



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN GHANA'S SEED INDUSTRY:

UPDATES ON PRIORITIES & CHALLENGES

PRESENTATION BY

**NATIONAL SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION OF GHANA
(NASTAG)**



AFRICAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION CONGRESS 2019 | Boni Room, Pride Inn Paradise, Mombasa - Kenya |
4th March 2019

BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE SEED SECTOR

- Quality seeds are a prerequisite to Productive and Profitability agriculture and constitute a major pathway for the achievement of national food security goals.
- In Ghana's agricultural development efforts, quality seed is one of the basic inputs for increasing agricultural productivity and achieving food self-sufficiency.
- Currently, due to the dominance of small-scale farmers, the use of quality seed is very much limited; **an average of only 14% of farmers use certified seeds.**



SUCCESSSES OF THE SEED SECTOR (I)

- Institutionalization of NASTAG has contributed to a lot of initiatives. Currently, it has a membership of 43
- Increased public awareness on seed as a major input in agriculture and contributor to increased productivity
- Increased stakeholder awareness on the importance on use of quality certified seeds
- Increased awareness on, and efforts towards the implementation of seed sector reform documents:
 - The Seed Law - Plant and Fertilizer Act 2010 (Act 803)
 - National Seed Policy, National Seed Plan and
 - ECOWAS harmonized Seed Regulations, and



SUCCESSSES OF THE SEED SECTOR (II)

- National Seed Council reconstituted and functioning (with two Association members on the council)
- Effective National Variety Release & Registration Committee with private sector representation
- Increased quality certified seeds production and utilization from 3,000MT to 16,000MT (2017 – 2018) as a result of Government's flagship programme (Planting for Food and Jobs)



SUCCESSSES OF THE SEED SECTOR (III)



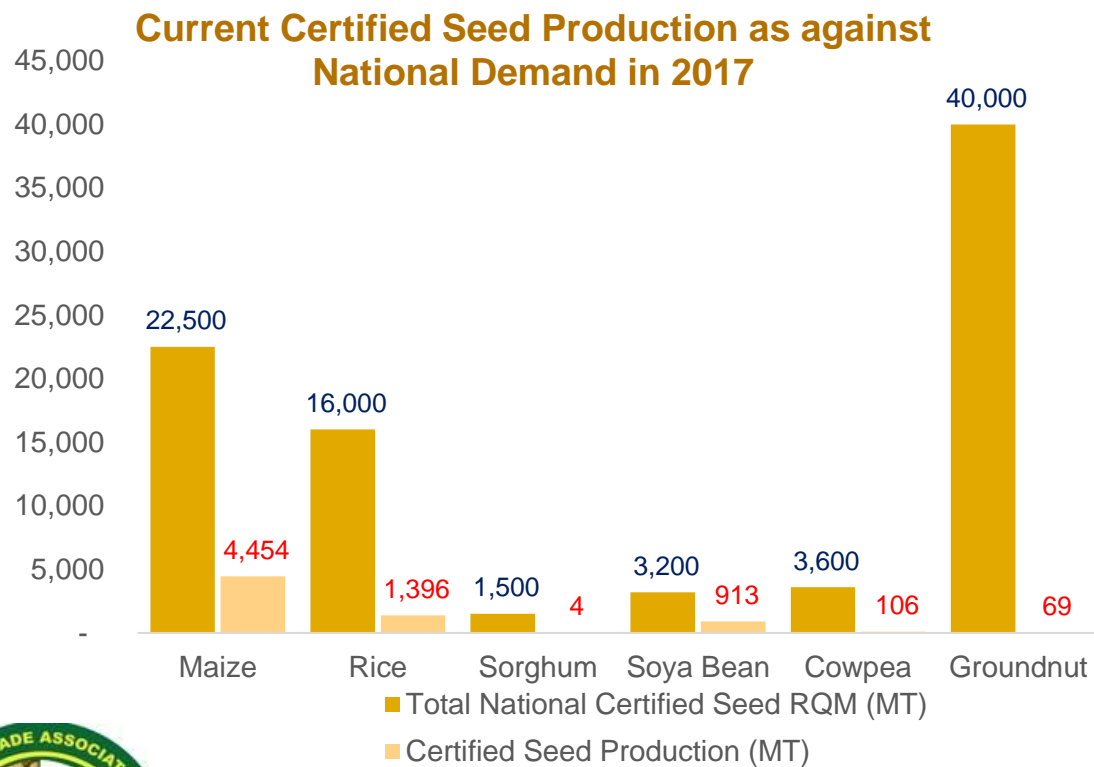
First Biotechnology awareness creation meeting held by NASTAG in Kumasi, Ashanti Region of Ghana

- In collaboration with AFSTA, there has been increased awareness created on Biotechnology
- Three (3) training sessions have been organized for NASTAG members
- Members and other value chain actors getting more informed on Biotechnology



CHALLENGES OF THE SEED SECTOR (I)

Ghana is saddled with numerous challenges in the seed sector:



❖ **Quality improved certified seeds utilization remains extremely low:**

- **Insufficient production and distribution** of quality seeds: approximately 20% of certified seed requirements for major food crops are produced annually
- Commercialization of the seed sector (private sector-led) until recently did not receive attention and support
- The National policy to drive the seed sector development has not been sufficiently enforced



CHALLENGES OF THE SEED SECTOR (II)

Ghana is saddled with numerous challenges in the seed sector:

Inadequate development and commercialization of quality seeds

Inadequate seed market and industry data / information

Non-existence of seed market intelligence and demand forecasting system – (affecting seed production and marketing)

Inadequate access to improved quality early generation seeds

Weak operational, technical and business development capacities of the seed SMEs ultimately affecting quality seeds production

Limited capacity on hybrid seed production locally and its limited availability



CHALLENGES OF THE SEED SECTOR (III)

Ghana is saddled with numerous challenges in the seed sector:

Difficulties in the production and marketing of quality foundation and certified seeds

Lack of sustainable funding for the private sector organization (NASTAG) to engage the public sector

Inadequate legal and policy environment limiting the seed sector growth (Non passage of the Plant Breeders Rights Bill)

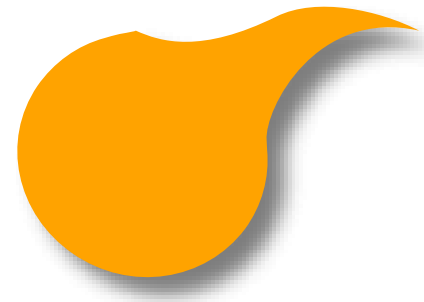
Low participation of women and the youth in seed SMEs,

Over-dependency on open pollinated varieties

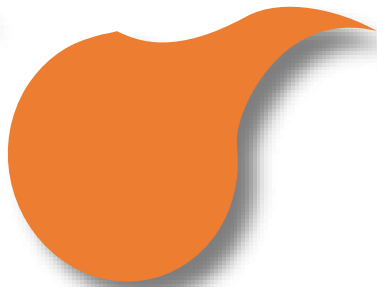
Difficulties in the production and marketing of hybrid seed



NASTAG'S ROLE IN ADDRESSING SOME OF THE CHALLENGES (I)



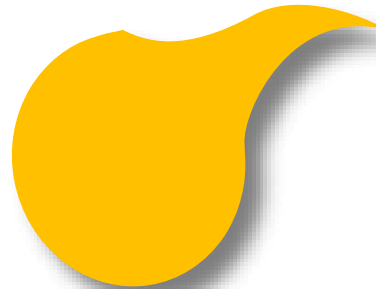
5-year Strategic Plan developed and being implemented



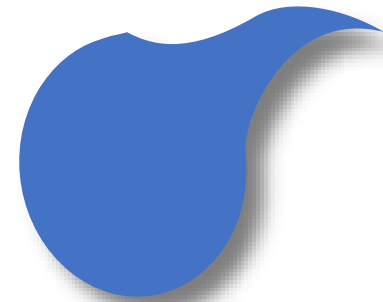
Twenty (20) NASTAG members trained in Seed Enterprise Quality Management



11 members trained on Qlty. Foundation Seed Pdn. facilitated by the International Rice Research Institute(IRRI)

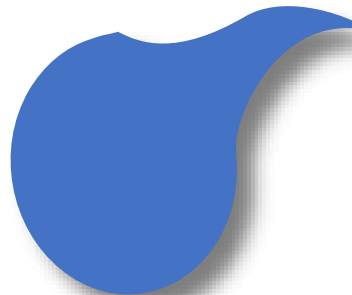


Finding Market for Members for business expanding and revenue base



Expansion of seed business base in Ghana. Companies establishing since 2017 includes:

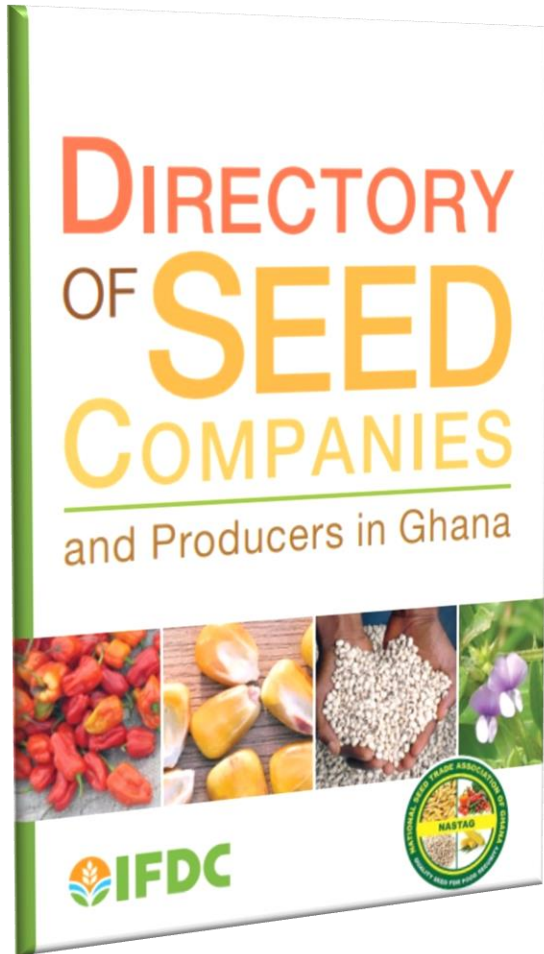
- SEEDCO
- World Vegetable Centre
- Petkus Technologies
- MAS seeds



Institutionalization of an annual National Seed Business Networking Forum to deliberate



NASTAG'S ROLE IN ADDRESSING SOME OF THE CHALLENGES (II)



- ▶ Development of the Seed Companies and Seed Producers Directory.
- ▶ Increased accessibility to the updated National Catalogue for plant species and varieties; serving as a quick sources document for industry players.



THE WAY FORWARD (I)

Focus of our strategic direction is stipulated in the 5 - year Plan

- ❖ Engage 3 sub-committees put in place
 - Technical Standards committee
 - Business Development and Ethics Committee
 - Advocacy and Communication Committee

- ❖ Engage and work collaboratively with government and other industry development partners
 - For the Operationalization of a Functional Plant and Fertilizer Funds (Seed Fund) to benefit the private sector
 - For the Passage of the Plant Breeders Rights Bill
 - To leverage on the Government's initiative to rapidly develop the seed sector and sustain farmers quality certified seed uptake



THE WAY FORWARD (II)

Improving seed quality for increased agricultural productivity. To improve seed quality and particularly stamp out fake seeds, NASTAG will:

- Sensitize members to enhance their internal seed quality monitoring as well as participate in license certification
- Equip members access to basic requisite equipment and facilities that will keep them in business and make local seed production less expensive
- Support and encourage members to carry out field demonstrations and sensitization of farmers as a way of increase quality seed utilization



THANK YOU

Save the Date

9th Annual Pre-Season Planning and Networking Forum

NATIONAL SEED TRADE
ASSOCIATION
OF GHANA



THEME

“Vibrant Agriculture Value Chain Networking;
Key to National Transformation beyond Aid”

Date

April 4, 2019.

Venue

Modern City Hotel
Tamale



Ministry of Food and Agriculture



Northern Development Authority

