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# AfricaSeeds Strategy 2022-2031

For inclusive seed sector development to support  
agricultural transformation in Africa

## Synopsis

# Origin and growth of AfricaSeeds



Restructured as AfricaSeeds in 2014, the organization originally existed as the African Seed Network, which was formed in 1998 by 40 sub-Saharan African countries and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to lead the implementation of the Africawide Seed and Biotechnology Program (ASBP) of the African Union. The primary goal of the Program is to ensure seed security, which in turn supports food and nutrition security across the continent.

Over this period, AfricaSeeds has grown and become the African Seed Sector Development Organization with a current vision of Africa's seed sector playing more effectively its role as crucial contributor to agricultural transformation and food and nutrition security throughout the continent.

AfricaSeeds aims to achieve this vision by developing efficient, dynamic, sustainable and inclusive seed systems and a profitable African seed industry which secures availability and access of quality seeds to its farmers. These aspirations are enshrined in AfricaSeeds' new 2022-2031 Strategy, which focuses on inclusive seed sector development to support agricultural transformation in Africa.

A photograph of four women in a lush green field, seen from behind. They are wearing vibrant, patterned headwraps and carrying large bundles of fabric or goods on their heads. The woman in the foreground is wearing a bright green top. The background is a bright, slightly blurred landscape under a clear sky.

OUR GOAL IS  
**INCLUSIVE**  
SEED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT  
THAT SUPPORTS  
AGRICULTURAL  
**TRANSFORMATION**  
IN AFRICA

# Achievements and challenges



Significant advancement was made in seed sector development in Africa during the past decade. This success can be attributed to the high-level partnership and collaborations between governments and development partners, which were spearheaded by the regional seed harmonization programs of the Regional Economic Communities. AfricaSeeds has played a pivotal role as implementation coordinator of the ASBP.

Despite these advancements, emerging needs and persisting challenges remain, which warrant renewed actions by all seed actors if the seed sector is to contribute more effectively to Africa's overall agricultural development. The new Strategy of AfricaSeeds is a response to the evolving trends, changing circumstances and new concepts, sciences and technologies. It emphasizes the need for innovative approaches and, most importantly, aligns with and supports Agenda 2063 of the African Union on inclusive and sustainable development across the continent.

# Inclusiveness as our driving force

AfricaSeeds regards inclusive seed sector development as its driving force in line with one of the key aspirations of Agenda 2063.

This agenda aims to eradicate poverty by actively involving all Africans in development processes, ensuring that no one is left behind or excluded based on any factor. The inclusive approach of AfricaSeeds, therefore, embraces all seed industry actors in the public, private and smallholder sectors, and values their unique strengths and contributions to the overall seed market of Africa. Currently the commercial seed sector is receiving most of the attention. Inclusiveness, on the other hand, gives due consideration to the diversity of seed systems in Africa with a special focus on recognizing the attributes of smallholder seed systems and fostering closer links with the formal seed systems (institutionalized public and private seed systems).

This collaboration aims to enhance the production and distribution of quality seeds, ensuring their wider availability. By actively engaging all seed systems, AfricaSeeds strives to enable comprehensive participation of all to overall agricultural transformation in Africa.



# Key elements of the Strategy and implementation



To achieve its vision and goal, AfricaSeeds has an immediate objective to facilitate the continent's seed sector development efforts, including the fostering of a farmer-centered seed system, through the provision of supportive policy guidelines, advocacy, knowledge and capacity development. In doing so, its new Strategy generates outputs, which correspond to four Flagship Programs as follows:

- Promotion of Inclusive Seed Sector for Agricultural Transformation in Africa (ISSATA).
- Development and adoption of national seed regulatory processes.
- Development of an effective Africa-wide seed knowledge system.
- Strengthening seed-related capacities and skills at country level.

At the operational level, AfricaSeeds carries out 26 activities to attain specific outputs in AfricaSeeds' four Flagship Programs. These activities are implemented through collaboration with diverse partners at different levels, both within and outside Africa. Throughout the implementation process, AfricaSeeds ensures alignment with regional and continental agendas, taking into account the characteristics and intricacies of the African seed sector. Furthermore, the organization builds upon significant ongoing initiatives, such as the continued execution of ASBP, the assistance to national programs and the contribution to international and continental seed-related initiatives.

# Budget and funding

AfricaSeeds currently operates with limited resources mainly derived from the exemplary support of the Ivorian Government as its host. In order to attain the minimum operating budget, which would enable AfricaSeeds to implement a comprehensive and balanced seed sector development agenda and achieve the desired impact, a proactive effort to mobilize additional resources is planned. This includes securing ongoing support from the host government, galvanizing interest and seeking contributions from African Union Member States, institutions and relevant development partners. The budget required to implement a medium-term workplan aligned with the Strategy is estimated at USD 25 million for the period 2023-2027.

# Expected impact

The Strategy would serve its purpose when there is clear evidence of AfricaSeeds enabling its partners, particularly the African Union Member States, to join in efforts and prioritize their much needed support for this African-owned institution, which is poised to serve the seed sector development needs of the continent as a whole. These efforts, in combination with those of other partners including donors, should contribute towards addressing challenges that may hinder the impact of the Strategy in its contribution towards the achievement of agricultural transformation, food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, youth employment, as well as enhance business opportunities and create wealth, leading to a greater socio-economic development of the continent.



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## The African Seed Sector Development Organization

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