



PERSPECTIVES FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR
HIGHLIGHTS OF
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SEED SECTOR SINCE 2018,
OPPORTUNITIES & PRIORITIES FOR SEED INDUSTRY REFORM
&
CHALLENGES

NASTAG's PRESENTATION

April 20, 2021

@

Best Western Hotel, Accra



BRIEF ON NASTAG

- NASTAG was registered in February, 2016 and officially launched in August 2017
- An umbrella association of seed enterprises and seed value chain actors
- Has membership of 56



OUR VISION AND MISSION

OUR VISION: “ To be the apex organization for promoting the growth of the seed industry through the improvement of members’ businesses and the use of quality seed for improved livelihoods in Ghana”

OUR MISSION: “To fulfill the interest of members through strong advocacy programmes and capacity building in *Technical & Business Development skills* and *ethics*, to advance the seed industry in Ghana”



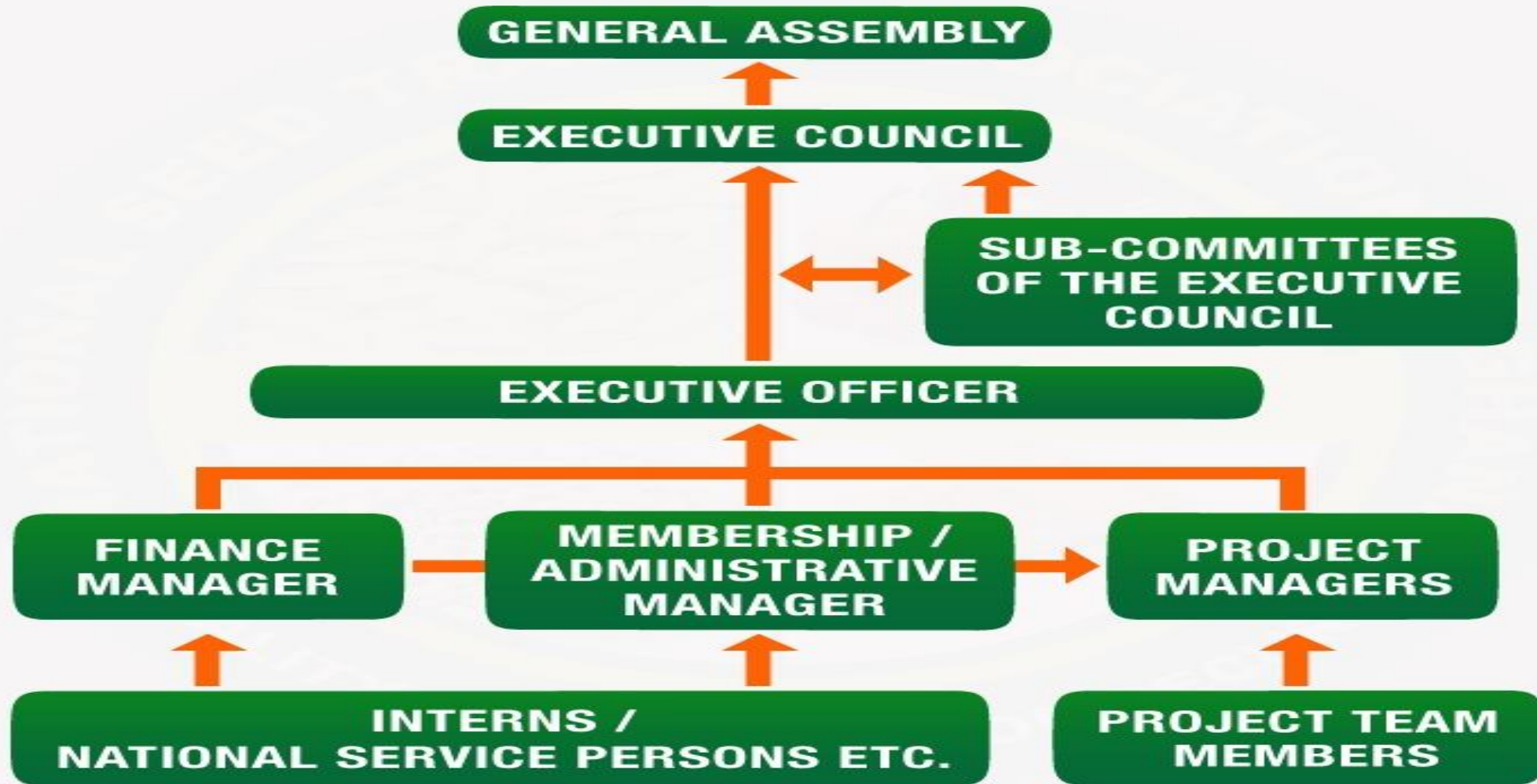
OUR 12 STRATEGIC GOALS; Summarized into four (4) Broad Objectives

- Build the capacities of seed industry players
- Serve as the balanced voice for advocacy
- Improve communication between seed stakeholders by providing necessary industry information, and
- Develop as a vibrant representative, accountable and financially sustainable organization

Our Current Structure



NASTAG ORGANOGRAM





THE SEED SECTOR IN GHANA

DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 2018



THE SEED SECTOR SINCE 2018

- The Government's Initiative – PFJ has had significant impact on seed sector in terms of creating availability, affordability, accessibility and utilization of seeds.

eg: Certified seed subsidy has resulted in uptake of Maize seeds from 11% to over 30% from 2018

- There has been an emergence of a more diversified commercial seed sector as seed producers / companies intensified production of some seeds including maize, soybean, rice, sorghum, groundnut).



THE SEED SECTOR SINCE 2018/2

- Particularly for maize, the adoption of hybrid seed by farmers has increased as they were heavily subsidized.
- There is a significant move towards making available quality planting materials of tree crops, Roots and Tubers as well (Yams, Mango, Sweet Potato, Cassava, Cashew, etc.).
- Interest of multinational seed production companies in the country has increased; taking advantage of the subsidy programme.

THE SEED SECTOR SINCE 2018/3



- Establishment of modern seed laboratories for efficient seed health testing and certification.
- There has been the enactment Seed Certification and Standards Regulation and passage of the Plant Variety Protection Bill
- There has been progress on PPP of EGS



THE SEED SECTOR SINCE 2018/4



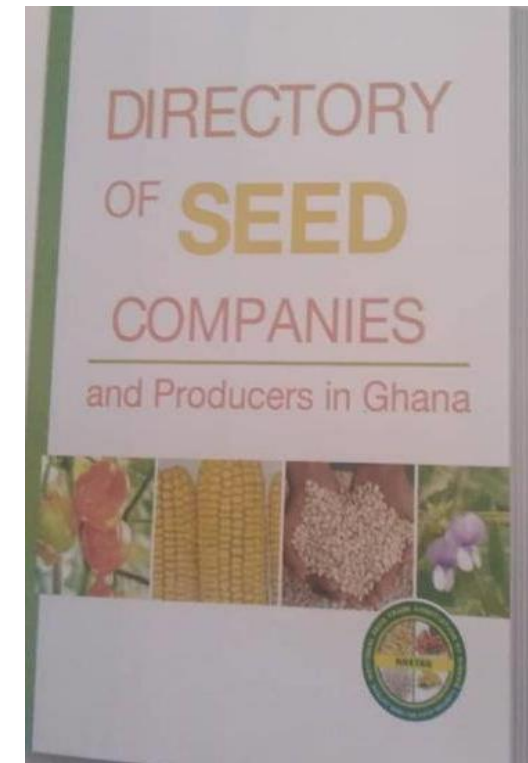
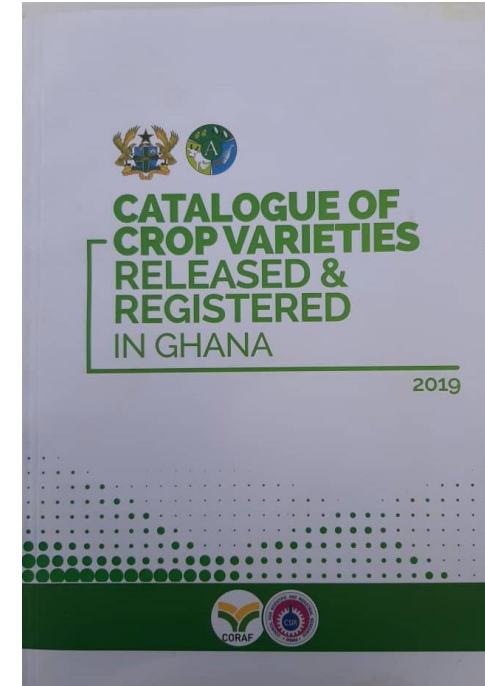
- Relatively, strengthened Regional Associations (SEEDPAG) to champion the interest of members who in turn benefit from capacity building interventions





THE SEED SECTOR SINCE 2018/5

- National Seed Directory and the National Crop Variety Catalogue
- Private sector actors using radio, flyers, and seed extension via field demonstrations and farmer field days, in collaboration with the public sector.
- Increased donor assisted programs in support of the seed sector (AGRA, USAID, IITA, CIDA, etc.).



THE SEED SECTOR SINCE 2018 (Specific to NASTAG)/6



Related to Donor intervention,

➤ NASTAG is leading a certified seed consortium in the implementation of a 24 - month Project under AGRA's Ghana Inclusive Agricultural Transformation Programme with funding support from USAID titled **“Strengthening the Ghana Seed System to Enhance Quality Seed Delivery”**.

➤ This is aimed at delivering high quality certified seeds of hybrid maize, cowpea, groundnut, and soybean, to increase about 300,000 smallholder farmers' productivity




NASTAG / GSID - PPRSD			
REGION	DISTRICT	CENTRE / COMMUNITY	DATE
North East	Mamprugu Moagduri	Yagaba (IWAD Yard)	Tue: 13/04/2021
Upper West	Sissala East	Tumu (Community Centre)	Fri: 16/04/2021
Upper West	Wa Municipal	Wa (Jubilee Park)	Wed: 21/04/2021

Logos at the bottom: EUGAP, European Union, GIZ, AGRA, USAID.



THE SEED SECTOR SINCE 2018 (Specific to NASTAG)/7




FEED THE FUTURE
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

FAVOUR
(Locally Produced Soyabean Seed)

Special Attributes:

- Variety Type – Open Pollinated Variety (OPV)
- Maturity – 115- 118 days
- Potential Yield – 2.0 – 3.5 (tons/ ha)
- Colour of Seed – Cream
- Tolerance – To common soybean pests and diseases
- Resistant – To pod shattering up to 5%
- Purpose – Good for domestic and industrial use
- Nutritional Content – Protein -43%, Oil -18%, Carbohydrate -39.9%

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 **USAID**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

 **ACDI/VOCA**
Expanding Opportunities Worldwide



- Capacity of Seed Companies and Producers enhanced in Hybrid Maize Seed Production, Rice Seed Production in collaboration with public and other donor agencies and, on Seed Certification Guidelines
- Initiated a Seed Traceability Pilot Project to track certified seeds to the last mile, thereby encouraging members/ seed companies to enhance branding of their packaging materials
- Enhanced transfer of seed related information and improved technologies to farmers through media sensitization, seed fairs, field demonstrations and field days to accelerate certified seed uptake.



THE SEED SECTOR IN GHANA

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDUSTRY REFORM

OPPORTUNITIES



A lot of Opportunities within Ghanaian seed sector.

- Huge market opportunities created in light of the increased awareness of the importance of use of certified seed.
- Emergence of new small, medium and commercial scale farmers in recent times has propelled the development of out-grower schemes resulting in increased demand for approved (certified) quality seeds and increased employment.
- The existence of media stations nationwide can be leveraged on to increase awareness on certified seeds.

OPPORTUNITIES.../2



- Seeds such as soybean, rice, groundnut and cowpea are always in short supply as demand over the last 3 years has been more than supply; thus, seed growers could focus on such crops to maximize their profits.
- Increased preference to consume more vegetables (healthy diet) presents huge opportunities for the seed sector to invest more in boosting the breeding programmes for local vegetables; thus foundation and certified seeds production of same to meet demand of all vegetable seed classes and increase productivity leads to increased incomes for vegetable farmers.
- The policy drift in favour of hybrid seed production by government provides window for companies to research, build capacity and invest in hybrid production to help create sustainable markets.

OPPORTUNITIES.../3



- With AftTCA coming into force, it serves as an opportunity for seed companies to explore neighboring markets.
- Collaboration between local seed companies and multinational seed companies to produce certified hybrid seeds locally.



THE SEED SECTOR IN GHANA

PRIORITIES

PRIORITIES



- Hybrid seed production must be seriously considered if sustained yields is to be guaranteed; **not only for Maize** but other crops of primary importance to us as a country
- Improve quality assurance system to support traceability of seed with Seed Trackers and drones for field assessment. This calls for a comprehensive structuring of the Seed Quality Management System in Ghana
- Irrigation schemes taking into consideration climate change and its effects.
- Establishment of cold stores and warehousing systems.

PRIORITIES.../2



- Funding Support to Private sector especially producers to access seed production equipment and infrastructure.
- Improvement of variety release mechanisms.
- Continued sensitization on ACT 803 and L.I. 2363.
- The future of subsidy of seeds needs to be looked at considerably.

PRIORITIES.../3



- Development and training of agro input dealers who will serve as the bridge between seed producers and farmers.
- Intensify seed extension through district departments of agriculture and other related seed sector stakeholders.
- Intensify capacity building at all levels of the seed value chain.
- Develop conflict resolution and management mechanisms within the seed value chain that promote win-win business relationships.



THE SEED SECTOR IN GHANA

CHALLENGES

CHALLENGES



The seed sector although thriving is riddled with a lot of challenges:

- Lack of modern seed conditioning plants
- Public seed conditioning centers are lacking maintenance
- Inadequate public seed storage facilities
- Very few private seed conditioning centers
- Weak linkage between the seed value and the commodity value chains

CHALLENGES.../2



- Inadequate funding for variety development and release as well as maintenance breeding of released varieties
- Inadequate funding support for Seed quality assurance and certification
- No funds yet in the Plants and Fertilizer Fund
- Entrance into the seed sector by many players and companies who knew/know nothing about seed; created a huge distorting of the system, leading to loss of farmer confidence in the local seed.

CHALLENGES.../3



- Slow responsiveness of regulatory and certification authorities on emerging issues and developments
- Huge reliance on imported hybrid maize and vegetable seeds for local production
- Inadequate availability of inbred lines for multiplication and bulking for certified seed producers to upscale production etc.
- Distorted markets due to subsidy on seeds

CONCLUSION



- The Ghanaian seed sector continues to grow and with growth comes numerous opportunities.
- The private sector and the public sector must continue to work together to help sustain the vibrant seed sector which remains the foundation for a strong agricultural sector.
- Challenges will surely rise but should all value chain actors and relevant stakeholders play their part, the continuous growth of the Ghanaian Seed Sector is assured.

*These things will not change
without leadership...
leadership from you.*



“Hunger & Malnutrition: An Impending Global Tsunami”

THANK YOU

Hunger kills more than Ebola, but it's not considered a significant problem since rich people can't die of it.

