



Concept Note

Launching Ceremony of the new AfricaSeeds Strategy (2022-2031) for inclusive seed sector development to support agricultural transformation in Africa

8 December 2022
10.30AM-12PM GMT

Context

AfricaSeeds, The African Seed Sector Development Organization has been involved in enhancing **seed sector development**, starting in 1998 initially as the African Seed Network (ASN) formed by 40 sub-Saharan African countries until 2014, when it was reorganized as **AfricaSeeds** to widen its mandate and objectives to serve as an implementing agency for the **African Seed and Biotechnology Program (ASBP)**.

Rationale

In 2015, AfricaSeeds adopted a strategy reflecting its vision and mission that would enable it to effectively play its role in collaboration with its numerous partners to address the imperatives of seed sector development in Africa. Although many aspects of that strategy are still valid, it has become obvious that a **rapid succession of new challenges and emerging issues** necessitate a revision of that strategy.

In response to the calls from national seed programs, the outcome of the concluded **United Nations Food Systems Summit**, the emerging consequences of climate change and the need for closer alignment with the **African Union Agenda 2063** and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations**, AfricaSeeds has seen the need to directly assist Member States and regional authorities in the key areas of training, knowledge dissemination, policy formulation and implementation. AfricaSeeds also recognizes the need to embrace the informal seed sector upon which **overwhelming numbers of African farmers** rely. The readjustments to AfricaSeeds' original strategy will contribute to enhance economic growth in African countries and will be very relevant in responding to calls from the **National and Regional Programs**, in collaboration with sponsoring partners.



Objectives

The primary aim of this launch is to officially outdoor AfricaSeeds' new strategy, **inform all partners and stakeholders** about its context, dimensions and thrust as well as popularize its contents for familiarization by all.

To that end, the specific objectives are as follows.

- To remind audiences of the highly complex nature of the African seed sector which requires diverse approaches to be able to **equitably and effectively** reach all interests.
- To **promote knowledge** of the New Strategy as a contribution to better understanding by partners in collaborative relationships with AfricaSeeds.
- Encourage participants and stakeholders to **renew or establish partnerships** with AfricaSeeds to increase the overall impact on seed sector development in Africa.

Key Messages

Some key messages to be disseminated during the launch include the following:

- **Quality seeds are the prime input** in agricultural transformation, enhancing agricultural productivity and ultimately making it possible to realize the goals of food and nutrition security, livelihood empowerment and poverty alleviation.
- To facilitate ASBP implementation, AfricaSeeds will seek to **galvanize action** by all seed sector stakeholders across Africa to respond to the AU call to collaboratively address the continental seed concern.
- The success and effectiveness of the New Strategy will be enhanced if Africa's seed development practitioners, development allies, farmers and all other related institutions **join forces** with AfricaSeeds and with each other to achieve the seed sector goals that Africa has set.
- In view of the experience from past funding constraints, it is important that a **support environment** be developed with the assistance of AUC and AU Member States to position AfricaSeeds to effectively conduct its part in the assignment of continental **seed security that AU is championing**.

Program Layout

The launch ceremony will be organized as follows:

1. Welcoming remarks
2. Keynote speech
3. Fraternity or goodwill messages from key seed sector partners
4. Panel discussions to provide substantive background on key seed issues
5. Presentation of the New Strategy
6. Consultative and participatory discussions and exchange of information



Participants

To reach and build on the partnerships that AfricaSeeds requires to carry out its mission effectively, the launching event will aim to draw participants from organisations according to the following categories of seed sector stakeholders across Africa.

- a) AU organs
- b) Other continental entities
- c) Academia/Research
- d) International organizations
- e) Development partners
- f) Regional/national programs
- g) The private seed sector
- h) Civil society in agriculture
- i) Knowledge/innovation platforms

Languages

English and **French** will be used in all sessions. Interpretation into and from both languages will be provided.

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