



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ALLIANCES IN ACTION

WEST AFRICA SEED ALLIANCE

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Seeds are a critical input for increasing agricultural productivity, reducing food insecurity, and easing the affects of poverty. West Africa currently does not have a sustainable seed industry. Over the years donors and international development organizations have invested millions of dollars in trying to develop a sustainable seed industry in sub-Saharan Africa. These efforts have largely been unsuccessful so that today the majority of small-scale farmers still do not have access to a reliable source of good quality seeds and planting material. Neither national governments nor private industry have been able to resolve this problem alone.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Agribusinesses looking to expand their markets in West Africa are looking at the seed industry as one potential area of growth. Alliances such as WASA help build the capacity of existing and emerging seed companies while expanding agrodealer networks. WASA also addresses seed trade harmonization laws across the five countries it works in, facilitating cross-border trade.

APPROACH

USAID has partnered with businesses and governments on a five-year, \$61 million alliance to develop a commercial seed industry in West Africa. WASA seeks to develop an industry that will provide small-scale farmers with affordable, timely, and reliable access to high-quality seeds and planting material. Through this partnership, the partners will establish a network of over 800 agro-dealers in each of the five focus countries to reach more than 500,000 farmers. The alliance will focus on the production of, and facilitate access to high-quality seeds and planting material. By promoting the growth and development of a reliable agricultural inputs system, and by improving the agricultural enabling policy environment for seed trade, the partnership will contribute to the overall growth of the West Africa agricultural sector.

PARTNERS



RESULTS

- More than 1,000 agrodealers in Ghana and Mali identified and trained.
- Linking over 370 local seed producers to local seed companies and agro-dealers.
- Adoption by ECOWAS of a seed regulation to facilitate cross-border trade in seeds in its 15 member states.

FAST FACTS

START: 2007 END: 2011
 USAID CONTRIBUTION:
 \$14,300,000