Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa
ACTESA

COMSIS

COMESA Seed Information System

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ISSD Africa

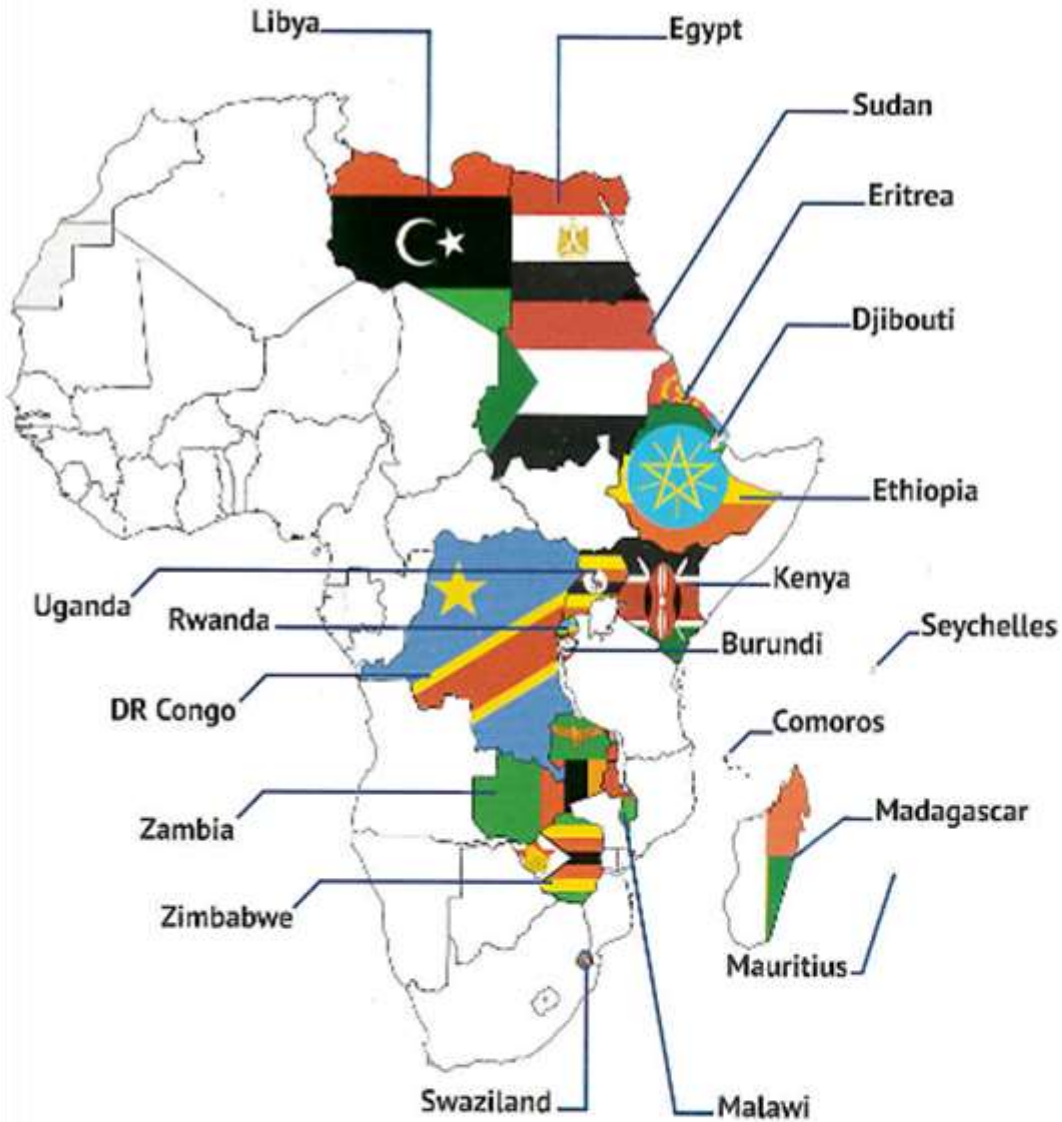
COMESA

Coverage from Libya to Swaziland

Pop: 491.8 million

GDP: $800billion (2015)

Agriculture 32% contribution to GDP



Introduction & Background

- Significant differences between COMESA countries in seed sector development and access to good quality seed for farmers
- COMSHIP vision: Implement COMESA seed trade harmonization regulations leading to increased seed production, reliability, trade and competitiveness of the seed industry in the COMESA region
- COMSHIP needs Seed Information System:
  - Take stock of seed sector in member countries
  - Identify differences
  - Identify best practices
  - Enable mutual learning and capacity building
  - Measure progress towards effective seed law harmonization
  - Mutual accountability

COMSIS Goals and Audience

- COMSIS seeks to establish an information system that
  - evaluates seed systems in COMESA countries
  - informs both national and COMESA level improvements
- Multiple audiences for COMSIS findings:
  - COMESA institutions
  - Public Sector
  - Private Sector
  - Development Agencies
  - Farmers & Farmer Organizations
- Key outputs:
  - Central online database with regularly updated indicators
  - Local capacity to continue COMSIS

Availability:

For a specific crop variety all seed classes are available in sufficient quantities to meet existing demand.

Accessibility:

A sufficient number of delivery channels are in place to reach smallholder farmers.

Success for Seed Systems

Affordability:

At the final point of sale, each seed variety is available at prices that are affordable for most smallholder farmers.

Quality:

The quality of seed on the market must meet farmers expectations, labelled specifications, and/or regulated standards.

Proposed coverage: 10 countries, 11 crops

('000 ha)	Burundi	Egypt	Kenya	Madagascar	Malawi	Rwanda	Swaziland	Uganda	Zambia	Zimbabwe
Area harvested	1,155	4,785	7,340	3,031	5,697	1,872	202	6,555	3,442	5,376
Beans, dry	381	27	1,052	111	320	454	3	674		74
Cassava	305		64	477	210	196		852	200	51
Groundnuts	17	64	22	53	345	24	10	422	237	200
Maize	97	750	2,116	280	1,700	250	87	1,105	1,205	1,500
Millet	10		139		54	5		175	34	435
Potatoes	24	178	116	38	270	166	4	39	1	4
Rice, paddy	24	630	28	1,500	70	16	0	95	33	0
Sorghum	32	146	214	2	93	110	1	373	14	300
Soybeans	4	9	2	0	108	40		47	114	70
Sweet potatoes	66	10	61	155		108	1	454	46	1
Wheat	10	1,425	147	3	1	31	0	14	28	15

Crop importance	Colour scheme	Commodity area harvested as % of total area harvested
Most important		>10%
Important		2 – 10%
Minor crop		< 2%

	A. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	Impact on seed access	Crop Specific
1.	Number of active breeding programs (public & private)	+	Yes
2	Number varieties released in the last 3 years	+	Yes
3	Number of climate–smart varieties released	+	Yes
4	Availability of foundation and breeder seed	+	Yes
5	Average age of varieties	-	Yes
	B. POLICY AND REGULATIONS		
6	Length of variety release process	-	Yes
7	Status of adoption and domestication of COMESA Seed Trade Harmonization Regulations	+	No
8	Quality of regulatory and enforcement system	+	No
9	Adequacy of seed inspectors	+	No
10	Efforts to stamp out fake seed	+	No
	C. SEED PRODUCTION		
11	Number of active crop seed companies/organizations producing seed under the COMESA labels (any of the four seed classes)	+	Yes
12	Market share of top companies (market concentration)	-	Yes
13	Seed variety renewal rate in farmers’ fields	+	Yes
	D. REGIONAL TRADE		
14	Volume of seed imports/exports under the COMESA label	+	Yes
15	Number of days it takes to import/export seed under COMESA guidelines	-	No
16	Costs of importing / exporting seeds within COMESA	-	Yes

	E. END-USER INDICATORS	Impact on seed access	Crop Specific
(19)	Availability of seed at farmer level and range of varieties	+	Yes
(20)	Accessibility of seed through seed delivery mechanisms	+	Yes
(21)	Affordability of seed, including package sizes, average grain to seed price ratios at harvest and sowing, and adequate financial services	+	Yes
(22)	Quality of seed as required by end-user and in line with specifications, including redress mechanisms	+	Yes
	F. END-USER AND SEED-PRODUCER DESCRIPTORS	End User	Seed Producer
(23)	Status of seed producers and end-users (gender, age, poverty status)	X	X
(24)	Seed producing farmers' characteristics (type of seed produced and for whom; income from seed production; quality control mechanism)		X
(25)	End-user farm statistics and cropping system (size, crops, seasons, rotation)	X	
(26)	Categories of seed in use for crops grown	X	X
(27)	Improvements wanted by end-users regarding seed	X	
(28)	Production (yields, seed rates, intercropping of varieties and crops)	X	X
(29)	Seed selection practices (advice, source, prices, distance, varieties)	X	X
(30)	Seed use (subsistence crops and/or crops for the market)	X	
(31)	Related factors (subsidy, seed use extension, use of other inputs)	X	

Implementation Plan

- **Partners:**
  - ACTESA
  - TASAI & ISSD Africa
  - ReSAKSS & AFSTA?
  - National survey teams
  - National agric statistics bureaux
  - COMSHIP Advisory Committee
- **Instruments:**
  - Key informant interviews
  - Field Surveys
  - Focus group discussions
  - Secondary data collection
  - Regional & International Seminars

Maize seed-user survey (Zambia)

- 400 SH farmers in Eastern Province:
  - Variety choice mainly based on yield, cooking quality and access to subsidy
  - 60% hybrids, 30% local varieties, 10% ‘recycled hybrids’
  - Mainly informal advice; leads also to buying formal seed

Tentative Work Plan

Phase	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4			
Phase 1: Launch in all countries. Constitute research teams	■															
Phase 2: 1st round roll-out. Data collection in all countries		■	■	■	■											
Phase 3: Data analysis and reporting of 1st round research				■	■	■	■									
Phase 4: Institutionalizing research approach & 2nd round data collection				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				
Phase 5: Completion steps & 2nd round dissemination & reporting												■	■	■	■	■

Thank you for your attention

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