

NATIONAL SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION OF GHANA



Project Inception Meeting Report:

“Strengthening the Ghana Seed System to Enhance Quality Seed Delivery.”

USAID/AGRA Support Project

Grant Reference No. 2020 GH 002-01

Submitted by:

The Secretariat of NASTAG

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Acronyms

AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
APSP	Agriculture Policy Support Project
ATT	Agriculture Technology Transfer
DCS	Directorate of Crops Services
EGS	Early Generation Seed
FTF	Feed the Future
GSID	Ghana Seed Inspection Division
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NASTAG	National Seed Trade Association of Ghana
PFJ	Planting for Food and Jobs
PPRSD	Plant Protection and Regulatory Services
SEEDPAG	Seed Producers Association of Ghana
SSTP	Scaling Seeds and Technologies Partnership
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WACCI	West African Centre for Crop Improvement

Introduction

Background to Project

Quality seeds are a prerequisite to productive and profitable agriculture and constitute a major pathway for the achievement of national food security goals. Over the past few years, the stakeholders in Ghana's Seed Industry have acknowledged major setbacks in the development of the sector with peculiar constraints that inevitably affect its competitiveness. Considering this, several interventions with huge investments by donor partners (notably AGRA-PASS, USAID/FtF (SSTP, APSP & ATT)) have resulted to very significant and steady growth in the seed sector. This notwithstanding, several other teething challenges seem to retard the accelerated progress expected over the period.

In response to some of these issues, NASTAG as a private seed sector Association requested a grant from AGRA to support in the implementation of the part of the USAID funded project.

In September 2020, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa awarded the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana a grant amounting to \$301,441. On Friday, September 25, 2020, Mr. Thomas Wilfred Havor, the President on behalf of NASTAG signed an Award Letter at the Association's Secretariat Office to carry out a 24-month project for the period of September 25, 2020 to September 24, 2022 with the theme *"Strengthening the Ghana Seed System to Enhance Quality Seed Delivery"*.

The project will deliver high quality certified seeds of hybrid maize, cowpea, groundnut, and soybean, to reach 300,000 smallholder farmers in the Northern parts of Ghana to increase smallholder farmer's productivity. The project will also bring together stakeholders in the seed industry to dialogue on issues and implement strategies relevant to the growth of the industry.

Specifically, the project seeks to:

1. Enhance seed trade for members of NASTAG;
2. Enhance Private Sector participation in seed quality control and certification;
3. Advocate for improved policy and regulatory environment for the seed industry; and
4. Strengthen the capacity of seed sector stakeholders' platform to identify and address seed sector development challenges in Ghana.

Objectives to achieve at the end of this project are:

1. Increased staple crop productivity for smallholder farmers;
2. Strengthened and expanded access to output markets;
3. Strengthened continental, regional and government multi-sectoral coordination and mutual accountability in the agricultural sector.

Project Implementation

The project will be executed by a Project Manager assisted by Project Monitoring and Evaluation/Field Support Staff together with the 7 consortium members namely;

- NASTAG
- Antika Company Limited
- Ariku Company Limited
- Bruckner Farms
- Heritage Seeds Company Limited
- M&B Seeds and Agricultural Services Limited
- PEE Farms

Project Staff

Designation	Name	Email	Cell Phone
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Project Manager	Michael Dogor	mdogor1978@gmail.com	+233200642001
Project Monitoring and Evaluation/Field Support Staff	Rosemary Makafui	rosemakaf@gmail.com	+233552252471
Finance and Administrative Officer	Eben Acquah Nunoo	eanunoo@gmail.com	+233244623785

Inception Meeting

A project Inception meeting was held on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at the Anita Hotel. The purpose of the meeting was to launch the new AGRA project, create an understanding of the project objectives, goals and expected outcome and to also outline the guidelines and procedures for successful project implementation. Attendees included representatives of the National Seed Council, Directorate of Crops Services, Plant Protection and Regulatory Services, West African Centre for Crop Improvement, Members and Staff of NASTAG and the Media.

Opening Prayer and Introduction

The meeting started at 8:50 am. Mrs. Augusta Nyamadi Clotley, CEO of NASTAG kicked off the meeting with an opening prayer followed by the introduction of the special guests for the meeting. The Special Guests were;

1. Mr. Josiah Wobil – Chairman, National Seed Council
2. Mr. Seth Osei-Akoto – Director, MoFA - DCS
3. Mr. Eric Bentil Quaye – Head of GSID, PPRSD
4. Prof. Pangirayi Tongoona – EGS Consortium Lead/ WACCI

After this, all participants briefly introduced themselves.

Welcome Remarks

Mrs. Augusta Nyamadi Clotley officially welcomed everyone to the meeting, this was followed by her stating the purpose of the meeting. She mentioned that NASTAG had received a grant for a new project from AGRA and there was the need to introduce the project to members since all members would have the opportunity to contribute to the project.

Short Remarks by Invited Guests

There were several invited guests at the meeting who made brief statements on behalf of their organizations.

Mr. Josiah Wobil stood in for AGRA gave an overview of the project and informed members of the progress made so far. He said he was elated to say a few words on behalf of the National Seed Council who were the executing agency for the project. He further said Ghana being an agricultural country needs a stronger agricultural sector and this project initiated by AGRA was a stepping stone towards achieving that since seeds formed the basis for plant life. He emphasized on the challenges faced by farmers in getting quality seed and reassured that this project would go a long way to solve this challenge in the near future. He finally concluded by saying that an exit strategy should be developed for the project.

Mr. Osei Akoto first of all congratulated NASTAG for their efforts in the seed sector and expressed his joy that NASTAG had received a grant offer standing as an organization on its own. He assured all participants that the Ministry would continue to partner with the private seed sector on many projects and other programmes. He wished NASTAG success in the implementation of the project and expressed MOFA's gratitude to AGRA for this opportunity.

Mr. Eric Quaye in his remarks also thanked NASTAG for acknowledging the importance of PPRSD in the seed sector and declared that the project was going to generate more income due to increase in production.

Presentation of The Project: *"Strengthening of the Ghana Seed System to Enhance Quality Seed Delivery."*

The 24- month project plan was presented by Project Manager, Mr. Michael Dogor. He first acknowledged MoFA and the other consortium members for their presence, he also thanked AGRA and USAID for their support and funding. In his presentation, he elaborated on the main goal, the objectives, challenges, and activities for implementation of the project. After his presentation, participants were given the opportunity to ask questions or make comments.

Dr. Takemore Chagamoka, SEEDCO mentioned that NASTAG must endeavor to coordinate with the Africa Continental Free Trade in all its activities since this will open doors to major opportunities.

David Konlan, IWAD talked about NASTAG giving focus to the new regions since they lacked structures and systems to help them do their work. He advised that NASTAG should do an assessment of all the facilities and systems available in these regions. Mrs. Augusta Nyamadi Clottey in response to his comments said that effort would be made in reaching out to the new regions and also added that the project had its own Zone of Influence and that meetings were organized with other potential donors to discuss diversification of funds to every part of the country.

Mr. Oxford Agboli, M&B SEEDS raised the issue with the time allocated for the project and asked when foundation seeds would be available to produce certified seeds. Mrs. Augusta Nyamadi Clottey responded by saying that every consortium had their own activities to carry out and the EGS consortium had assured that they would meet their expectations under the project. She also assured that Prof. Tongoona would throw more light on the EGS consortium's activities in his Brief Presentation.

Dr. Solomon Ansah Gyan, DCS made mention of some past projects which has led to the strengthening of the private seed sector. He pointed out the omission of DCS from the agencies responsible for policy implementation. Mrs. Augusta Nyamadi quickly apologized for the omission.

Prof. Tongoona, WACCI expressed that NASTAG must seek to champion the acceptance of the Plant Breeder's Bill which would be of much help to breeders.

Dr. Akoto also indicated that he needed clarification on the coordination of the project. He asked if the projected output was for all crops or just one crop and added that if it be for all crops then it was very small in terms of the country's demand due to the PFJ. Mrs. Augusta Nyamadi Clottey responded by saying that the projected output was for just the 6 companies and that each had specific targets. Mr. Seidu Mubarak, Antika Co. Ltd also assured the director that the projected output was not the limit for the seed companies. Dr. Solomon Gyan also responded to the director saying that the projected output was just to catalyze the system.

Mr. William Kotey, RMG Ghana addressed Dr. Osei-Akoto on the issue of late payment for seed supplied under PFJ. He added that they were ready to produce but they must be paid on time.

Mr. Roger Aruk, Ariku Co. Ltd. raised the concern with Risk management and asked what happens in the case of a loss. He suggested that we should look at insurance policy for members.

Mr. Josiah Wobil also suggested that the Private Sector should not always wait on projects for funding and must find other ways of reeling in income.

Mrs. Augusta Nyamadi Clotley raised the issue of EGS not being enough and stated that EGS production should have started a year or two ago. Mr. Eric Bentil Quaye replied saying that EGS were available and that the Association should look outside its members to help meet its target.

Mr. Francis Adzalo, SEEDPAG questioned the centralization of most projects in the North and cited a few environmental problems they face. Mr. Seidu Mubarak replied by pointing out several projects which took place in the South and said crops do not always fail in the North and that big players in the seed industry were located in the North and their businesses were thriving. Mrs. Elorm Goh also added that the zone is chosen based on the poverty line.

Brief Comments from Consortiums

Mr. Seidu Mubarak, Antika Co. Ltd spoke on behalf of the Certified seed Consortium. He clarified that the project was not just limited to the 6 companies mentioned and that all members of NASTAG would be required to participate and contribute to it being a success. He then pleaded with Mr. Eric Quaye to share information on where to access EGS to meet project output demand.

He added that production had already started and that they were positive that the EGS consortium would meet expectations. He continued that the project would go a long way to solve the problem of farmers doubting the quality of seeds produced.

Finally, he encouraged the new regions to partner with the old regions who already had systems and structures in place for seed production until they are able to stand on their own.

Prof. Pangirayi Tongoona, EGS Consortium Lead gave a short presentation on the EGS consortiums' part in the execution of this project. He stated the need for EGS in the project. He stated the objectives of their part of the project, challenges they face and the activities they plan on undertaking to achieve success. He also mentioned the partners of the EGS seed consortium and the quantities they have projected to produce. He ended by emphasizing on the value of Public- Private Partnerships and mentioned the roles each had to play in making the relationship work.

Concluding Remarks



Mr. Osei-Akoto encouraged partnerships between public



**NASTAG CONSORTIUM PROJECT INCEPTION MEETING &
4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AGENDA
THURSDAY, October 22, 2020**

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESP. PERSONS
8:00	Registration	Staff
8:30	Opening Prayer and Introductions	Volunteer / Moderator
	Welcome Remarks	President
	Brief overview on the Project Conception and Progress so far	AGRA
	Short Remarks: CSD, PPRSD- GSID, NSC, AGRA, USAID	Moderator
	Presentation of the Project: <i>"Strengthening of the Ghana Seed System to Enhance Quality Seed Delivery"</i>	Project Manager
	Brief Comments from Certified Seed Consortium Member Brief Summary from EGS Consortium Lead Brief Summary from Seed Trade Platform Consortium Lead	Antika WACCI AFAP
	Questions / Comments /Contributions / Clarifications	
10:30	SNACK BREAK	
	The way forward	
	Concluding Remarks: AGRA, GSID, NASTAG President	All
	Presentation of Updated NASTAG website, Role of NASTAG members and Official Launch	Website Designer
	Brief Presentation on Available Irrigation Facility	Interplast Rep.
12:00 -13:00	LUNCH & ALL INVITED GUEST DEPARTURE	

and private institutions to help solve problems without over dependence on projects and funding and looks forward to the outcome of our AGM.

Mr. Josiah Wobil Also added that it was a pleasure to be part of the inception Meeting and was grateful that the efforts made in establishing NASTAG had not gone waste. He advised that we continue to stand as a united front to achieve greater things and emphasized that priority be given to NASTAG on seed relate issues.

Mrs. Augusta Nyamadi Clotley once again thanked everyone for their time and participation, Ms. Rocklyn Benissan gave the closing prayer bringing the meeting to a close at about 12:48 pm.

Table 1: List of participants

S/N	ORGANIZATION	NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE	EMAIL
1	NATIONAL SEED COUNCIL	Josiah Wobil	jwobil@hotmail.com
2	CROPS SERVICES DIRECTORATE	Seth Osei Akoto	oakoto2012@gmail.com
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5	WEST AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CROP IMPROVEMENT	Prof. Pangirayi Tongoona	ptongoona@wacci.ug.edu
6	PEE FARMS	Hon. Mohammed Pangabu	peefarms99@yahoo.com
7	YONIFAH SEEDS LTD	Thomas W. Havor	yonifah@yahoo.com
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9	SIMCO FARMS LTD	Simon Abdulai	simcofarms@gmail.com
10	RURAL INNOVATIONS CONSULTS	Amadu Alhassan	a_amadu88@yahoo.com

11	M & B SEEDS AND AGRIC SERVICES LTD	Oxford Dela	oxforddrawal@gmail.com
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Table 2: List of Media Representatives

S/N	ORGANIZATION	NAME
1	TV3	Ibrahim Abu
2	TV3	Victor Opoku
3	TV3	Michael Duah
4	GTV	Nicholas Osei Wusu
5	GTV	Budu Hayan
6	GTV	Osborne Adu
7	GBC	Sandrine Oduro Amponsah
8	GNA	Florence Afriyie Mensah

