationale** for scores

A **learning journey**, for both national stakeholders and AGRA

Key goal is to drive **behaviour change and CESSA (Center of Excellence for Seed Systems in Africa) investment** – to develop better seed systems to serve farmers

Thematic Areas Assessed in SeedSAT



Why is CESSA important and what will it do?



Initiatives for improving Africa's seed systems by different public and private actors remain **uncoordinated** today, leading to neglect of certain key elements



There are challenges around access to **solid evidence** about what is working and what is not, **valid data and information** for **decision-making**, and **technical advice** and **support** for implementation of improved system processes



CESSA aims to bridge this gap by partnering with various players to address these challenges



What CESSA is
Going to Offer

- ▶ **Analysis (SeedSAT)**
- ▶ Training/Capacity building
- ▶ Convenings & Alliances
- ▶ Catalytic grants
- ▶ Knowledge & Data library
- ▶ Technical Advice
- ▶ Access 2 Finance
- ▶ Models/Case studies
- ▶ Digital tools

Why is SeedSAT essential for AGRA and Africa?



AGRA has had strong chapters in supporting seed systems. Looking ahead, the next chapter must revolve around supporting sustainable improvements in seed systems on the continent



African nations want to implement best practice approaches, but need knowledge and support to do this



Increasingly there is need to see:

- 1) more coordination among donor projects; and
- 2) large scale government-led impact from seed system investments



AGRA and its country partners have a unique leadership opportunity to be the catalytic leaders of this work on the continent, building upon a strong history of seed system development



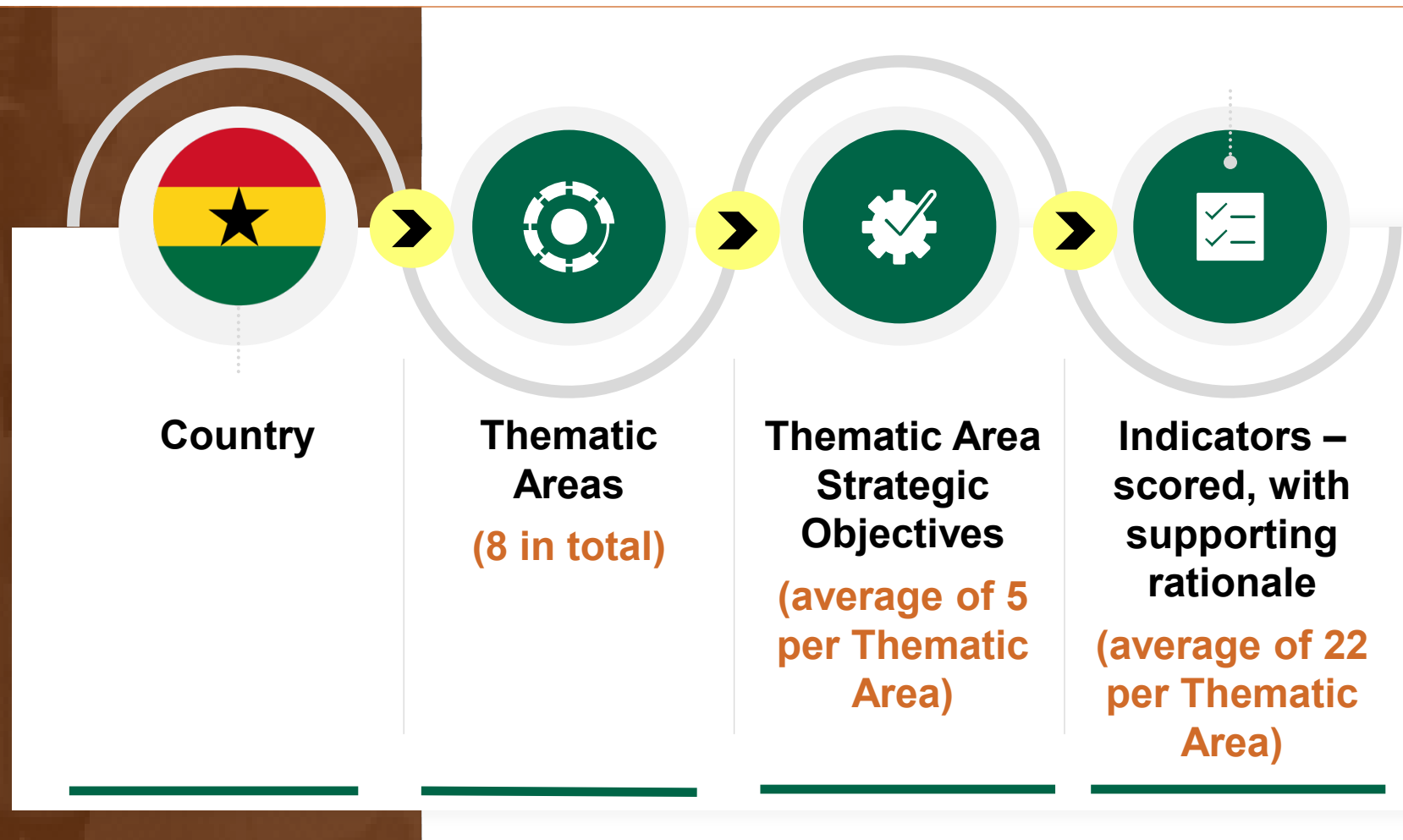
Francis Mwatuni
Program Manager, SeedSAT
AGRA



Overview of SeedSAT structure



What does a national seed system assessment entail?



How is the assessment conducted?

- ✓ Focus is on wholistic system measured by 177 indicators in a **standard framework used for all countries**
- ✓ Significant **desk research**, supplemented by input from:
 - **Evidence collection** (legal documents, surveys, key informant interviews, etc.)
 - **Outside technical expertise** from seed system specialists
 - **AGRA technical experts**
 - **AGRA country team representatives** ...combine to determine initial scores and rationale for the scores
- ✓ **Validation meeting** to review overall scoring picture and brainstorm on recommendations (today)
- ✓ Recommendations will drive both AGRA and other development partner investments and support (future)



Understanding the scoring approach

- Scoring is based on a Likert scale of 0 (low) to 3 (high)
- Scoring definitions are detailed, and specific to each indicator
- Scores are assigned based on what is **closest** to the reality on the ground; exact matches are not always possible due to the complexity of systems
- For presentation, colours are assigned to the four possible scores. See below.

0	1	2	3
<i>0 generally represents no or almost no activity for the indicator</i>	<i>1 generally represents a low amount of activity that is far below what is needed</i>	<i>2 generally represents a moderate level of activity but still below what is needed for a successful system</i>	<i>3 generally represents a score for an indicator that means the system is performing well in this area</i>



Real example of a scored indicator for another country



5. Is there good implementation of government quality assurance field inspection activities for locally produced seed?

0	1	2	3
There is no effective implementation of the required field inspection activities	The required field inspection activities by the certification agency rarely occur or are rarely timely, well-coordinated and accurate	The required field inspection activities by the certification agency occur and are timely, well-coordinated, and accurate approximately half the time, but either don't occur or are problematic the rest of the time	The required field inspection activities by the certification agency occur and are always or almost always timely, well-coordinated and accurate

Rationale

1. Transport deficiencies cited in numerous reports, with high hectarage of fields to be inspected per vehicle (6,000 +)
2. Despite significant improvement in staffing levels from 2017-2020, inspector workload levels remain approximately 8x higher (hectares to inspect, per inspector) than best practice levels (RED&FS data)
3. Lack of training impacts field inspection accuracy and coordination
4. Eight independent reports cite deficiencies, including inadequate number and capacity of inspectors and experience of inspectors

Uganda scoring: Quality Commercial Seed Production

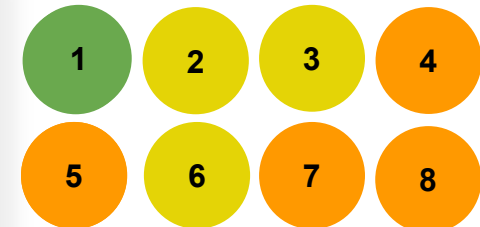


Uganda's seed production capacity is strong with over 95% seed of key staple crops being locally produced by 42 seed companies. Maize hybrid seed production has taken root; out of the 40 varieties produced 80% are hybrids. The country currently recognizes QDS and the main crops produced under this category are beans, rice and soybean.

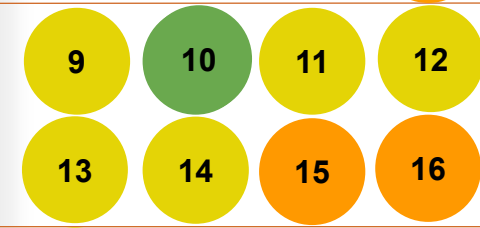
Strategic Objectives

Indicator Scores

A Efficient, government-enabled seed production environment



B Adequate supply of quality seed of modern varieties



C Effective outreach to distributors and end-users



D Financial stability and access to finance



E Industry advocacy



What does SeedSAT look like for an individual country?

	SeedSAT Thematic Areas	# of strategic objectives	# of indicators
I	Breeding, variety release and maintenance	5	22
II	Early generation seed	5	19
III	Quality commercial seed production	5	25
IV	Farmer awareness and participation	3	24
V	Seed markets and distribution	6	24
VI	Policy, legal, regulatory	4	19
VII	National quality assurance	6	24
VIII	National planning and coordination	5	20
	TOTAL	39	177

This is our purpose today....



Collaborative dialogue about SeedSAT results between AGRA, country Ministry of Agriculture and stakeholder representatives

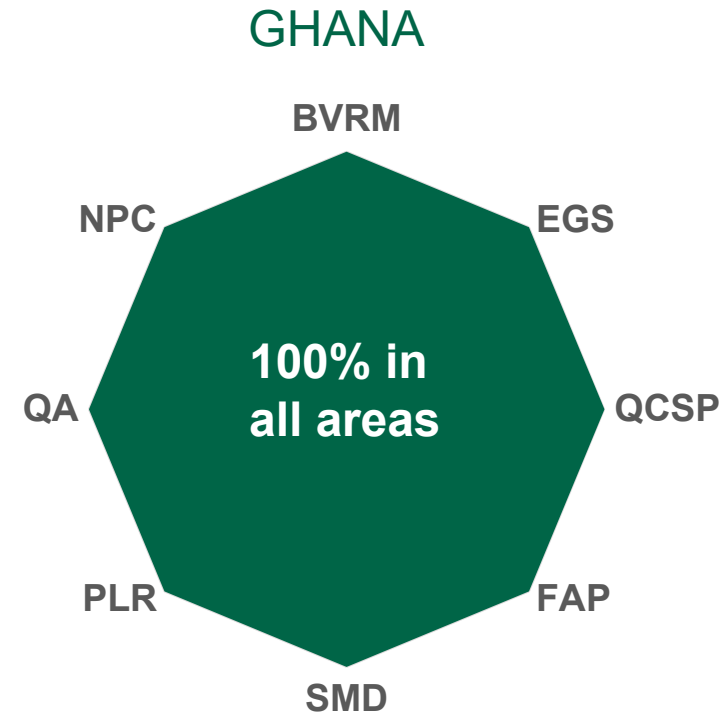
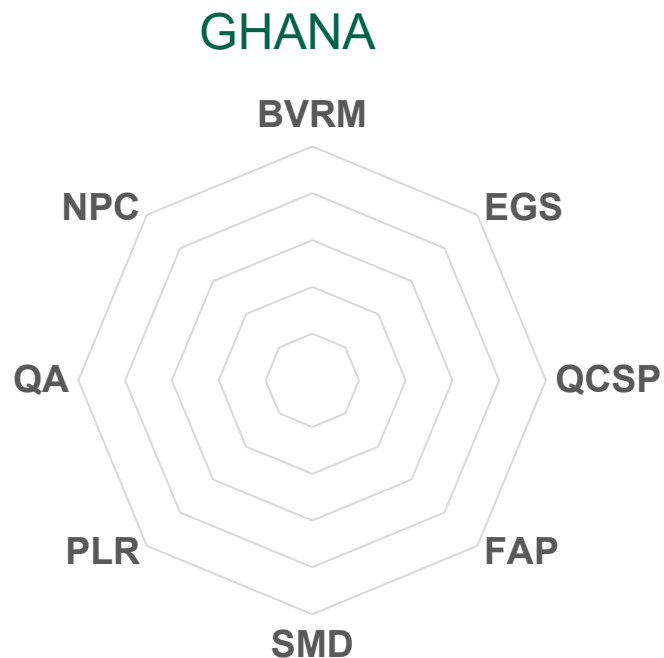


Agreement on prioritized solutions and investment plan for consideration by AGRA and other donors

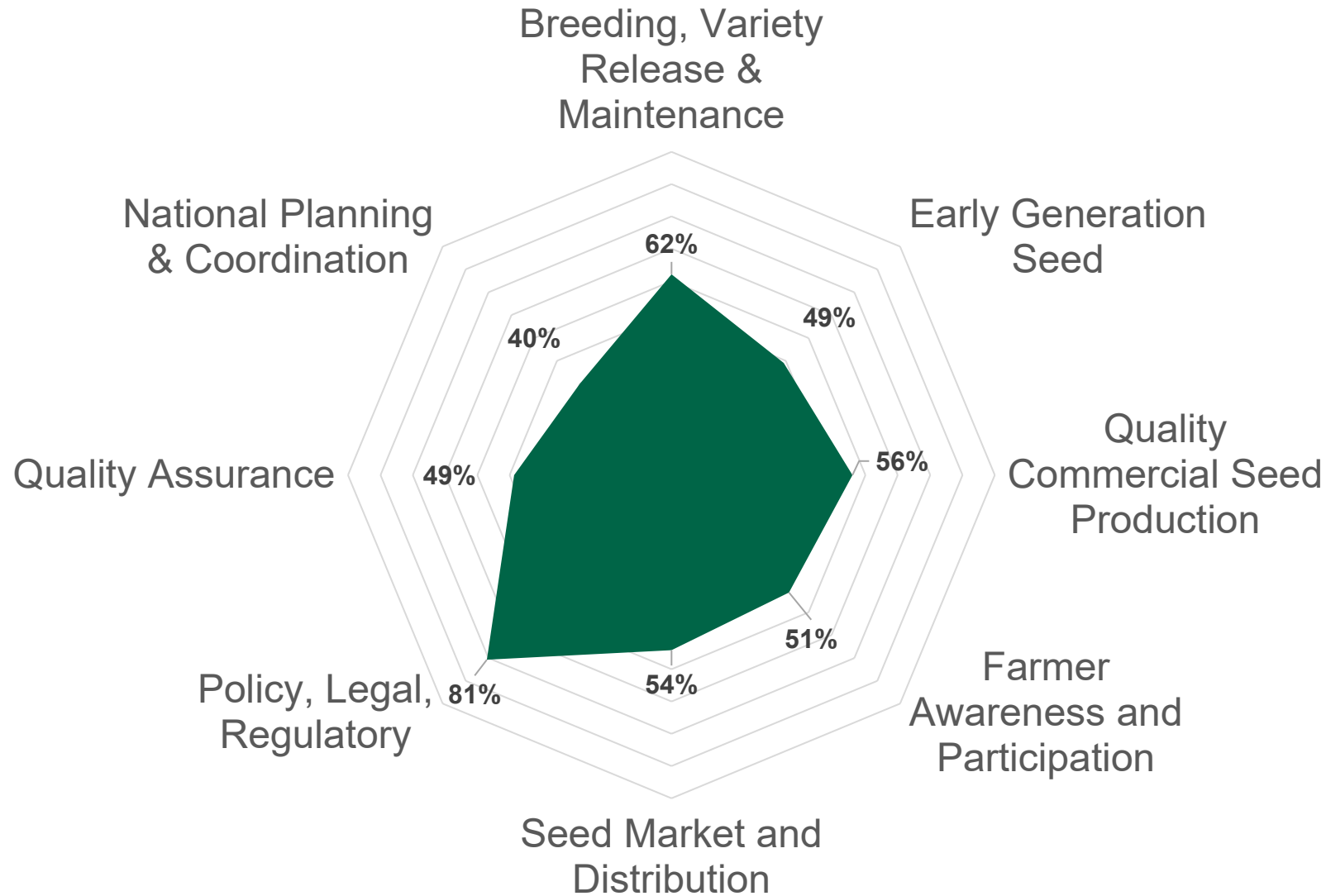


Radar chart: A good way to show a country's overall assessment status

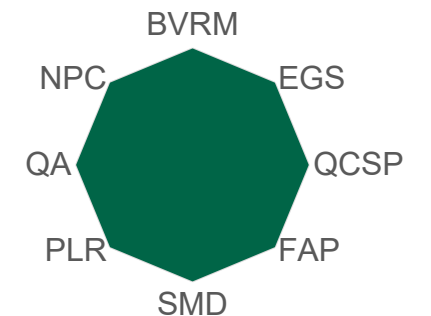
All 8 Thematic Areas have a point on the radar screen, and the colouring can range from 0% (on the left) to 100%



Below is the “radar chart” graphic for Ghana’s seed system assessment



“Perfect” 100% system



Recommendations – preview of our later discussion



Upon completion of the final scoring, the assessment team will **collaboratively develop recommendations** for the key investments to strengthen the national seed system



Recommendations will lead to highly **practical dialogue with CESSA and partners** about technical support, capacity building, investment, and more...



Example of recommendation from beta version work for both Ethiopia and Nigeria:



Design and carry out training programs, potentially including digital training approaches, for both federal and regional QA laboratory staff to ensure appropriate procedures are followed for all QA activities (Quality Assurance Thematic Area)



Lilian Gichuru
Program Officer, SeedSAT
AGRA
(for Jane Ininda)
Breeding, Variety Release and Maintenance



Seed System Thematic Areas Assessed in SeedSAT

Breeding, variety release and maintenance



Ghana scoring: Breeding, Variety Release and Maintenance



Key notes: Crop/ variety development conducted by Crops Research Institute (CRI), Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) and the West African Center for Crop Improvement (WACCI). Germplasm sources from neighboring NARIs, and CGs (IITA, CIMMYT, Africa Rice, IRRI, ICRISAT). PPB and PVS data used in selection decisions.

Strategic Objectives

Indicator Scores

A Enabling environment for breeding, variety release and maintenance	1	2	3						
B Public implementation of breeding and maintenance activities	4	5	6	7	8				
C Public implementation of variety release activities	9	10	11	12	13				
D Knowledge management and networking	14	15	16						
E Budgetary and infrastructural support for research	17	18	19						
	20	21	22						



Lilian Gichuru
Program Officer, SeedSAT
AGRA
(for Jane Ininda)
Early Generation Seed (EGS)



Seed System Thematic Areas Assessed in SeedSAT



Ghana scoring: Early Generation Seed



Key notes: Main sources of basic seed the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) institutes (CRI and SARI) and the Grains and Legumes Development Board (GLDB). LCIC is a key non-government EGS entity. NASTAG supports building seed company capacities in hybrid seed production.

Strategic Objectives

Indicator Scores

A EGS availability	1	2	3	
B Enabling environment for EGS production	4	5	6	7
C EGS planning and demand forecasting	8	9	10	
D EGS access and feedback by seed producers	11	12	13	
E Quality control and regulatory interaction	14	15	16	17
	18	19		



George Bigirwa

Deputy Vice President-Program Innovations & Delivery - Technical
AGRA

Quality Commercial seed Production



Seed System Thematic Areas Assessed in SeedSAT



Ghana scoring: Quality Commercial Seed Production



Key notes: The Ghana seed industry is still young as evidenced by the few seed producers (less than 20 local seed companies none of whom produces more than 4,000 MT, few multinational companies, few varieties released by the research system. Many old varieties are still in production, and this partly explains why yields are still low. Recent studies (KIT 2021) showed that maize yields are still at less than 1 t/ha and 0.3 t/ha for soybean.

Strategic Objectives

Indicator Scores

A Efficient, government-enabled seed production environment	1	2	3	4
B Adequate supply of quality seed of modern varieties	5	6	7	8
C Effective outreach to distributors and end-users	9	10	11	12
D Financial stability and access to finance	13	14	15	16
E Industry advocacy	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	
	24	25		



Joseph Ahenda
Program Officer, Seed Regulatory Specialist
AGRA
Quality Assurance



Seed System Thematic Areas Assessed in SeedSAT



Ghana scoring: Quality Assurance



Key Notes: Seed Quality Assurance service is being offered by Ghana seed Inspectorate Division (GSID). The authorized seed classes are Breeders, Pre-basic, Basic, Certified Seed and Quality Declared Seed (in the National Seed Policy but not in the Act). Ghana follows OECD seed scheme and ISTA rules but not a member.

Strategic Objectives

Indicator Scores

A QA regulations that are consistent with best practices	1	2			
B Implementation of QA activities for locally produced and imported seed	3	4	5	6	7
C Implementation of point of sale/distribution QA activities	8	9	10	11	
D Efficiency and affordability of QA compliance for seed producers/importers	12	13	14	15	
E Service focus: QA dialogue, support, training and feedback	16	17	18		
F Institutional support for QA	19	20	21		
	22	23	24		



Group discussion of first four Thematic Areas



Lilian Gichuru
Program Officer, SeedSAT
AGRA
(for Fred Muhhuku)
Seed Markets and Distribution



Seed System Thematic Areas Assessed in SeedSAT



Ghana scoring: Seed Markets and Distribution



Key notes: Ghana's 2.2 million farming HHs are served by 3,500+ agrodealers, with 80%+ of the seed sold under the PFJ subsidy program and agrodealers largely concentrated in urban areas. NGO and direct company sales to farmers are minimal. There is a functional agrodealer association. Certified seed volumes are not easily available, but maize/rice/soya seed is approx. 24,000 MT

Strategic Objectives

Indicator Scores

A	Efficient, government-enabled environment for seed markets and distribution	1	2	3	4			
		5	6	7				
B	Industry adherence to seed regulations	8	9					
C	Distributor seed supply and quality	10	11	12	13	14	15	
D	Seed distributor capacity development	16	17	18				
E	Distributor support for farmer knowledge and consumer protection	19	20	21	22			
F	Industry advocacy	23	24					



Francis Mwatuni
Program Manager, SeedSAT
AGRA
(for Rufaro Madakadze)
Farmer Awareness and Participation



Seed System Thematic Areas Assessed in SeedSAT





Key notes: Ghana has over 4200 active extension workers and an extension worker to farmer ratio of 1:709. Adoption of improved seeds in the country is still very low at 11%. The PFJ program is raising awareness of the use of improved seeds for farmers but one of the bottlenecks is that most hybrid maize is from multinational companies

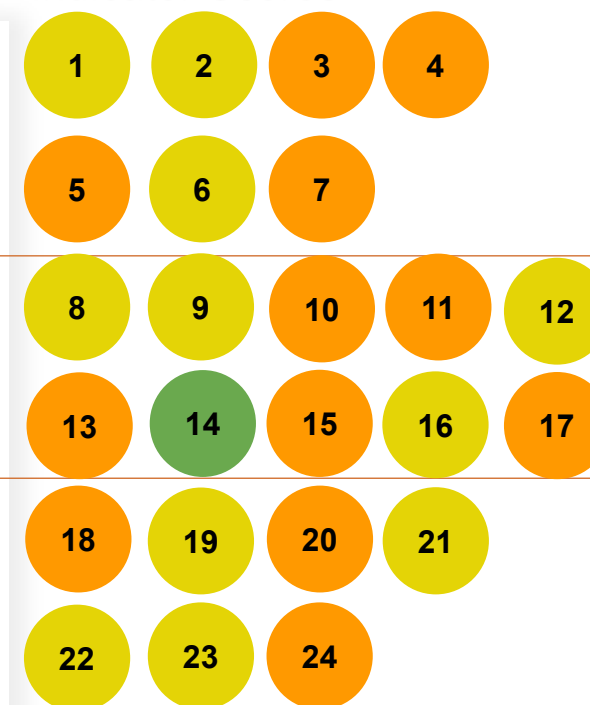
Strategic Objectives

- A** Government communication for inclusive farmer awareness and participation

- B** Effective government-supported extension services for farmers

- C** Effective private-sector and NGO advisory, awareness and participation activities

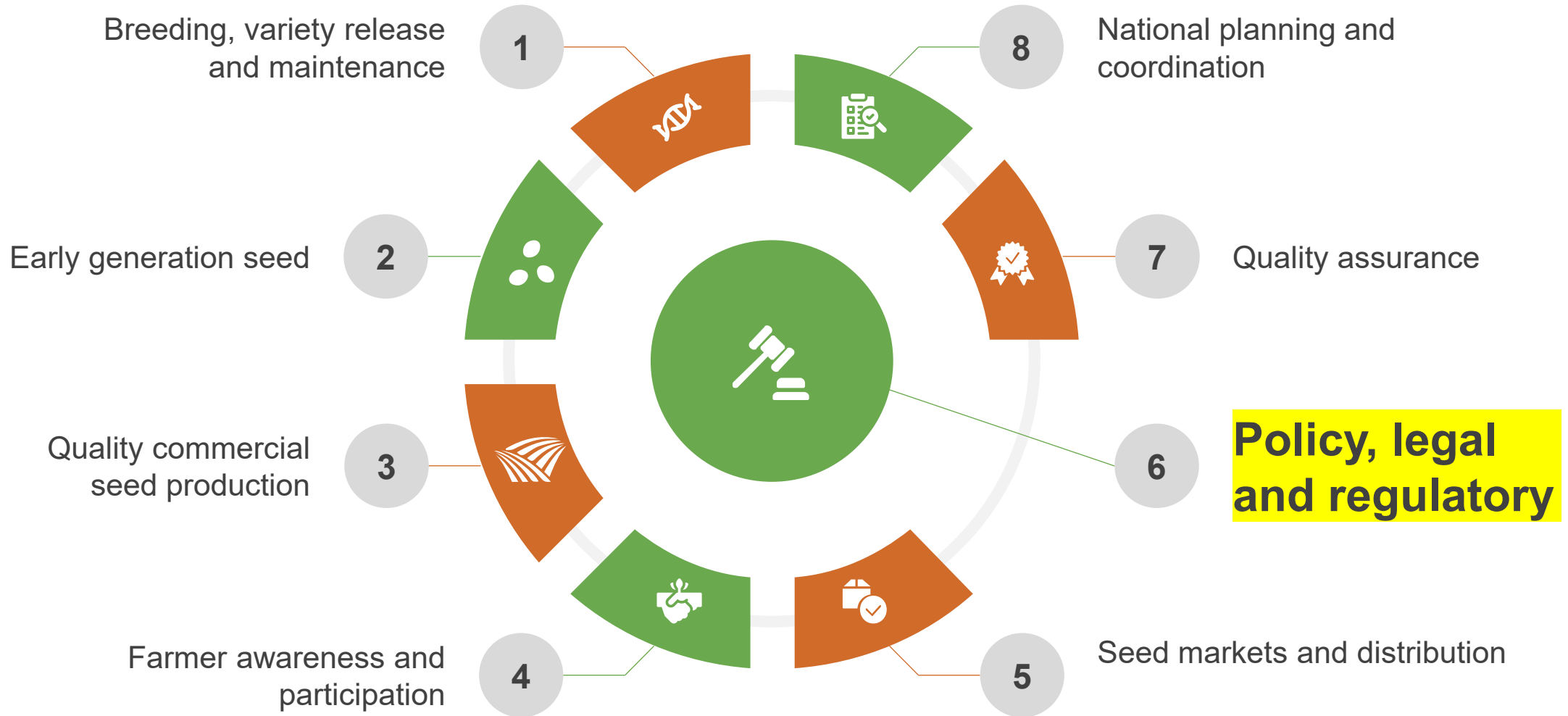
Indicator Scores



Joseph Ahenda
Program Officer, Seed Regulatory Specialist
AGRA
(for Boaz Keizire)
Policy, Legal and Regulatory



Seed System Thematic Areas Assessed in SeedSAT



Ghana scoring: Policy, Legal, Regulatory

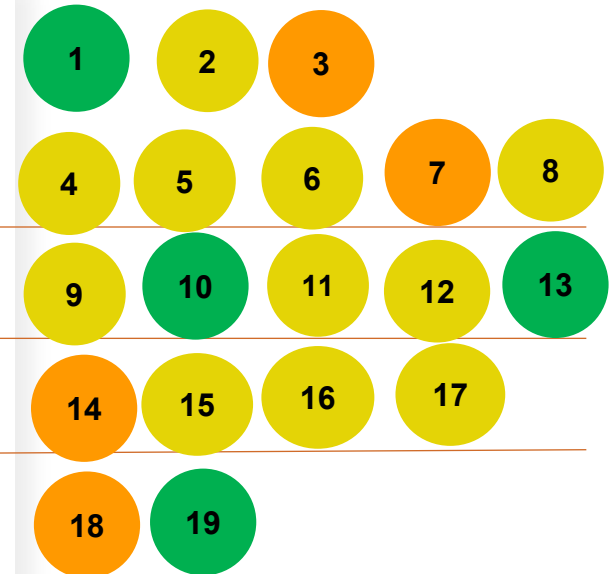


Key notes: While Ghana's seed Policy, Legal, and Regulatory framework has been undergoing significant developments in the recent years, some major gaps still exist. These include an incomplete PVP regulatory and institutional framework, national seed rules that are not aligned with the regional ECOWAS seed rules, and limited capacity on the part of regulatory institutions which affects implementation of seed rules.

Strategic Objectives

- A** Presence and effective implementation of seed policy, laws, and regulations (or equivalent)
- B** Seed policy, laws, regulations aligned with regional, international standards
- C** Seed policy, laws, regulations support an enabling environment for seed systems
- D** Effective and inclusive stakeholder engagement in design and development of seed policy, laws, regulations. and procedures

Indicator Scores



Joseph Ahenda
Program Officer, Seed Regulatory Specialist
AGRA
(for Vine Mutyasira)
National Planning and Coordination



Seed System Thematic Areas Assessed in SeedSAT



GHANA scoring: National Planning and Coordination



Key notes: *(National (Seed) Planning and Coordination refers to whether or not a country's Ministry of Agriculture has a coordinated team or unit in place, with senior Ministry representation, that is focused on sustainable seed sector development and growth)*

1. There is no specific unit or team under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) in Ghana that is dedicated to seed system planning and coordination.
2. Malawi has a Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) that is mandated to oversees agricultural policy research, regulations, and coordinates review of seed policies, legislation, and regulation together with the National Seed Council, but it appear to have limited mandate on seed system planning and coordination

Strategic Objectives

Indicator Scores

A	Effective national unit/team responsible for seed planning and coordination	1	2	3	4	
B	Coordinated government collaboration	5	6	7	8	9
C	Effective data gathering, analysis and sharing by the NSP&C unit/team	10	11	12	13	
D	Functional and balanced seed dialogue platforms	14	15	16	17	
E	Smart design of subsidy and other government seed interventions	18	19	20		



Group discussion of second four Thematic Areas



Breeding, variety release and maintenance



Recommendation 1. Design and Fund breeding program based on clear definitions of product profiles and target crop growing environments with a focus on delivering realized genetic gain to farmers.

Breeding programs should optimize research activities with available resources, with both managerial and technical changes required. Need for well-defined, prioritized and market survey-based product profiles to guide breeding programs by defining market segments and priority constraints based on sufficient understanding of target markets and production systems. Involvement of cross functional teams (social scientists, gender specialists, economists, agronomists) to deliver product profiles consistent with beneficiary requirements (growers, processors, consumers).

Recommendation 2. Invest in resourcing and establishing procedures for variety maintenance

There is need to invest in established guidelines and appropriately trained personnel, for monitoring and maintaining of parental line stock quality. Operational procedures should be put in place and conducted to ensure genetic purity and high-quality seed and output regularly meets purity and quality criteria



Recommendation 3. Develop a business case and prioritize investments to ensure research programs are supported with suitable infrastructure to carry out their research activities.

There is need to invest in well-designed, purpose-built facilities with proactive equipment maintenance schedules. This also includes greenhouse and/or field screening capacity for screening traits relevant to growers and consumers. There is also need to evaluate and ensure adequacy of seed store, labs, irrigation facilities, etc.

Recommendation 4. Provide adequate budget to meet goals for upscaling variety release and maintenance of germplasm with commercialization.

There is need to mobilize adequate budgetary support from government or other potential granting sources by showcasing successes and impacts from prior funding. Further a balancing of the proportion spent on salaries vs operation costs through better financial planning and tracking of costs.

Need for expert engagement in designing a variety licensing and a robust monitoring system for royalty payments, which could be ploughed back to support research programs

Support a more coordinated and efficient teamwork across different disciplines and locations and explore where savings can be made and resources get allocated to priority areas.



Recommendation 5. Develop a mechanisms/forum for consultation of breeding programs with commercial seed producers to create better alignment for strong, two-way, and sustained partnerships

There is weak alignment breeding programs with the seed producers/ traders to allow efficient seed production planning for all classes of seed. A formal process should be established for determining early generation seed requirements. This will require institutionalizing a joint decision-making mechanism with relevant stakeholders for final stage promotion of varieties/hybrids, using high-quality performance data. Formal channels for information exchange needed for both public and private breeders and seed producers.

Recommendation 6. Establish processes and procedures to assure better adoption of released varieties

There is need to understand farmer demand and production issues through better linkages with seed producers. This will be strengthened through proper feedback channels to better align with smallholder needs to support release decisions. Variety promotion and advancement systems should be defined through verified datasets using best competitive cultivars. Finally, the release process needs to be assessed for adequacy, timeliness and cost effectiveness.





Recommendation # 1: Fund EGS production, quality control and infrastructure support

There is need to invest in EGS production and quality control infrastructure; including exploration of different models that work in EGS production such as farmer led businesses. The main institutions, CRI, SARI and GLDB may need to: (i) install irrigation systems and other production-enhancing methods and (ii) refurbish the existing cold storage facilities.

Recommendation #2: Capacity and training

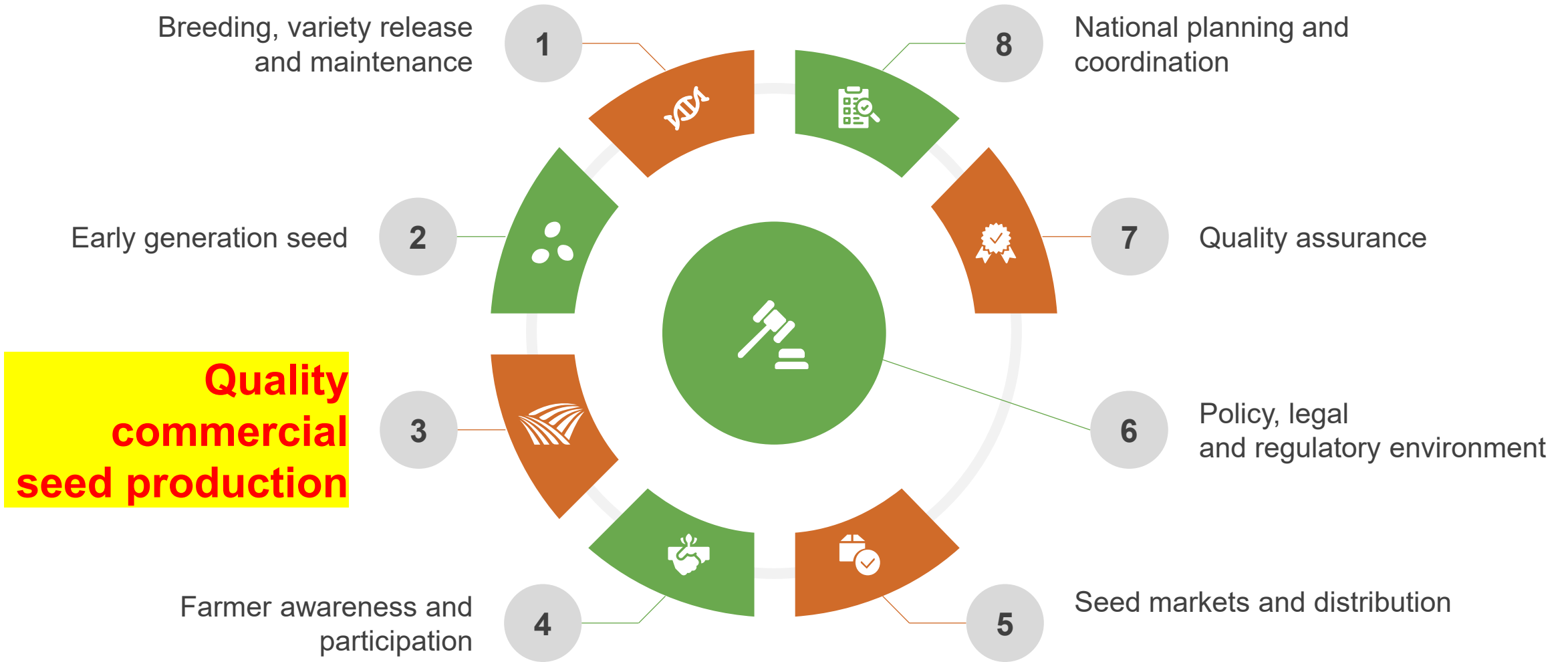
Update skills in parental line maintenance. NASTAG should continue to build the capacity of seed companies in this area, so that they can multiply and commercialize new crop varieties being developed by the research institutions.



Recommendation # 3: EGS planning and demand forecasting

Scale for EGS planning with relevant digital tools to for open and liberal access. Further, seed companies and the different EGS producers should develop a framework to determine the annual national requirement for the different classes of early generation seed. Digitized tracking will provide data on gaps, progress that informs funding and budgeting for EGS.





Quality Commercial Seed Production recommendations for Ghana



Recommendation # 1: Strengthen the seed quality control capacities within seed companies and growers

The capacities of seed companies/growers are so varied that not all are able to observe the required quality control requirements. PPRSD, in collaboration with NASTAG and SEEDPAG should conduct an annual audit of each seed company and grower to assess whether they adhere to these requirements and standards. In case there are gaps, then a plan should be put in place to address these gaps within a given timeline. Failure to address some of these gaps should lead to a withdrawal of the grower's or company's operating license.

Recommendation # 2: Sustain the range of government efforts to address the challenge of counterfeit/fake seed and monitor their effectiveness

There have been notable improvements in the government's response to the challenge of fake seed. To sustain the improvements, the National Seed Council and NASTAG should monitor the following specific interventions: (i) inspection of seed fields, processing facilities, and agro-dealer outlets by the Ghana Seed Inspection Division (GSID); (ii) a requirement that all seed be sold in packages with labels and certification tags; (iii) a requirement that evidence of procurement of basic seed is provided when selling to the PFJ program, and (iv) a farmers' awareness campaign as part of the PFJ program (v) Digitize the process – introduce scratch cards on seed packets.

Quality Commercial Seed Production recommendations for Ghana

Recommendation # 3: Refurbish the government seed processing facilities

Most of the seed growers process their seed at the various government-owned seed processing facilities at Winneba, Ho, Kumasi, Tamale, Bolgatanga, and Wa. Most of the processing equipment in these facilities need repair, impeding their capacity. PPRSD needs to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the status of these facilities and then invest in their refurbishment. The other alternative is for the seed companies to endeavor to acquire their own

Recommendation # 4: Develop sustainable seed market

PFJ program is the main buyer of certified seed from seed growers this not only distorts the market but also creates dependence syndrome. There is need to develop a steady, reliable market driven seed distribution system.



Quality Commercial Seed Production recommendations for pilot countries

Recommendation # 5: Promote the growing of modern varieties

While tremendous efforts have been made to develop and release new varieties of different crops, old varieties dating several decades are still being grown. Farmers are not benefiting from new special traits like drought tolerance, disease and pest resistance let alone nutrition attributes. There is need to create awareness of these varieties.

Recommendation # 6: Access to finance

Many seed companies experience challenges to access funds from commercial institutions to invest in modern facilities like processing, storage, farm machinery and working capital to expand their businesses. Interest rates are high making it uncompetitive. With support from the government special facilities should be put in place for the seed entrepreneurs.





Recommendation # 1: Scoping studies for functional QA laboratories

Conduct scoping study to: assess current and anticipated QA laboratory volume; determine adequacy/inadequacy of current labs, staff numbers, staff experience, staff capacity, equipment, staff locational distribution, training needs, facilities, and infrastructure; propose specific approaches to remedy inadequacies; identify levels of capital investment as well as annual financing required to deliver viable and adequate seed testing services. If transition of lab-based activities to private sector is recommended and viable, incorporate the implications of third-party authorization into recommendations and findings.

Recommendation # 2: Expansion of crop scope/portfolio for seed QA

Support national seed regulatory authority to develop protocols for all priority scheduled/focus crops with a view to formalizing seed certification for a wider range of crops, including for vegetatively propagated materials

Recommendation # 3: Establishment of ISTA-accredited seed laboratory

Support development of a new ISTA-accredited lab or upgrading of a current lab to ISTA standards to both serve as a valid reference laboratory and issue export certificates. Bring in appropriate technical advice to advise on steps and investment required.



Recommendation # 4: Reduction in low quality and counterfeit seed

Develop practical plans to address low quality and fake seed, e.g.: support full adoption and use of scratch card labels; strengthen seed inspectorate units for proper surveillance and monitoring; provide support for retesting and repackaging of expired and torn packets; and implement appropriate levels of pre-and post-control activities.

Recommendation # 5: Digital tools for increased volume and efficiency

Identify opportunities and practical, recommended approaches to support QA processes with digital tools such as e-certification, GPS-linked field tracking and inspection reporting, and online registration of seed growers.

Recommendation # 6: Sector dialogue among seed industry players

Support government commitment to, and implementation of, inclusive sector dialogue to improve the enabling environment for private sector participants and investors. Strengthen the seed trade association's ability to advocate for stronger systems and improve self-regulation among members.





Recommendation # 1: National seed distribution mapping exercise

Establish number, type, geographical density and capacity of seed distributors to determine investments for upgrading and scaling. Update Ghana agrodealer database.

Recommendation # 2: Agrodealer business training

Facilitate capacity building in business management and scaling for seed distributors, to improve sustainability and quality of service providers, drive the establishment of more outlets for farmer access to quality seed, and diversify the supply of crop seed varieties with emphasis on new varieties. To be combined with Recom. # 3 below.



Recommendation # 3: Smart digital solutions for business

Expand the adoption and use of ICT innovations and digital solutions to assist in ordering, accounting, marketing and general stock management to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Training in the use of these digital solutions could be done as part of business management training in Recom. # 2 above.

Recommendation # 4: Credit support for business improvement and expansion

Link private distributors to information and/or affordable credit facilities to enable them invest in seed scaling initiatives such as proper storage (potentially including facilities such as cold rooms), farm input promotional activities, and general expansion (potentially including vegetatively propagated planting materials)



Francis Mwatuni



Farmer awareness and participation



Farmers Awareness and Participation – Ghana recommendations



Recommendation # 1 Effective public extension models

Scale up inclusive public and private sector extension and input models that train and demonstrate new improved varieties and other technologies at farm level to significantly increase yields and incomes – and provide institutional support for the extension systems to function effectively

Recommendation # 2 Training and capacity building

Support the provision of regular training to public and private extension officers and subject matter specialists on seed matters and other identified gaps through programs such as in-service training. Support identification and access to widely and freely available digital training and support materials.



Farmers Awareness and Participation - Ghana recommendations



Recommendation # 3 Feedback mechanisms

Develop practical, transparent and highly inclusive two-way platforms with feedback mechanisms between farmers and seed regulators, research institution, private sector so that farmers can readily give feedback on seed quality, variety development, seed access, and more.

Recommendation # 4 Large scale outreach farmer communication

Support and or strengthen functional farmer outreach communication channels that can operate at a large scale with affordable unit costs, such as vernacular radio programmes (Farm Radio Trust) , e-extension platforms and agrodealer initiatives that can reach large numbers of customers focussing on new varieties, crop marketing opportunities, feedback loops, etc.



Farmers Awareness and Participation - Ghana recommendations



Recommendation # 5 Knowledge management

Establish an online resource database of relevant extension and agricultural training materials that can easily be accessed by both extension workers and tech-enabled farmers, with a focus on seed choice and realizing the full potential of modern seed varieties at harvest time. The material should include lessons on agronomics and cultivation (soil health, seed choice, soil and seed match, and agronomic practices such as fertilizer application and spraying), in addition to post-harvest handling and storage.





Recommendation #1: Fast Track Development and Approval of Plant Variety Protection Regulations

PVP Act 2020 was enacted but regulations are still under development. The process need to be fast tracked to facilitate the implementation of the law. This should include implementation strategy and institutional framework e.g., PBR office.

Recommendation # 2: Support in-country capacity to implement laws and regulations

Advocate for increased number of seed inspectors, analysts and expand their capacity to offer seed QA service. Enhance capacity of seed regulatory authority, support development of seed standards and align to international best practice.



Recommendation # 3: Implement and Support Private (Third Party) Seed Inspection

Support adoption of Authorized private/third party seed certification to increase efficiency and help alleviate the financial and capacity stresses on regulators. This also leverages private sector specialized skills.

Recommendation # 4: Develop Seed Strategy and Investment Plan in line with seed policy, laws and regulations

The seed plan and strategy show the regulator's approach and timeline on achieving the policy statements and provisions within the regulations. Monitoring of the implementation of the seed legal instruments to depict success, gaps and need for review.

Recommendation # 5: Update DUS and NPT Evaluation Protocols

Updating of MoFA manual on the Procedure for Release and Registration of Crop Genetic Material (Variety Release Manual) to address more than the 8 crops that are currently in the manual in line with new regulations.



Joseph Ahenda



Recommendation # 1: Seed planning and coordination team

Support effort to constitute and roll out a functional unit or team under the Ministry to carry out seed system planning and coordination. The team should be supported to have the necessary skills, experience, structure, clear mandate or charter, and pluralistic composition required to fulfill its mandate.

Support Ministry to develop, communicate, and implement a clear and concise medium and long-term seed strategy.

Recommendation # 2: Institutional support for seed planning and coordination

Develop and implement sustainable funding and resource plans for Ministry staff to carry out seed planning and coordination responsibilities effectively. These responsibilities should include inclusive stakeholder gatherings, data collection and analysis, and long term seed system planning



Recommendation # 3: Clear information for stakeholder decision-making

Develop an online seed sector platform that brings together information on seed (e.g., seed varieties, agrodealers, agrochemicals, seed industry contacts, key downloads) and invest to keep the platform up to date and relevant

Recommendation # 4: Stronger enabling environment for private sector participants

Undertake training to build Ministry capacity to understand and implement various approaches to improving the enabling environment for private sector investors and participants in the national seed sector. This training should include enhanced understanding and implementation of smart subsidy and relief programs.

Institute functional, two-way multi-stakeholder dialogue on a regular basis to discuss industry issues and development



Recommendation # 5: Seed demand forecasting

Support the Ministry to adopt and implement an economically robust framework for seed demand forecasting to facilitate stakeholder decision-making. Establish a baseline for seed volumes for key crops as part of this effort. Build capacity in the team responsible for carrying out the annual forecasting exercise and support communication of results.



George Bigirwa
Deputy Vice President-Program Innovations & Delivery - Technical
AGRA



Next steps

- ✓ AGRA will share these slides with you. Additional stakeholder input is most welcome. Kindly email any additional feedback to fmwatuni@agra.org
- ✓ AGRA will consider and include stakeholder feedback in development of proposed recommendations and final assessment reports
- ✓ AGRA has funding to develop national investment plans based on SeedSAT findings, and will collaborate with stakeholders to do this in 2022
- ✓ AGRA will share key SeedSAT findings and recommendations with other development partners



Example of support to Ethiopia & Nigeria following SeedSAT assessment



Ethiopia

1. EGS production
2. Institutional capacity and efficiency enhancement in QA engagement of public and private seed producers, and federal and regional QA authorities with the goal of creating a sustainable (self-financing) QA system.
3. Facilitation to ratify and implement policy and legal frameworks to create a functional enabling environment to allow local and foreign seed companies to operate in the country.
4. Strengthen the national seed trade association
5. Development of the Seed Investment Plan

Nigeria

1. Equip the national seed laboratory
2. Train national seed laboratory staff
3. Digitization and strengthening the National Seed Planning and Coordination Unit
4. Provide TA to some seed companies in the areas of seed production, processing and quality assurance
5. Development of the National Seed Investment Plan



In Summary . . .



Sustainable, systemic change benefitting millions of farmers and their families and Ghana's economy



APPRECIATION



- We appreciate all the stakeholders who gave us preliminary information for Baseline scores and rationale
- We also appreciate all the stakeholders who gave their input on the information gathering exercise to finalize the scores, rationale and recommendations
- The AGRA country team is also appreciated for spearheading the country Baseline scoring and in logistical support for the validation meeting
- We finally appreciate all the stakeholders who came and participated in this important validation meeting

