



FEED THE FUTURE

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



THE FEED THE FUTURE SOUTHERN AFRICA SEED TRADE PROJECT – QUATERLY REPORT: JANUARY – MARCH 2017



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Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project Quarterly Report

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ACRONYMS

ACTESA	Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa
AFSTA	African Seed Trade Association
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer Representative
DARS	Department of Agricultural Research Services
DFI	Development Finance Institution
DUS	Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability
FANR	Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Directorate
FtF	Feed the Future
HSR	Harmonized Seed Regulations
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IR	Intermediate Result
LTTA	Long Term Technical Assistance
MAFS	Malawi Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MAMID	Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organization
NSA	National Seed Agency
OP	Open-Pollinated
PBR	Plant Breeders Rights
PIRS	Performance Indicators Reference Sheets
PMEP	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RF	Results Framework
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SANSOR	South African National Seed Organization
SCCI	Seed Control and Certification Institute (Zambia)
SDIF	Seed Development Investment Facility
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SME	Small Medium Enterprises
SSC	SADC Seed Centre
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
TA	Technical Assistance
TAMIS	Technical and Administrative Management Information System
UPOV	International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IIAM	National Agriculture Research Institute
VCU	Value for Cultivated Use
ZASTA	Zambia Seed Trade Association
ZSTA	Zimbabwe Seed Trade Association

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INTRODUCTION AND HIGHLIGHTS: DELIVERING IMPACT IN 2017

The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project has undertaken an ambitious program of inclusive technical assistance over the last three months (January-March 2017). Building upon its success with program implementation in 2016, the following achievements should be highlighted for the first quarter of 2017:

Completion of the Work Plan: The Seed Trade Project participated in several country visits under the leadership of USAID to present and finalize its 2017 work plan. Focusing on sustainability and long-term impact in-line with the Feed the Future's goals, the team visited and/or held consultations with USAID's bilateral missions in Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and SADC/FANR in Botswana, in conjunction with the SADC Seed Centre work plan developed with the support of the project.

Following consultations and valuable feedback from USAID and other stakeholders, the Seed Trade Project received concurrence to implement its 2017 work plan with a strong focus on activities that advance the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR) in close coordination with the private sector and other stakeholders.

Advancing OECD Accreditation for Zambia: The Seed Trade Project supported its partners from the Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) in Zambia, and its Chief Seeds Officers and to attend the Seed Schemes Technical Working Group meeting held at the headquarters of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France, on 1-2 February 2017. The meeting was attended by 70 participants from 30 countries including countries with the largest seed markets in the world: the USA, Brazil, Argentina, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Sweden and Denmark.

SCCI's participation in the meeting was by invitation from the OECD in preparation for Zambia's accession of its seed schemes for maize and sorghum. Following the meeting, an OECD evaluation team visited Zambia and formally recommended SCCI be invited to finalize its application during the upcoming OECD meeting in Prague in June 2017. Once OECD accredited, Zambia will be part of an exclusive network of seed producing countries meeting the highest standards of international accreditation. This will open new international markets for export resulting in more seed production, private sector growth and job creation in the country in-line with the Feed the Future development goals.

Launching the Strategic Partnership Facility (SPF): A significant milestone was achieved in this reporting period with the official release of the project's Annual Program Statement (APS), in both English and Portuguese, to solicit concept papers for the SPF. The APS was released to an audience of over 70 strategic seed and agricultural companies and organizations forming a network across the SADC region. Institutions participating included private sector companies, foundations, NGOs, academic institutions, trade associations and consulting firms in the targeted FTF countries of Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as South Africa.

Key avenues for APS distribution included the seed trade associations in target countries: STAM (Malawi), ZASTA (Zambia), SANSOR (South Africa), Zimbabwe Seed Trade Association (ZSTA) and APROSE (Mozambique). Following the release of the APS, the project held awareness sessions in South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe to educate potential partners on the goals of the Feed the Future program and the modalities of the Strategic Partnership Facility. By the end of March 2017, the program received 15 concept notes for potential developed into full proposals for USAID's review. Another round of awareness sessions for the Strategic Partnership Facility is scheduled for June 2017 in Mozambique with partner organization APROSE. The APS will run until December 31, 2017 and concept papers will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Invitations for full applications will be issued based on successfully submitted concept papers.

Strengthening the Seed Trade Project's Staffing Plan: The Project welcomed [redacted] as its Senior Public-Private Agriculture Specialist in January 2017. [redacted] initially served as a short-term technical consultant to the project over the previous six months, but is now a full-time member of the team. His portfolio includes managing relations with private sector seed companies across the region, acting as the direct liaison with the SADC Secretariat and SADC Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Directorate (FANR), and leading the development and implementation of the Strategic Partnership Facility and private sector investment programming. [redacted] has been based in Southern Africa for over 30-years.

The project also facilitated the onboarding of the interim coordinator of the SADC Seed Centre and actively recruited country advisors for Malawi and Mozambique. The project is expected to complete the hiring process of the selected candidates for the country advisor positions in early May 2017.

Development of New Collateral Marketing Materials: The project developed several collateral marketing materials including high-quality presentations, a glossy version of the 2016 annual report, calendars, handouts, and country factsheets utilizing the Feed the Future marketing and branding guidelines. These materials played an important role in the project's messaging during stakeholder consultations for the new work plan and the Strategic Partnership Facility in the project's Feed the Future countries. The new country factsheets are included in the appendix of this progress report.

Training Programs Supporting the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations: In line with the SADC Seed Committee's action plan for 2017, the Seed Trade Project undertook an ambitious training program including:

During the week of March 13, 2017, the Seed Trade Project collaborated with the Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) in Zambia to train 20 participants from Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia in the SADC HSR variety testing system. The five-day training enhanced the technical capacities of National Seed Authority (NSA) staff and private sector actors on how to conduct Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) and Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) tests in line with the SADC requirements for regional variety release. SCCI is playing a leading role as an emerging center of excellence on seed testing and certification for the region.

The Seed Trade Project and SANSOR (South Africa National Seed Organization) also trained 19 participants from Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia on seed inspection according to the seed certification and quality control requirements of the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR) in Lilongwe, Malawi, the week of March 20, 2017. The five-day training developed the technical capacities of National Seed Authority staff and private sector seed inspectors from the three Feed the Future countries on how to conduct seed inspection and sampling in line with the SADC requirements for regional seed certification. Of critical importance to the success of this program was SANSOR's contribution of two highly qualified trainers on a pro bono basis.

The Seed Trade Project would like to thank [redacted] and [redacted] of the USAID Regional Economic Growth Office for providing guidance and leadership in the implementation of the program. The first quarter of 2017 was extremely fruitful in engaging the bilateral USAID missions, SADC/FANR, the National Seed Authorities (NSAs), the private sector and various other stakeholders in the project's regional programming.

The Seed Trade Project is well positioned to continue to make a significant difference in the seed value chain through its inclusive programming designed to advance seed trade and increase exports across Southern Africa.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Activity Name: Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project

Start Date and End Date: December 2015 - December 2020

Name of Implementing Partner: DAI

Contract Number: AID-674-C-16-00003

Major Counterparts: SADC/FANR, COMESA/ACTESA, FAO, national seed authorities, plant protection and seed trade associations, private sector

Geographic Coverage: SADC, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe

The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project is a five-year project funded through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Southern Africa and implemented by DAI.

The Seed Trade Project provides technical assistance for harmonizing policies and regulations governing seed trade in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to facilitate seed trade across the region, integrating small and isolated national markets into one larger SADC market for seeds. The project supports the availability of new improved varieties and high-quality seed of targeted crops in four Feed the Future countries: Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The Seed Trade Project is part of a regional policy effort to improve agricultural productivity, food security and nutrition.

The Seed Trade Project leverages Southern Africa's more advanced seed sectors and agricultural economies to benefit lower-income countries in the region. Tapping into leading public and private sectors, universities, and other institutions, the Seed Trade Project shares technologies, innovations and management practices with target countries to improve seed value chains.

The Seed Trade Project's activities support two results under the Trade and Food Security Project Results Framework, IR 1.1 Improved Agricultural Productivity. They include:

- **Result 1.1.1** – Increased availability of improved seeds in the region; and
- **Result 1.1.2** – Increased availability of technologies, management practices, and innovations.

The Seed Trade Project's implementation activities focus on important crosscutting themes: 1) Human and institutional capacity development; 2) Public-private partnerships; 3) Gender and disadvantaged groups; 4) Feed-the-Future principles; and 5) Participation of civil society and partner institutions.

IMPLEMENTATION THEMES

In support of the Results Framework, IR 1.1 Improved Agricultural Productivity, this work plan is structured as follows based on four implementation themes summarizing the key issues observed by strategies, research, stakeholder consultations and work plans as mentioned above:

Result 1.1.1 - Increased Availability of Improved Seeds in the Region

- HSR Capacity Building - *Keywords: SADC Seed Centre Business Model, SADC Seed Committee, NSA Core Function Development, NSA Accreditation*
- Business Enabling Environment (Policy and Domestication) - *Keywords: HSR Domestication, Legislation, Policies*
- HSR Awareness - *Keywords: HSR Awareness and Outreach*

Result 1.1.2 - Increased Availability of Technologies, Management Practices and Innovations

- Variety Registration and Private Sector Engagement - *Keywords: Self-Regulation, Private Sector Inspections, Private Sector Seed Labs, Private Sector Accreditation, Knowledge Transfer, Strategic Partnership Program, Anti-Counterfeiting Seed Programming*



Seed Trade Project - 2017 Work Plan Development Framework

Sources of Information

Work Plans

- SADC Seed Centre Work Plan 2016
- SADC Seed Committee Implementation Matrix 2016
- STP Work Plan 2016
- COMESA-ACTESA COMSHIP
- DFID-FTESA

Stakeholder Consultations

- Country Priority Lists – Field Visits USAID and STP 2016
- Fintrac 2016 Study

Strategies

- STP HSR Implementation Strategy 2016
- USAID Southern Africa Regional Development Cooperation Strategy 2011-2016
- U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy 2017-2021
- SADC Strategies and Technical Agreements

Key Themes

HSR Capacity Building

- NSAs, NPPOs, STAs, SADC Seed Centre

Business Enabling Environment (Policy and Domestication)

- Governments, NSAs, STAs, private sector
- SADC Seed Centre

Outreach / Awareness

- Governments, business associations, civil society, private sector and international donors
- SADC

Variety Registration and Private Sector Engagement

- Seed companies
- NSAs
- SADC Seed Centre
- NGOs

Activities

Malawi

- Seed Bill and HSR domestication support with STAM
- Support Seed Services Unit with improving seed testing, certification and registration services in support of HSR

Mozambique

- Support APROSE with HSR outreach, awareness and advocacy
- ISTA accreditation of Seed Lab

Zambia

- SCCI IT system development in support of HSR
- Support ZASTA with HSR and Seed Bill outreach, awareness and advocacy + pilots with seed companies

Zimbabwe

- Seed Bill and HSR domestication support through seed companies + pilots with companies

SADC

- SADC HSR technical agreement manuals + training
- SADC Seed Centre and Committee support
- SADC seed label and pilots with seed companies
- Reaching more SADC Member States, e.g. Angola and Tanzania.

Measuring Impact

USG Global Food Security Strategy Objectives 2017 - 2012

- Inclusive and sustainable agricultural-led economic growth
- Strengthened resilience among people and systems
- A well-nourished population

- Greater access to drought resistant, heat tolerant and bio-fortified (hybrid) seed varieties
- Faster access to higher quality, affordable seed varieties (see above)
- Realization of higher yields by combating counterfeit seed
- Greater employment opportunities for the rural and urban poor
- Increased smallholder farmer incomes

I. HSR CAPACITY BUILDING

Keywords: *SADC Seed Centre Business Model, SADC Seed Committee, NSA Core Function Development, NSA Accreditation*

For over 12 years, donor-funded programs have trained national seed regulatory agencies (NSAs) to implement their seed regulatory systems in alignment with SADC HSRs. While donor support has had an impact, there is still a high degree of non-recognition of the SADC Seed Centre's mandate, functions and responsibilities. NSAs' capabilities to support seed certification and perform associated duties of field inspection, seed testing, sampling and labeling remains limited in various Feed the Future countries. To address these deficiencies, the project worked closely with SADC on the design and implementation of technical assistance programming.



Consultations with SADC/FANR

The Seed Trade Project held its 2017 kick-off meeting with SADC FANR Acting Director, _____, at the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana in the week of January 23, 2017. The Seed Trade project and SADC discussed several critical upcoming program issues. The discussion centered around progress on:

- The development of the SADC-USAID memorandum of understanding (MOU) recognizing the Seed Trade Project as an invaluable support program and potential dates for a signing ceremony;
- Extension of the SADC Seed Centre Coordinator's performance contract;
- The long-term sustainability options for the SADC Seed Centre; and
- The possibility of supporting SADC staff to attend seed related regional conferences and workshops that support the implementation of Harmonized Seed Regulations.

Sustaining the SADC Seed Centre

The SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR) are designed to streamline seed trade across the region to remove barriers, introduce lower costs, and provide farmers with better access to high-quality seed to improve outputs, income, and food security. Under this system, once a seed variety is registered in two countries and approved at SADC level, it is recorded in the SADC seed catalogue and the seed variety can be traded across the 15 SADC Member States without further testing and registration.

The SADC Seed Centre is responsible for the implementation of the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulatory System. To ensure the SADC Seed Centre has a future beyond donor support, the Seed Trade Project, working closely with its partners within SADC, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate (FANR), are collaborating with national seed authorities (NSAs) and seed companies across the region to explore how best to develop a sustainable business model for the SADC Seed Centre.

The Seed Trade Project met several times with SANSOR (the South African National Seed Organization) during this reporting period as part of its ongoing effort to partner with South Africa's market leader in seed sector management to develop a long-term, self-financing mechanism for the SADC Seed Center. SANSOR's experts are reviewing and providing valuable input regarding several models and concepts proposed by the Seed Trade Project while considering how they can administratively and logistically engage with the SADC Seed Centre.

A financially sustainable SADC Seed Centre plays an important role in achieving the Feed the Future goals of scaling existing, proven technologies to benefit more people and boosting agricultural productivity in the Southern African region. By actively managing an ever-growing catalogue of modern seed varieties through the center, smallholder farmers will have access to a greater number of modern seed varieties that have greater yields than traditional seed varieties.

The Seed Trade Project Management team met with Executive Director of SANSOR (the South African National Seed Organization, www.sansor.org) in the week of February 27, 2017. In addition to developing a sustainable business model for the SADC Seed Centre, SANSOR and the project collaborated on a number of important initiatives including a SADC Harmonized Seed Regulation seed certification and inspection course for representatives of National Seed Authorities (NSA) and National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) from Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia that was organized in March in Lilongwe, Malawi. The launch of the USAID-sponsored SANSOR seed database is scheduled for April during SANSOR's quarterly board meeting in Pretoria. The Seed Trade Project will also present at the SANSOR Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held in May 2017 in George, South Africa.

Elevating Participation on the SADC Seed Committee

Ensuring the growth of regional seed trade and access to high-quality seed under the auspices of the SADC Seed Committee and the SADC Seed Centre is a Seed Trade Project priority. Building upon the close collaboration between the Seed Trade Project and SADC, several working sessions were held with SADC/FANR's Acting Director and Senior Crop Specialist in Gaborone, Botswana to plan a number of joint program initiatives. As part of this process, discussions also centered on the composition of the SADC Seed Committee.

The committee became operational during a SADC Seed and Agriculture Forum sponsored by the Seed Trade Project in May 2016.

Having met again in November 2016, there is collective support to elevate the Committee's profile and the level of participation in regional policy development.

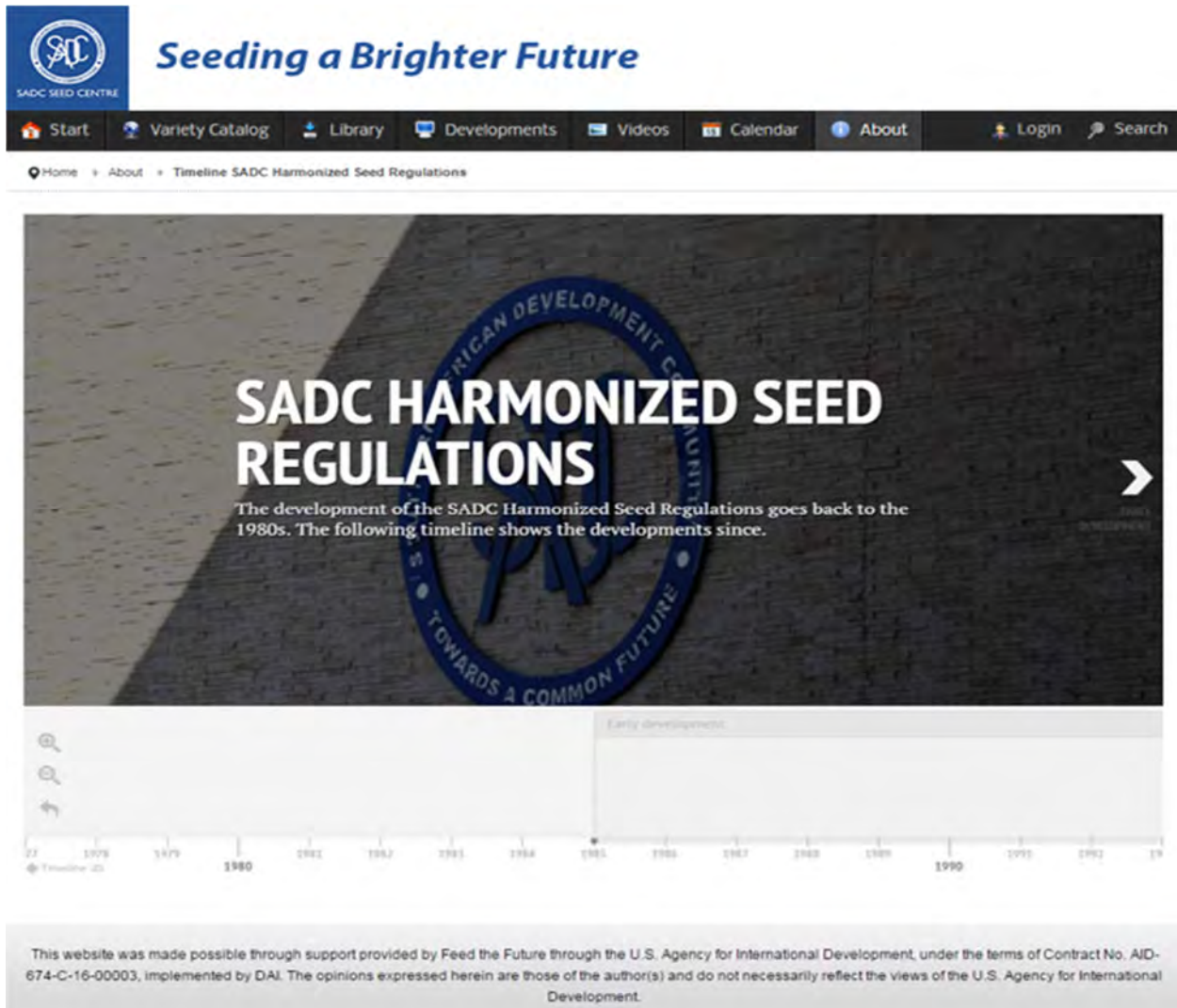
SADC is in full agreement with this approach and proposed that the next SADC Seed Committee meeting be organized in conjunction with a Ministers of Agriculture meeting. By elevating the status of the Seed Committee within SADC to a preparatory meeting for the Ministers, it is expected that the level of participation will be enhanced automatically. SADC/FANR also believes this strategy will have a major impact on SADC Member States' commitment to domesticate the Harmonized Seed Regulations (where necessary). As a preparatory committee gathering, decisions made by the Ministers will be presented immediately following the committee's meeting.

The SADC Seed Committee serves as the policy advisory body for the SADC Seed Centre and plays an important role in advancing the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations. Operationalizing the regulations is fundamental to increased investment, expanded markets, and improved seed trade in the agriculture sector and reaching the Feed the Future goals of sustainably improving food security and poverty reduction.



Building a New Web Presence for the SADC Seed Centre

Following a decision made at the second meeting of the SADC Seed Committee in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2016, the Seed Trade Project developed a new web portal for the SADC Seed Centre. The current



The new website of the SADC Seed Centre provides an overview of the development of the Harmonized Seed Regulations in an interactive timeline and will be the go-to portal for the private sector and public to be updated on HSR. A preview of the new website is available at www.sadcseedcenter.com

website of the Centre is rudimentary and does not portray an image of an effective and efficient organization. Being an important marketing tool as well as a functional database, the new website will be used by the SADC Seed Centre to administer the variety catalogue and databases including plant descriptors and synonyms under the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations.

The redesign of the SADC variety website is an important step towards building a fully integrated cloud-based system to allow national seed authorities, seed companies, the SADC Seed Committee, and the SADC Seed Centre to streamline the registration process of new varieties. It will also be the go-to platform for the public to be educated on the Harmonized Seed Regulations, download a variety of publications and studies, success

stories, technical regulations and MOUs. The site also contains an interactive timeline related to the development of the Harmonized Seed Regulations, recognizing the Feed the Future program and USAID as a critical partner.

The URL of the current SADC seed center website is www.sadcseedcenter.org. It is expected the new website will be officially approved by the SADC Seed Committee during its meeting in 2017. A launch event will be scheduled to celebrate the achievement of this milestone.

SCCI Pioneering HSR System Implementation

While the SADC Seed Committee and the SADC Seed Centre are key institutions in the implementation of the Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR) in the SADC region, the National Seed Authorities (NSAs) in the 15 Member States are responsible for conducting the groundwork to make the system operational at national level.

According to the Director of the Seed Control and Certification Institute, _____, SCCI is keen and ready to support the implementation of the whole HSR system by ensuring the rules, directions, and standards of the system are observed within Zambia. SCCI has already shown its commitment by actively participating in the implementation of the Seed Variety Release System.



New SCCI road sign installed with support from the Seed Trade Project.

SCCI was actively involved in the regional release of all 25 varieties on the SADC Seed Centre Catalog. SCCI is now ready to support the implementation of the Seed Certification and Quality Assurance System through field registrations, issuance of seed lot certificates, and conducting post-control tests. Outside of South Africa, SCCI, with its Online Seed Lab supported by the USAID and Seed Trade Project, is fast becoming a market leader in seed certification and registration in the region and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Zambia's OECD Seed Certification

The international accreditation of laboratories and seed certification systems is an important step to establishing and maintaining mutual recognition of technical competence and the quality of national seed regulatory systems. Membership in these organizations also reduces the likelihood of challenges to the equivalence of national seed authority, and NPPO agency procedures and certifications, provides a strong basis for resolving seed trade disputes, and reduces the likelihood of arbitrary actions by border authorities.

The Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) Schemes for the Varietal Certification of Seed Moving in International Trade promote the use of agriculture seed of consistently high quality. OECD certified seeds are produced and officially controlled to ensure the varietal identity and purity of the seed through a set of requirements and controls throughout the cropping, seed processing and labelling operations of seed companies. These include generation control (Pre-basic, Basic and Certified seed), isolation



distances, purity standards, field inspections, lot sampling, post-control plots, and compulsory official laboratory analysis for each certified seed lot.

The schemes were established in 1958 driven by a combination of factors including a fast-growing seed trade, regulatory harmonization in Europe, the development of off-season production, and the support of private industry. The OECD Seed Schemes consist of an all-encompassing seed varietal certification scheme ensuring the genetic integrity and varietal purity of seed. Membership in the OECD seed schemes guarantees the most rigorous seed certification and registration standards in the world and is voluntary but hugely beneficial (and difficult to achieve). A member does not have to participate in all parts of the scheme and members only participate in the parts of the scheme applicable to them (e.g. GMO v. non-GMO markets).

With the Seed Trade Project's support, the OECD invited SCCI to formally present their application for membership during the Organization's Technical Working Group meeting in France in February 2017. This follows SCCI's successful submission of the application and basic information for Maize and Sorghum Seed Schemes in June 2016.

The meeting was attended by 70 participants from 30 countries including countries with the largest seed markets in the world: the USA, Brazil, Argentina, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Sweden and Denmark. Also represented were all the major international organizations involved in seed (ISF, UPOV, ASTA, AOSCA as well as the EU office responsible for seed certification). SCCI's participation in the meeting was by direct invitation from the OECD in preparation for Zambia's accession to its seed schemes.

The meeting provided an update on the ongoing accession processes and extension of participation for Zambia. SCCI's made a presentation on the seed industry in Zambia and the country's readiness to join the Maize and Sorghum schemes.

OECD Evaluation Mission in Zambia

Following the Technical Working Group meeting in France in February 2017, an OECD assessment team visited Zambia for on-site evaluations in February 2017. Particular attention was paid to the country's national rules regarding previous cropping, isolation, verification of varietal identity and varietal purity standards. SCCI also provided its national list of varieties including only those varieties that are – according to international guidelines – distinct, uniform and stable. In the case of agricultural species, varieties must have an acceptable value for cultivation and use. These criteria ensure a harmonization of seed certification standards.

In preparing for the evaluation, SCCI worked with the Seed Trade Project to customize the electronic inspections and laboratory test data collection forms so that they conform to the OECD formats. OECD membership will allow Zambia's seed to be more recognized both within and outside the southern African region.

The delegation was hosted by the Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) and spent a full week in-country, held extensive meetings with the SCCI at the Institute's Head Office where they looked at the various systems in place for seed sampling and testing, labeling and issuance of licenses, crop registration and field inspections, training and licensing of seed analysts and seed inspectors.



The evaluation team also looked at the Online Seed Lab information system, developed and implemented with USG support through the Seed Trade Project. The system helped SCCI to answer key questions on how data regarding parent material is tracked, how labels issued are being tracked and how the field inspection results are used when issuing seed licenses. These elements were critical for the OECD mission's field review.

After the meetings, the OECD delegation visited Monsanto, Syngenta and Seed Co. where they held meetings and looked at seed processing, packaging and labeling facilities. The delegation also travelled to Central Province where they analyzed the VCU plots at Golden Valley Agriculture Research Trust (GART) and also checked how field inspections were conducted at selected seed production farms.

During a debriefing, the delegation presented their findings to SCCI's management. The evaluation team's findings will be discussed during the OECD meeting in June 2017 in Prague after which Zambia's application for membership will be subjected to a vote.

OECD and Protecting Seed from Counterfeiting

As printer technology improves, it is easier for counterfeiters to produce fake seed labels they affix to seed containers in order to sell inferior seed to unsuspecting farmers. Counterfeit seed is a growing concern for large seed companies as well as seed regulatory authorities.

At the technical meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes attended by the Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) from Zambia and the Seed Trade Project, international participants discussed developments in seed certification including seed label security and the growing occurrences of seed fraud. During the session, a proposal was introduced for a unique identifier (unique serial number) on OECD labels in addition to the current security features to prevent fraudulent seeds from being sold and distributed.



The United Kingdom delivered a presentation on the system utilized in Scotland at the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency (SASA) to provide seed labels as part of the potato seed certification scheme.

The system uses a crop identification number as well as a label number. The United States also shared the Oregon State University's (OSU's) label verification system possessing deterrents including a UV sensitive font that reflects the OSU logo when black light is used; a serial number on the label; and, a unique alphanumeric digital signature (that is computer generated). The Seed Trade Project in collaboration with the SADC Seed Center and SADC Seed Committee is exploring the issue of label integrity in Southern Africa and how to better protect authentic seed from counterfeiting as part of its ongoing support to the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations.

Training Programs for National Seed Authorities (NSAs)

The second SADC Seed Committee meeting in November 2016 resolved to prioritize training on the requirements of the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulatory System to strengthen the capacity of the National Seed Authorities (NSAs) and National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in the region to pilot seed certification. The Committee stipulated that training should be conducted in the following areas:

- DUS and VCU testing by March 2017;
- Field Seed Inspection by March 2017;
- Seed Testing by May 2017; and
- Phytosanitary training by July 2017.

The Seed Trade Project is on schedule with this ambitious program as it organized the first two trainings during this reporting period.

DUS and VCU Train the Trainers Workshop in Lusaka, Zambia

In the week of March 13, 2017, the Seed Trade Project collaborated with the Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) in Zambia to train 20 participants from Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia in the SADC HSR variety testing system.



The five-day training enhanced the technical capacities of National Seed Authority (NSA) staff and private sector actors on how to conduct Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) and Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) tests in line with the SADC requirements for regional variety release.

The participants were also given an overview on the objectives of DUS and VCU testing under SADC HSR as well as the methodology for conducting DUS and VCU tests. This included how to layout test plots; record, analyze and report data; identify traits; develop variety descriptions; and acquire and store standard samples. The crops covered were maize, groundnuts, beans, sorghum, cotton and wheat. In the field, the participants learned how to practically measure characters for these crops and record data.

National Seed Authorities (NSAs) are expected to play a significant role in the implementation of the SADC Variety Release System designed to introduce modern seed varieties to smallholder farmers in Southern Africa in support of the FTF goals. However, some NSAs have been unable to effectively participate in the system's implementation due to lack of technical capacity to carry out the roles stipulated in the Technical Agreements on the Harmonized Seed Regulations in the SADC region.

With USAID's support through the Seed Trade Project, the training enables National Seed Authorities to more effectively support the release of modern seed varieties on the regional SADC seed catalog to be traded with greater ease and efficiency among the 15 SADC Member States.

SADC Seed Certification Train-the-Trainers Workshop in Lilongwe, Malawi

The Seed Trade Project and SANSOR (South Africa National Seed Organization) trained 19 participants from Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia on seed inspection according to the seed certification and quality control requirements of the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations in March 2017. The training event was opened by the Director of the Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS),



The five-day training developed the technical capacities of National Seed Authority staff and private sector seed inspectors from three Feed the Future countries on how to conduct seed inspection and sampling in line with the SADC requirements for regional seed certification. The participants were provided an overview of the role of international organizations in the trade of seed. Participants spent a day in the field visiting seed crop fields for maize, soybean and groundnuts and also visited the Chitedze Research Station to inspect sorghum, pigeon pea, cowpea, and sunflower crops.

Zambia Prepares for Possible MLND Outbreak

On February 17, 2017, the Seed Trade Project attended the stakeholders' awareness and consultative workshop convened by Zambia's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), the Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Service (PQPS), to review the Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND) Emergency Response Plan. Over 30 participants from seed companies, government departments, development partners, farmer organizations and trade associations attended the workshop.



The disease causes severe yield losses in maize and is fast growing in the region. It has already been reported in Tanzania, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. The Emergency Plan outlines pre- and post-confirmation actions and appropriate interventions to mitigate the negative impact of the disease on the maize industry in Zambia. The Emergency Plan seeks to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of MLND pathogens; to provide effective communication among stakeholders in the maize value chain when response is needed; and, to protect and maintain business continuity on unaffected farms during an outbreak.

Preventing the introduction and spread MLND is important as Zambia is one of the leading producers of maize seed in the SADC region. An outbreak of MLND will not only affect Zambia but will also impact the seed and food security of the entire region.

The Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND) is a result of a combination of two viruses, the Maize Chlorotic Mottle Virus (MCMoV) and any of the cereal viruses in the Potyviridae group, like the Sugarcane Mosaic Virus (SCMV), Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus (WSMV) or Maize Dwarf Mosaic Virus (MDMV). The double infection of the two viruses gives rise to what is known as MLND, also referred to as Corn Lethal Necrosis (CLN).

<http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/179179/>

The Fall Armyworm's Preliminary Impact Study on Seed Production in Zambia

Zambia is currently the largest exporter of maize seed across Africa, exporting over 20,000 MT (metric tons) to the SADC and COMESA regions in 2016. However, during the 2016/17 planting season, Zambia, as well as Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe have been hurt by a Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) infestation in their maize crops. Preliminary findings from a nation-wide study being conducted by Zambia's Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) under the auspices of the Seed Trade Project revealed that the impact of the worms on this year's maize seed crop production has been more limited than anticipated.



The first findings suggest that the Fall Armyworm damage is being contained by commercial and small-scale seed producers through the timely spraying of pesticides. The interventions put in place by the Zambian government and private sector farmers appear to have averted a potential disaster on 10,000 hectares of land dedicated to maize seed production. Preliminary findings indicate that the damage caused will have limited impact on the production of maize in the country for the 2017/18 planting season. Zambia should remain a net exporter of maize seed despite the Fall Armyworm's attack if the positive findings are confirmed over the next few weeks.

Other key findings revealed that crops planted early in the season were less affected than late-planted crops. The Zambia's national seed authority also found no evidence that certain maize seed varieties were more susceptible to attack than others. A notable impact of the pest is that it significantly increased the cost of production for seed producers, narrowing their profit margins. However, most farmers indicated they now have an idea of how to respond to the attack of the Fall Armyworm and will take the necessary precautions in the future.

It is because of USAID's timely support of the Fall Armyworm study, implemented under a cost-sharing arrangement with Zambia's Seed Control and Certification Institute, that the impact of the pest on the production of seed could be quickly determined and whether the interventions have been adequate in Zambia. As pests, such as the Fall Armyworm, can have a devastating impact on food production, rapid interventions such as the assessment in Zambia provide invaluable information to respond quickly to factors that may have a negative impact on the Feed the Future objective of providing food security to millions of people in the region.

To provide the donor community the opportunity to research the impact of the Fall Armyworm on seed production throughout the region further, a research program was developed by CIMMYT, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, upon the request of the Seed Trade Project, which has been shared with the mission for further review.

2. BUSINESS ENABLING ENVIRONMENT (POLICY AND DOMESTICATION)

Keywords: *HSR Domestication, Legislation, Policies*

The Seed Trade Project provides technical assistance to align SADC Member State's seed policies and regulations to the Harmonized Seed Regulations. Although the HSR system has been developed, several SADC Member States need to domesticate the regulations in line with national legislation and policies.

ZASTA Ready to Kick-start HSR Awareness

Promoting better understanding and use of the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations among private sector seed companies is an important avenue to increase regional seed trade. Seed trade associations across the region have a critical role to play in the awareness process of the benefits of the system.

Recently, the Executive Secretary of the Zambia Seed Trade Association (ZASTA), _____, agreed to a one-year institutional support program with the Seed Trade Project to foster broader knowledge and understanding among its Zambian seed company members and other stakeholders.

Under this partnership, once finalized and approved by USAID in close consultation with the bi-lateral mission, ZASTA will lead several activities targeting seed companies, farmers' organizations, CBOs, NGOs, cross-border traders, customs officials, policy makers and other government officials in providing targeted information to spur realization of opportunities associated with the implementation of the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations.

With increased awareness, it is anticipated the program will encourage seed companies to register more seed varieties on the SADC Seed Catalogue, increase the participation of women in seed development, promote the use of high-quality and certified legume seed, and expand seed exports. The Seed Trade Project's relationship with ZASTA should also create a conducive policy environment for the domestication and alignment of Zambia's seed laws to the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations.

During the next reporting period, the Seed Trade Project will engage other leading seed trade associations including the Seed Trade Association of Malawi (STAM), the public-private dialogue platform APROSE in Mozambique, and the Zimbabwe Seed Trade Association (ZSTA) in similar programs to promote increased awareness and improve regional seed trade.

Partnering with APPSA to Create HSR Awareness

In January 2017, the Seed Trade Project joined the World Bank-funded Agricultural Productivity Program (APPSA) Project in sensitizing breeders and other stakeholders in Zambia on SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations. The workshop was chaired by ZASTA's Executive Secretary, _____, and was attended by 33 participants from the public and private sectors as well as civil society and non-governmental organizations.



In her official opening remarks, SCCI's Director, _____, expressed Zambia's commitment to domesticate and implement the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations. She urged all the participants to fully participate in the implementation process in order for them to enjoy the benefits of the regulations. SCCI's Chief Seeds Officer, _____, highlighted the objectives and benefits of HSR before the SADC Seed Center Coordinator, _____ presented the progress made to date on HSR implementation.



He also highlighted the roles of seed companies, the SADC Seed Center and Committee, National Seed Authorities (NSAs) and National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in the HSR implementation process.

Meeting the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP)

The Seed Trade Project, joined by the Southern Africa Trade and Investment Hub (SATIH) met a delegation from the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP) in Pretoria in January 2017. AFAP's _____ (President and CEO), _____ (Chief Agribusiness Officer) and _____ (Chief Operations and Compliance Officer) attended the meeting. AFAP works with private businesses to establish more competitive and sustainable fertilizer markets in Africa.



The AFAP delegation explained they have full-time representatives stationed in Malawi. They also have activities in Mozambique and work closely with ACTESA in Zambia. During the meeting, views on possible areas of cooperation to promote synergy and avoid overlap in the SADC region were exchanged.

ARGUS FMB Fertilizer Conference 2017

The Seed Trade Project, along with colleagues from the USAID Southern Africa Trade and Investment Hub, attended the 8th Annual Argus FMB Africa Fertilizer Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, from 15-17 February 2017. This noteworthy event brought together fertilizer, seed, and agribusinesses from across the continent to explore the African agriculture supply chain. Over 520 participants from 63 countries of which 23 were African attended the Cape Town conference – including a wide cross-section of stakeholders from government, finance, NGOs, agri-dealers, regional distributors, and global producers.



The Argus conference was specifically designed to facilitate connections among key stakeholders to improve crop yields and create business growth across the supply chain. The conference is recognized as a key meeting place for those involved in fertilizer in Africa, bringing together hundreds of

delegates to do business and hear valuable insight on how policy developments, private sector investment, and smallholder farmer initiatives are driving industry change. This event provided the Seed Trade Project with an opportunity to join international fertilizer companies, regional manufacturers and buyers, policy-makers and trade blocs to address constraints, gather the latest market intelligence, build partnerships, and identify potential opportunities in a dynamic, fast growing regional market.

Not surprisingly, increasing access to fertilizer use and lowering costs face similar barriers to improving access to quality and affordable seed. The overarching question throughout the three-day conference was how to overcome the yield gap in Sub-Saharan Africa through increasing fertilizer access. To date, less than 5% of farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa have access and utilize fertilizer to improve crop yield. Moreover, as a result of logistical challenges, poor roads, and a lack of distribution channels, fertilizer is two to six times more expensive across the continent than in Europe, the US, and Australia. Of particular importance throughout discussions were the potential roles hub agro-dealers in fertilizer procurement and distribution could play to increase yield.

DCAFS Meeting in Malawi

The Seed Trade Project participated in the Donors Committee on Agriculture and Food Security (DCAFS) meeting convened at USAID in Lilongwe, Malawi on 25 January 2017. DCAFS is Malawi's agriculture donor working group that comprises all major bi-lateral and multi-lateral institutions including the African Development Bank, Brazil Embassy, DFID, European Union, Flanders Government, GIZ, Irish Aid, JICA, Embassy of Japan, Norwegian Embassy, USAID, World Bank and FAO.

USAID is the current chair of the committee and was represented at the meeting by _____, Sustainable Economic Growth Office Director, and _____, Agriculture Productivity Specialist.



The focus of the meeting was on recent seed development in Malawi. The Seed Trade Project made a presentation entitled Seed Policy Harmonization in the SADC Region addressing a number of questions raised by the bilateral USAID mission: 1) What does SADC seed policy harmonization mean in practice; 2) How would Malawi benefit; and, 3) Reflections on Malawi's Draft Seed Policy and Seed Bill. The DCAFS meeting provided Seed Trade Project with an opportunity to highlight the potential benefits of the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations, explain the importance and relationship to smallholder farmers, and to address misnomers regarding how HSR is implemented.

_____, the Head of Department of Agricultural Economics at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, also made a presentation on the Design of the National Seed Commission of Malawi. Similarly, _____, Program Manager at the EU Delegation to the Republic of Malawi, presented findings of the Seed Monitoring and Testing Study evaluating the quality of the seed distributed under FISP in Malawi. The presentations were followed by a robust question and answer session. The questions focused on: a) the importance of the informal seed sector and how it should be reflected in the draft seed policy; b) the magnitude and sustainability of the budget that was proposed for setting the National Seed Commission (US\$6,774,750 over the first five years); and c) the extent to which farmers were consulted and engaged in the process of seed policy harmonization.

AFSTA Annual Congress 2017



The African Seed Traders Association (AFSTA) Annual Congress was held from 27 February to 2 March 2017 in Dakar, Senegal, with the participation of the Seed Trade Project's Public-Private Partnership Specialist. Highlights from the opening ceremony included a call for Sub-Saharan Africa to consider how to best engage with genetic modification (GM) and to determine how to speed-up adoption and usage of GM technology.

In an ever more competitive world market, the argument is that African farmers will find it increasingly difficult to compete unless they determine the need and application of GM technologies across the continent. GM remains a controversial subject and is opposed categorically by many

African countries and agriculture development policies. The debate regarding GM crops is an ongoing issue that is gaining momentum across the seed sector.

One of the leading sessions during the AFSTA annual meeting was entitled, "Achievements of the Harmonized Seed Regulations at the Regional Economic Community (REC) Level." Presentations were delivered by the SADC Seed Centre's Interim Coordinator, COMESA's Outreach Coordinator, ECOWAS's as well as the East African Community.

A call was made for the private sector to enter more varieties on regional variety catalogues and for the continued domestication of national seed laws to comply with the SADC and COMESA Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR).

The support for HRS adoption and operationalization by Feed the Future and USAID in Southern, West and East Africa through the RECs was noted and recognized. Seed market developments and business opportunities in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Tanzania were other leading topics for discussion.

CCARDESA APPSA Workshop

The Seed Trade Project's COP, , gave a presentation at the *Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa's* (CCARDESA) Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa's (APPSA) Seed Workshop held on 23-24 March 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The workshop enhanced the capacity of APPSA countries to effectively integrate seed policy harmonization and raised awareness surrounding the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR).

A total of 28 delegates from Southern Africa, including Mozambique, Malawi, South Africa and Zambia attended the workshop including Seed Trade Project's implementing partners: APROSE, Zambian Seed Trade Association (ZASTA), Seed Trade Association of Malawi (STAM), ACTESA-COMESA, and the SADC Seed Centre.

The Seed Trade Project delivered a presentation on its Strategic Partnership Facility (SPF) while the project's Thami Sonile was available to participants to provide more detailed information on the program. In addition, the project's senior manager, , participated in lively discussions on the importance of modern seed varieties.



Key issues that emerged from the workshop included weaknesses in the seed value chain, the proliferation of fake seeds exacerbated by weak penalties, challenges in enlisting seed varieties on the SADC catalogue, weaknesses in the institutional capacity of seed companies regarding harmonized seed regulations, and donor-based interventions that are not sustainable once project funding ends. The Seed Trade Project will continue to work closely with CCARDESA regarding operationalizing the harmonized seed regulations and addressing these weaknesses.

3. VARIETY REGISTRATION AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Keywords: *Self-Regulation, Private Sector Inspections, Private Sector Seed Labs, Private Sector Accreditation, Knowledge Transfer, Strategic Partnership Program, Anti-Counterfeiting Seed Programming, and Increased Private Sector Investment in Seed Development*

While South Africa has a modern variety testing and release, seed certification and quality assurance systems that involve public regulatory agencies, private seed companies and seed trade associations, many other countries in Southern Africa have limited capabilities to regulate the seed industry and engage the private sector.

The Seed Trade Project initiates activities to ensure the private sector is encouraged to provide services that will reduce the personnel and operating costs of the public sector. In addition to South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia already permit and regulate self-certification by qualified seed companies of their seed lots.

Using lessons learned in South Africa and other countries, the Seed Trade Project promotes private sector integration in the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations by supporting public sector accreditation of private organizations in target countries to conduct variety testing, seed field inspections and seed testing in laboratories.

APS Released for the Strategic Partnership Facility (SPF)

A significant milestone was achieved in the week of January 16, 2017 by the Seed Trade Project with the official release of its Annual Program Statement (APS), in both English and Portuguese, to solicit concept papers. Prior to release, market research was conducted to identify key actors in the seed and related industries in the SADC region.



The APS was released to an audience of over 70 strategic network organizations and institutions comprised of private sector companies, foundations, NGOs, higher education institutions, trade associations and consulting firms in the targeted FTF countries of Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as South Africa.

English and Portuguese versions of the APS.

Key avenues for distribution included the seed trade association in target countries including: STAM (Malawi), ZASTA (Zambia), SANSOR (South Africa), Zimbabwe Seed Trade Association (ZSTA) and APROSE (Mozambique)

The APS will run until December 31, 2017 and concept papers will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Invitations for full applications will be issued based on successful concept papers. The use of the Strategic Partnership Facility will stimulate private-sector-led development and increased private sector investment in the targeted FTF countries. The Seed Trade Project anticipates a minimum financial investment value of \$800,000 for up to 10 awards during this implementing period (January – December 2017).

SANSOR in South Africa Hosts a Strategic Partnership Facility Presentation

On 2 February 2017, following the successful distribution of a request for concept notes in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, the Seed Trade Project was invited by the South African National Seed Organization (SANSOR) to deliver a presentation to key members of its Agronomy Division Committee.



The presentation provided an overview on the Strategic Partnership Facility (SPF) and clarity on the process of how and when to submit a concept note. The Seed Industry Public-Private Partnership Specialist and the Grants and Procurement Specialist delivered the presentation and answered questions posed by interested SANSOR members.

Participants expressed great interest in the SPF. There was a high level of audience engagement and many questions regarding how best to submit concept notes and suggestions on ways to develop innovative knowledge transfer opportunities within the region. Working closely with the seed trade association in Malawi (STAM), in

Zambia (ZASTA), and the Zimbabwe Seed Traders Association (ZSTA) as well as multi-stakeholder forums such as APROSE in Mozambique, the Seed Trade Project delivered similar presentations and question and answer sessions across the region during this reporting period.

STAM Promotes Feed the Future Strategic Partnerships in Malawi

On February 7, 2017, the Seed Trade Project, in close cooperation with the Seed Trade Association of Malawi (STAM), held a presentation on the launch of its Strategic Partnership Facility (SPF) for Southern Africa at the Crossroads Hotel, in Lilongwe, Malawi. The purpose of the interactive meeting was to provide further information to guide potential SPF applicants who would like to submit concept papers to receive funding to implement activities supporting the introduction of new technologies, skills, market linkages, and innovation in the seed sector in Malawi.

Attendance at the presentation was open to members of STAM, other seed companies (non-STAM members), agriculture-related companies, seed laboratories, NGOs, CSOs and other interested parties seeking to further the development of the seed sector in Malawi. Over 35 people attended the briefing session representing 16 seed companies, both large and small, as well as NGOs and the Government of Malawi.



Procedures on how to access the SPF facility were presented to the audience, with practical examples provided on what types of projects and partnerships the Malawian seed sector might qualify for funding through the SPF. In the past, private-sector investment facilities from USAID helped establish new hybrid maize seed varieties in Malawi with Peacock Seeds and a new RUCF processing line at Valid Nutrition. A lively question and answer session ensued following the formal presentation.

ZASTA Promotes Feed the Future Strategic Partnerships in Zambia

On February 14, 2017, the Seed Trade Project, in close cooperation with the Zambia Seed Trade Association (ZASTA) held a presentation on the launch of its Strategic Partnership Facility (SPF) for Southern Africa at the Head Office of the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) in Lusaka.

The purpose of the interactive meeting was to provide further information to guide potential SPF applicants who would like to submit concept papers to receive funding to implement activities supporting the introduction of new technologies, skills, market linkages, and innovation in the seed sector in Zambia.

Attendance at the presentation was open to members of ZASTA, other seed companies (non-ZASTA members), agriculture-related companies, seed laboratories, NGOs, CSOs and other interested parties seeking to further the development of the seed sector in Zambia. Over 20 people attended the briefing session representing nine seed companies, both large and small, as well as NGOs and government institutions.

Procedures on how to access the SPF facility were presented to the audience, with practical examples provided on what types of projects and partnerships the Zambian seed sector might qualify for funding through the SPF. In the past, private-sector investment facilities from USAID helped establish new production lines for peanut butter at Jungle Beat in Lusaka, new bottling and packaging lines for organic peri-peri sauce production with Lumuno LLC outside Lusaka, and processing of groundnuts with COMACO in Chipata.



USAID Legacy Grant Spurs Intertek to Grow Regional Business

On March 3, 2017, the Seed Trade Project Seed Industry Public Private Partnership Specialist met Regional Director [redacted] from Intertek to discuss potential Strategic Partnership Facility (SPF) opportunities. Intertek is an industry leader with more than 40,000 employees in 1,000 locations in over 100 countries delivering state-of-the-art facilities and industry-leading technical expertise to provide innovative and bespoke assurance, testing, inspection and certification services for raw materials sourcing (including seed and crops), components suppliers, manufacturing, transportation, distribution and retail, and consumer management.

Under the previous USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub, Intertek received a Strategic Partnership Facility grant to upgrade its laboratory testing equipment for aflatoxin in maize and groundnuts in Beira, Mozambique.

[redacted] reported the Intertek agricultural lab in Beira has now tested over 2,000 maize samples for aflatoxin, enabling Mozambique to export over 100,000 tons of maize under the World Food Program (WFP) to Zimbabwe and Malawi.

Pannar and Pioneer Keen to Explore Markets in Angola

The Seed Trade Project recently met with the Managing Director of Pannar-Pioneer in Zambia, [redacted], and Sales Services Supervisor, [redacted], to discuss the company's readiness to explore seed marketing opportunities in Angola. Angola recently aligned its Seed Law to the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations providing new opportunities for seed export.

During the meeting, the Managing Director noted that local Zambian seed agro dealers are exporting limited amounts of seed to Angola. He is already being encouraged by the Pannar regional office in South Africa to explore and develop the Angolan market. is keen to work closely with the Seed Trade Project to create increased demand for Pannar-Pioneer seed in Angola.

The Seed Trade Project will engage with both Pannar Zambia and South Africa as a next step to ensure that Pannar’s seed varieties already listed on the SADC variety catalogue begin to be traded with Angola.

The Seed Trade Project is also scoping a number of interventions including supporting seed companies in Zambia to undertake market/investment scoping missions to Luanda, Angola and supporting the development of strategic partnerships with emerging seed companies in Angola.



Peacock Seeds Thriving in Malawi

The Seed Trade Project team visited the maize fields of Peacock Seeds in Lilongwe, Malawi, to observe the impact of the introduction of Capstone hybrid maize seeds. Three-years ago, through a Strategic Partnership Grant provided by the USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub, Peacock Seeds teamed with Capstone Seed S.A. (www.capstone-seeds.com), based outside of Durban, to introduce a new drought resistant, heat tolerant hybrid maize seed variety, “CAP 9001 – Matumba Matumba” to Malawi.



Capstone Seeds S.A. handles an extensive range of seed from pasture and forage seed to hybrid maize and sunflower seed - these seeds are adapted to a wide range of conditions. Capstone also handles varieties that have been bred by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC). Working through USAID, Peacock Seed, a medium-sized but forward thinking local seed company, recognized a potential market niche for Capstone Seeds and worked together with Peacock to apply for a Strategic Partnership Grant.

In 2016, Peacock harvested 600 tons of CAP 9001 seed, now the second most popular variety on the maize seed market in central Malawi. Commercial demand for CAP 9001 continues to grow and Peacock’s CAP 9001 is now being exported to Mozambique. , owner of Peacock Seeds, continues to expand his business and plans to register CAP 9001 on the SADC Seed Variety Catalogue and explore formal export across the region utilizing the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations.

Regional Export Opportunities for Monsanto/Zambia

The Seed Trade Project team met with Monsanto in Lusaka, Zambia in the week of February 13, 2017, to discuss the introduction of new technology to assist with the cultivation of yellow maize varieties in Zambia. The Seed Trade Project held previous discussions with Monsanto/South Africa regarding how the Strategic Partnership Facility could facilitate the necessary technology transfer to Zambia to expand yellow maize cultivation.

According to [redacted], Supply Chain Lead for Monsanto/Zambia, the country is the production hub for Dekalb maize varieties currently exported to Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Malawi.

The Dekalb seed technology provides the best chance for growing success with advanced research, early maturity, consistent performance and high yielding genetics to help farmers achieve optimum results. If successful, the yellow maize seed will be produced on a large-scale in Zambia, registered on the SADC Seed Catalogue, and marketed throughout SADC. Monsanto is the first company to register four of its maize varieties on the SADC Seed Catalogue under the “Delkab” brand name.



Seed Trade is also working with Monsanto to explore other ways to upscale production; register new varieties onto the SADC Seed Catalogue; and grow existing export markets across the SADC region. Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remain opportune markets for Zambian maize and legume export.

ZAMSEED Welcomes Seed Financing Platform

The Seed Trade Project is currently determining the market appetite for an innovative financing mechanism for seed development. The “Seed Development Investment Facility” would serve as a financial vehicle for channeling dollar denominated low-cost financing to seed companies that would like to make significant investments to meet growing demand for seed in the region. Preliminary discussions were held with USAID/REGO and the Seed Trade Project is now discussing the interest and viability of the proposed investment facility with seed companies across its four Feed the Future (FTF) countries: Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe as well as South Africa.

VARIETY	SEED TO MATURITY	YIELD POTENTIAL (T/HA)	EXPECTED NUMBER OF SEEDS/KG BAGGING	2kg	5kg	10kg	25kg
NEW GENETIC BANTU/AFRICAN HYBRID	SC 822 121 - 125	9	100	K 42.00	K 60.00	K 180.00	K 450.00
	SC 811 121 - 125	8	180	K 48.00	K 120.00	K 300.00	K 500.00
NEW GENETIC BANTU/AFRICAN HYBRID	SC 913 127 - 130	9	180	K 50.00	K 115.00	K 230.00	K 575.00
	SC 528 127 - 130	16	300	K 50.00	K 120.00	K 240.00	K 500.00
NEW GENETIC BANTU/AFRICAN HYBRID	SC 621 130 - 130	8.5	180	K 48.00	K 115.00	K 230.00	K 575.00
	SC 627 130 - 130	10	200	K 48.00	K 115.00	K 230.00	K 575.00
	SC 633 130 - 130	12	240	K 48.00	K 108.00	K 200.00	K 700.00
	SC 637 130 - 130	13	240	K 48.00	K 125.00	K 250.00	K 675.00
	SC 647 130 - 130	15	280	K 48.00	K 130.00	K 260.00	K 710.00
NEW GENETIC BANTU/AFRICAN HYBRID	SC 778 140 - 140	14	280	K 100.00	K 300.00	K 600.00	K 900.00
	SC 727 140 - 140	14	280	K 200.00	K 400.00	K 800.00	K 1000.00
YELLOW HYBRID	SC 600 130 - 130	13	260			K 435.00	K 950.00
	SC 608 130 - 130	14	280			K 430.00	K 950.00

If interest is validated across the seed marketplace and financial institutions are willing to provide lending support, the impact of having access to low-cost financing could be enormous. It is anticipated the investment facility will be a stakeholder-led initiative among seed companies, financial institutions, development finance institutions (DFIs), storage operators/traders and farmers. Of demand is the need to build new warehousing for seed production and export gateways to facilitate bulking of foundation seed to achieve longer shelf life.

The Seed Trade team engaged with the Zambia Seed Company (ZAMSEED) in Lusaka to receive feedback on the investment facility. ZAMSEED welcomed the idea and indicated the facility could assist many seed companies reliant on internally generated financing to improve presence in new markets such as Tanzania and Botswana.

ZAMSEED also noted it previously traded with Angola despite several logistical challenges and seeks better access to the country's growing seed market.

Oruwera Seed Seeking to Expand in Nampula

While in Nampula, Mozambique, the Seed Trade Project team met with the owners of Oruwera Seed and visited their seed warehouse and processing facilities. Oruwera is a locally owned and operated seed company producing foundation and certified seed, seventy-five percent of which is maize.

“Oruwera,” the Macua word for “good seed” was started in 2010 by two former Mozambican employees of Care International and began seed production in 2011. The company receives varieties from the national research station in Nampula, locally contracts over 60 out growers, and also cultivates 100 hectares of its own land. In 2016, it produced 450 tons of seed and sold 375 tons on the local market.



Oruwera worked closely with the SDC's (Swiss) INOVAGRO project and received a grant from the USAID AGRA project in Maputo in 2013 to assist with certified seed production. It is seeking to expand access on the local market and its seed was in high demand in 2016. Oruwera is potentially interested in a Strategic Partnership Facility grant to upscale production and/or introduce new hybrid varieties from neighboring countries into the Nampula, Zambezi, and Cabo Delgado markets. Oruwera is the type of small but successful organic seed company that could benefit greatly from the Strategic Partnership Facility.

The Seed Trade Project is actively exploring the development of such partnerships as the introduction of new seed varieties is critical to combating the persistent low yields of traditional seed varieties smallholder farmers are often familiar with. With the introduction of modern varieties that generate greater yields, the seed value chain plays an important role in improving food production in the region.

AFRISEED Targets Smallholder Farmers in Zambia and Malawi

The Seed Trade Project met in the week of March 6, 2017 with the Managing Director of Stewards Globe Limited (SGL) in Lusaka to discuss opportunities for seed export between Zambia and Malawi. Stewards Globe Limited, an emerging seed company producing improved seed varieties of cereals and legumes distributed under the AFRISEED brand, works with roughly 170 smallholder contract farmers in Zambia to multiply seed.

SGL is a diversified Zambian-owned agricultural company whose core business is to transfer seed technologies developed from public and private research organizations through its network of small and medium farmers. SGL is seeking to broaden AFRISEED's market reach to export regionally and is exploring how it might utilize Seed Trade's Strategic Partnership Facility to do so. The company plans to grow its distribution network to reach more smallholder farmers in Zambia and Malawi where it can also provide related services for legume seed development. This effort has the potential to improve access to high-quality seed varieties among smallholder farmers.

Seeking Out Markets for Regional Seed Trade

, CEO and owner of Mgom'Mera Seed Company, believes her company, as with many other small seed companies producing legume seed in Malawi, would benefit greatly from marketing, market linkages and technology development assistance, to export seed varieties to regional markets.

The company had a surplus of seed produced in 2016, and is now actively seeking opportunities to export to neighboring countries, including Zambia and Botswana where there is a strong demand for legumes like cowpeas and pigeon peas.

Cowpeas are becoming more popular in the region because the crop is drought resistant and provides high nutritional value to smallholder farmers.

It is also becoming a cash-crop allowing smallholder farmers to improve their livelihoods. and her company would benefit greatly from the operationalization and usage of the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations to facilitate easier and cheaper access to would be markets in the region.



Engaging SCCI and Seed Companies in Zambia to Improve Database Management and Delivery

The harmonization of seed regulations in the SADC region has set common standards for the procedures at national level for the registration and release of new varieties and for the seed certification and quality assurance systems.

These standards require National Seed Authorities (NSAs) and National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) to follow agreed upon procedures for registration, release, inspections and seed testing. The use of ICT can contribute significantly to the implementation of these standards. SANSOR in South Africa and the Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) in Zambia are market leaders in the use of ICT tools for the collection of data and issuing of licenses.

Building on its success, the Seed Trade Project continued the process of upgrading the SCCI database management system to ensure it follows the procedures for the certification of seed in-line with the OECD requirements while exploring the option to implement a smart card reader system to provide secure access to the system.



Along with systems upgrades, a training and awareness program is being delivered to SCCI staff, lab staff, company users and seed inspectors. Initially focused on Zambia, ICT tools for communication and managing data and information flows will eventually be rolled out in Malawi, Mozambique and potentially in Zimbabwe, using the Seed Control and Certification Institute in Zambia as the regional center of excellence. In addition, the

SANSOR Seed Market Information System is expected to be launched in April 2017 with the Seed Trade Project's support.

Based on the observations and positive opinions of SCCI staff regarding the computerized system being installed at SCCI-Zambia and SANSOR, the Seed Trade Project will invite staff of variety release and seed certification from Malawi and Mozambique for site visits. During the visit, they would understand the value of the systems. In Zambia, the system integrates seed-related data from the evaluation of a variety all the way through the labeling of the certified seed of the variety. In South Africa, the SANSOR system provides a comprehensive overview of seed trade related data. The site visits will be organized to assist national seed authorities in the other countries with the implementation of a similar system.

SCCI has for this season received over 6,500 seed grower license applications from the seed companies in Zambia. All applications were received through the online Management Information System developed with the support of the Seed Trade Project. The online system enables SCCI to speed up the verification and issuing of the seed growers licenses. Previously this process used to take months because all applications were received in hard copy formats; it now takes a few days to process the applications.

WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Work Plan Consultations with USAID/Malawi

On February 8, 2017, the Seed Trade Project gave a presentation on the 2017 work plan and its proposed activities to the USAID Mission in Malawi represented by Feed the Future's (FTF) and USAID/Malawi's from the USAID/Southern Africa Regional Economic Growth Office (REGO) facilitated the meeting. Separate discussions were also held with , Office Director for Sustainable Economic Growth.

The Seed Trade Project reviewed its 2017 work plan and Malawi specific activities including engaging the private sector in the discussion on the new Seed Policy and draft Seed Act, technical training programs for the NPPO and NSA on the certification of seed varieties and engaging stakeholders in the implementation of the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR). As part of the interactive planning session and following invaluable feedback provided by the Mission, the Seed Trade Project's technical team briefed USAID on the expected outcomes of the 2017 work plan.

In addition to country-specific activities, the team also discussed SADC-wide activities such as the upcoming conference on improving the SADC Pest List and building a sustainable business model for the SADC Seed Centre.

As with the other FTF-focus countries, Malawi is an important player in the region with tremendous agricultural potential. The recently launched Strategic Partnership Facility is one of the instruments able to provide Malawian seed producers opportunities to benefit from modern technology, know-how, and market linkages to improve the availability, production and affordability of seed varieties in the country.

During the visit to Malawi, the Seed Trade Team also held additional consultations with the Feed the Future Malawi Agriculture Diversification Project, Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM), the Seed Traders Association of Malawi (STAM), the DFID Malawi Oilseeds Sector Transformation (MOST) Program, the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM), the Seed Services Unit (SSU), as well as holding interviews for the recruitment of a full-time resident project advisor for Malawi.

Work Plan Consultations with USAID/Zambia

On February 15, 2017, the Seed Trade Project presented the 2017 work plan and its proposed activities to USAID/Zambia. In attendance were the Feed the Future (FTF) Coordinator and USAID/Zambia's and USAID/Southern Africa's

Following the meeting, the team briefly met with , Office Director for Economic Growth in Zambia as well.

The Seed Trade Project reviewed its 2017 work plan with a focus on the central role the Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) of Zambia is playing in developing Zambia's seed value chains. Of interest was also SCCI's ongoing OECD accreditation process.

Following SCCI's well-received visit to the OECD's technical working group in Paris sponsored through the Seed Trade Project in January 2017, an OECD site inspection team visited Zambia at the end of February 2017 to experience first-hand the significant progress made with SCCI's fully compliant OECD and ISTA systems. SCCI's new IT system known as the Online Seed Lab, developed with USAID's support through the Seed Trade Project, is a cutting-edge cloud-based seed registration and certification system that is transforming the process in Zambia.

In addition to these significant developments, the presentation focused on domesticating Zambia's seed legislation with the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations. The new law is currently awaiting legal review by the Ministry of Justice and is sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture through the SCCI. Other country-specific activities discussed included the upcoming technical training program on the testing requirements under the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations, the launch of the Strategic Partnership Facility in Zambia and the awareness programs on the harmonized seed regulations with ZASTA, the Zambian Seed Traders' Association.



Work Plan Consultations with USAID/Zimbabwe

The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project team met with , USAID's Director of Economic Growth Office in Harare, Zimbabwe, at the project's Head Office in Pretoria, to discuss the 2017 work plan and programming in Zimbabwe.

Numerous potential activities were discussed including a Market Linkages (private sector business forum in Harare) seminar to highlight the Strategic Partnership Facility (SPF), Zimbabwe's participation in the SADC Pest List Revision workshop, the Future of the SADC Seed Centre Conference, an institutional grant to support the Zimbabwean Seed Trader Association (private sector), and a potential training with the private sector and mid-level national seed agency officials on Seed Inspection and the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR).

and the Seed Trade Project team discussed what was permissible in terms of programming with the national seed authority of Zimbabwe. The Seed Trade Project will work closely with USAID/Zimbabwe to coordinate Zimbabwean participation (often teaming with FAO or other would be donors) in regional activities.

Work Plan Consultations with USAID/Mozambique

The Seed Trade Project Team traveled to Maputo and Nampula, Mozambique in the week of March 13, 2017, to begin close collaboration with a number of important donor-funded agriculture projects and to visit a number of private seed companies in the north of the country.

A lengthy planning and coordination meeting was held with *USAID SPEED Plus* and the newly launched the *Feed the Future Agricultural Innovations (INOVA) Project* (both implemented by DAI) as well as *Innovative Agriculture (INOVAGRO)* funded by SDC/Switzerland (also implemented by DAI). With numerous bilateral agriculture initiatives being undertaken by USAID, SDC, and DFID, as well as the World Bank and FAO throughout the country, collaboration and information sharing are essential.



A number of interviews were also held in Maputo with potential candidates for the Seed Trade’s resident advisor position for Mozambique. This position provides a critical link for the project among ongoing bilateral projects, donors, and private sector seed companies. The resident advisor will be co-located within the *USAID SPEED Plus* and *Feed the Future Agricultural Innovations (INOVA) Project* office on the Marginal in Maputo to provide cost-savings as well as to facilitate easier coordination and internal communication.

While in Maputo, the Seed Trade Team also met with USAID/Mozambique representative to review planned activities for the coming months and to discuss challenges surrounding seed inspection and certification and the potential for private sector investment in seed lab development.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

SBA’s Deputy Associate Administrator and the Importance of Trade for Food Security



On March 15, 2017, the Seed Trade Project welcomed Deputy Associate Administrator [redacted] of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to its office in Pretoria to discuss the importance of seed value chains. During the gathering, the FTF goals of food security and unlocking the potential of agriculture and trade as the keys to reducing hunger, extreme poverty and malnutrition were discussed under the leadership of [redacted] of USAID/REGO and [redacted], Economic Officer of the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria.

Presenting jointly with the Southern Africa Trade and Investment Hub, the Seed Trade Project highlighted the importance of gender integration and inclusive economic growth in its activities. Women’s contributions to agricultural production often go unrecognized, especially in the production of seed.

As noted by Feed the Future, “Despite their significant role as agricultural producers, women’s access to land and other key productive resources can be limited, and they rarely have legal control over the land they farm.” Through its small business utilization program, the Seed Trade Project is currently exploring opportunities to engage a US-based firm to analyze the impediments women face in seed production and to develop an action plan to integrate gender in the implementation of the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations.

is the Deputy Associate Administrator for the Office of International Trade with the Small Business Administration. He previously served as the Deputy Associate Administrator for Field Operations. As Deputy Associate Administrator, he provided senior leadership to over 42% of the Agency's budgeted workforce, ensuring the implementation of its overall goals, programs, and operations.

Not All Seed is Equal: Improving Access

On February 28, 2017, two members of the Seed Trade Project team participated in a USAID webinar entitled, "Not All Seed is Created Equal: Improving Access." Access to high quality seed is very low among smallholder farmers in developing countries across Sub-Saharan Africa. According to the most recent findings in "Seed Systems Smallholder Farmers Use" by S. McGuire and L. Sperling (2016), the majority (51%) of smallholder farmers source seed from local markets (traditionally poor quality seed), 30% use farm saved seed (of varying quality), 2% source from agro-dealers (certified seed) and 17% from other sources.

FAO's Plant Production and Protection Paper 185 defines Quality Declared Seed (QDS) as seed produced by a registered seed producer conforming to the minimum standards for the crop species concerned and subject to the quality control measures outlined in the FAO Guidelines. The USAID webinar discussed ways in which QDS might close some of the gaps by offering a range of crop and seed varieties critical to climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture. The QDS system (semi-formal system) is designed to shed heavy and unnecessary seed certification costs associated with hybrids to make better quality seed more accessible to smallholder farmers at affordable prices. Produced by registered, trained, small-scale farmers or farmer groups, QDS can be an efficient way to expand smallholder farmer access to diverse seed varieties. This semi-formal system strives to complement rather than compete with the formal system (certified seed system).

The webinar explored global seed quality regulations and trends with key examples and case studies from Uganda and Tanzania. Participants had an opportunity to engage and discuss: 1) The benefits of multiple seed certification systems and how the quality of QDS compares to other seed classes; 2) what country-level policies are needed for Quality Declared Seeds to be adopted, produced, and traded; and, 3) the financial costs and benefits of QDS.

DAI Ethics Training

DAI's Chief Executive Officer, _____ and Senior Vice President and General Counsel, visited Pretoria, South Africa to deliver a workshop on Ethics@DAI based on DAI's Code of Business Conduct. Thirty-three staff from the combined Seed Trade Project and the Southern Africa Trade and Investment Hub participated in the event.

_____ emphasized the central role ethics plays within DAI's internal system and how ethics and business success are clearly linked. He also took the opportunity to outline why ethics and transparency are the hallmarks of the DAI value system and underpin the company's competitiveness and service delivery

General Counsel _____ engaged staff with various case studies on ethics drawn from DAI's global experiences aimed at enhancing learning and discussion during the workshop. A reception was held following the workshop for senior management to meet and greet staff and discuss the roll out and implementation of these two important Feed and the Future/USAID regional projects.

Indicator Development Capacity and AIDtracker+ Workshop

The Seed Trade Project participated in the Indicator Capacity Development Workshop for activity managers and implementing partners at the USAID Southern Africa Mission in Pretoria.

The participants were oriented on the link between indicators, monitoring, evaluation and learning, and effective programming. Participants were urged to develop theories of change that can improve the design, monitoring and evaluation of programs by clearly outlining the results that will follow from a particular set of actions.

The workshop also included supplementary training on the AIDtracker+ reporting system. The system allows Missions to use a convenient, internet-accessible application to store and manage information relating to projects, locations, and results. This relatively complex array of data is organized and displayed by AIDtracker in an easy-to-use, manageable format. The Seed Trade Project is ready to start using AIDtracker+ to report results for the first quarter of FY 2017.

Assisting the Trade Hub’s Systems Set Up

During the reporting period, the Seed Trade Project provided support to the Trade and Investment Hub, also implemented by DAI. Chiefs of Party _____ and _____ held regular coordination meetings on a variety of topics ranging from establishing online payment systems and other banking related activities, work plan development and implementation coordination. The Trade Hub also benefitted from a number of templates that the Seed Trade Project had designed and presented to USAID including the grants manual, the annual program statement for the strategic partnership grants and numerous internal reporting documents.



APPENDIX: TRAVEL MATRIX JANUARY – MARCH 2017

Start Date	End Date	Location	Activity
16 January	17 January	South Africa	to give a work plan presentation at USAID offices in Pretoria.
22 January	26 January	South Africa	to participate in an Ethics Training and internal discussions at the Project Office and the Indicator Capacity Development Session at USAID in Pretoria.
24 January	29 January	Malawi	to participate in the Donor Coordination meeting in Lilongwe.
30 January	3 March	France	and two SCCI representatives to participate in the OECD Technical Working Group meeting in Paris.
1 February	3 February	South Africa	to deliver a presentation on the Strategic Partnership Facility at the SANSOR Quarterly meeting in Pretoria.
7 February	10 February	Malawi	, and to hold work plan meeting with USAID in Lilongwe.
8 February	10 February	Mozambique	and to hold USAID meetings in Maputo.
12 February	15 February	Zambia	to hold work plan meeting with USAID in Lusaka.
14 February	14 February	Zambia	to deliver a presentation on the Strategic Partnership Facility to the Zambia Seed Trader Association (ZASTA) members in Lusaka.
13 February	17 February	Zambia	to hold consultations with USAID/Zambia in Lusaka.
14 February	17 February	South Africa	to participate in the Argus FMB Africa Fertilizer General Meeting in Cape Town.
23 February	24 February	Botswana	to hold consultations with SADC/FANR in Gaborone.
27 February	3 March	Senegal	to participate in the AFSTA Annual Meeting in Dakar.
5 March	11 March	Zambia	and the SADC Seed Centre to hold Seed Certification Train the Trainers workshop in Lilongwe.
12 March	18 March	Zambia	and SCCI to conduct Train the Trainers workshop for DUS and VCU in Lusaka.
13 March	20 March	Mozambique	to hold consultations with USAID/Mozambique, APROSE, Speed Plus, and private sector seed companies in Maputo and Nampula.
13 March	31 March	South Africa	h to visit the Seed Trade Project and hold consultations with USAID in Pretoria.

Start Date	End Date	Location	Activity
18 March	25 March	Zambia	and SANSOR to hold Seed Certification Train the Trainers workshop in Lilongwe.
22 March	24 March	Zimbabwe	to present the Strategic Partnership Facility during the Market Linkages seminar in Harare.
23 March	24 March	South Africa	to attend the CARDESA Regional Seed Workshop in Johannesburg.

APPENDIX: SUCCESS STORY



SUCCESS STORY

Building the Capacity of National Seed Authorities to Conduct DUS and VCU Testing

Training NSAs from Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia for SADC regional variety release



The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project is designed to increase the availability of high-quality seed of improved varieties to farmers in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and to contribute to increased agricultural productivity and improved food and nutrition security.

With offices in Pretoria, South Africa, Gaborone, Botswana, and Lusaka, Zambia, the Seed Trade Project provides targeted technical assistance to facilitate implementation of SADC's Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR).

HSR seeks to boost seed trade across the region, integrating smaller and more isolated national seed markets into one, larger SADC market.

In March 2017, the Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project collaborated with the Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) in Lusaka, Zambia to train 20 participants from Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia in the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR) variety testing system. The five-day training enhanced the technical capacities of National Seed Authority (NSA) staff and private sector actors on how to conduct Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) and Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) tests in line with the SADC requirements for regional variety release.

The field training helped the participants to learn how to practically measure different characteristics for each crop and record data. Most of the participants demonstrated learning by outperforming their pre-training scores during the post-training test. Participants were able to change attitudes, improve knowledge, and increase skills as a result of attending the field training. If well supported by their NSAs and private seed companies, the participants are well equipped with the technical skills required to deliver improved seed sector service and enhance agricultural output in their respective countries.

An overview on the objectives of DUS and VCU testing under the SADC harmonized seed regulations as well as the methodology for conducting DUS and VCU tests were presented by the instructors. The participants were also trained on how to layout test plots; record, analyze and report data; identify traits; develop variety descriptions; and acquire and store standard samples. The crops covered included maize, groundnuts, beans, sorghum, cotton, and wheat.

It is expected participants will play a significant role in the implementation of the SADC Variety Release System designed to introduce affordable, improved seed varieties to smallholder farmers in Southern Africa in support of Feed the Future goals.

With USAID's support through the Seed Trade Project, the training will enable National Seed Authorities to more effectively support the release of modern seed varieties on the regional seed catalog to be traded with greater ease and efficiency among the 15 SADC Member States. This will result in improved agricultural productivity in the targeted FTF countries in an effort to reduce hunger, malnutrition, and poverty.



SUCCESS STORY

Assessing the Seed Damage Caused by Fall Armyworms in Zambia

Understanding the impact of Armyworms on seed production to safeguard food security



The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project is designed to increase the availability of high-quality seed of improved varieties to farmers in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and to contribute to increased agricultural productivity and improved food and nutrition security.

With offices in Pretoria, South Africa, Gaborone, Botswana, and Lusaka, Zambia, the Seed Trade Project provides targeted technical assistance to facilitate implementation of SADC's Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR).

HSR seeks to boost seed trade across the region, integrating smaller and more isolated national seed markets into one, larger SADC market.

Zambia is currently the largest exporter of maize seed across Africa, exporting over 20,000 MT (metric tons) to the SADC and COMESA regions in 2016. However, during the 2016-17 planting season, Zambia, as well as Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe were hurt by a Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) infestation in its maize crop.

The findings of a nation-wide study conducted by Zambia's Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) under the auspices of the *Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project* revealed the impact of the Fall Armyworms on this year's maize seed crop production was more limited than anticipated despite affecting up to 60% of the seed crop.

The limited impact was largely the result of both commercial and small-scale seed growers managing to contain the damage through the timely spraying of pesticides. The interventions supported by the Zambian government, the private sector, and farmers appear to have averted a potential disaster on over 10,000 hectares of land dedicated to maize seed production. The damage caused by the Fall Armyworm will have limited impact on the production of maize seed in the country.

However, fighting the Fall Armyworm came with a price for most seed growers who reported higher than expected production costs for maize seed in the 2016-17 season due to the high price of pesticides used to control the pest. Moreover, most of the fields were sprayed more than twice in order to avoid severe damage. This intervention may lead to a slight increase in the price of maize seed across the region.

USAID's timely support to this rapid impact assessment study, implemented under a cost-sharing arrangement with the SCCI, not only measured the impact of the Fall Armyworm infestation but also established the effectiveness of the measures put in place in Zambia.

The information gathered will help inform governments, seed producers, and smallholder farmers on how best to respond to future Fall Armyworm attacks. The knowledge and experience gained are critical for future mitigation efforts as the Fall Armyworm has a track record of having a devastating impact on seed and food production if not effectively controlled.

APPENDIX: PMP MATRIX

Indicator	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	LOP Target	2016 Target	2016 Result	2017 Target	2017 Result	2018 Target	2019 Target
Seed Trade Project goal: Increased trade in high quality seed in target countries											
Custom 4: Percent change in time to release a new seed variety in FtF countries in Southern Africa using the HSR for key	Percent	Commodity	2016	N/A	12.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	12.5%	0%
Custom 5: Percent change in time to trade a new seed variety in FtF countries in Southern Africa using the HSR for key commodities: maize, soybeans, groundnuts, common beans, cowpeas, pigeon peas and sesame	Hours	Commodity	2016	N/A	26%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	10%
Custom 9: Quantity of high quality seed traded under HSR by crop	Metric Tons	Type of seed; Country of origin	2016	0	9,000	0	0	0	0	900	1,350
EG.3.2-23: Value of targeted agricultural commodities exported with USG assistance	US Dollar	Type of crop; Country of origin	2016	\$0	\$20 million	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2 million	\$3 million
Intermediate Result 1: Increased availability of improved seeds in the region											
Sub-IR 1.1.1: Increased human capacities											
EG.3.2-1: Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Number	Type of individual; Sex	2016	0	1,280	373	171	317	78	269	229
Sub-IR 1.1.2: Increased institutional capacities											

Indicator	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	LOP Target	2016 Target	2016 Result	2017 Target	2017 Result	2018 Target	2019 Target
EG.3.2-4 Number of for-profit private enterprises, producer organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG food security related organizational development assistance	Number	Type of organization; New/continuing	2016	0	100	0	3	15	4	25	30
Sub-IR 1.2: Strengthened systems for regional variety release, certification and quality assurance											
Custom 1: Sustainable business model for regional seed variety release; certification and quality assurance operational	Number	None	2016	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Custom 2: Percent of regional HSR administrative system costs covered by revenues generated	Percent	None	2016	0	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	30%	75%
Custom 6: Number of seed varieties and classes of seed in distribution under the HSR systems	Number	Types of seed varieties; classes	2016	0	720	0	0	0	0	52	108
Sub-IR 1.3: Increased public-private engagement in the implementation of the HSRs											
Custom 3: Number of seed varieties in distribution from the regional HSR systems.	Number	Variety type	2016	1	360	0	0	0	0	26	54
Custom 7: Number of seed companies engaged in regional seed varietal release	Number	Type of company; Crop type	2016	2	28	2	0	4	2	4	7
Intermediate Result 2: Increased availability of technologies, management practices and innovations											

Indicator	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	LOP Target	2016 Target	2016 Result	2017 Target	2017 Result	2018 Target	2019 Target
Custom 8: Number of technologies or management practices transferred as a result of USG assistance	Number	Country; FTF crop	2016	0	10	0	1	2	0	4	3
Sub-IR 2.1: Increased public-private investment in the transfer of technologies											
EG.3.2-22: Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by Feed the Future implementation	US Dollar	Country	2016	\$0	\$2.5 million	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$450,000	\$750,000
EG.3.2-20: Number of for-profit private enterprises, producer organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied improved organization-level technologies or management practices with USG assistance	Number	Type of organization; Duration	2016	0	64	0	1	4	0	6	13
Sub-IR 2.2: Strengthened regional partnerships for agricultural technologies and management											
See high-level indicator 'Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of Feed the Future assistance'											
Intermediate Result 3: Improved regional policies to support agricultural growth											
Sub-IR 3.1: Strengthened regional capacity for inclusive and evidence-based policy planning											
EG.3.1-12: Number of agricultural and nutrition enabling environment policies analyzed, consulted on, drafted or revised, approved and implemented with USG assistance	Number	Policy area; Process/Step	2016	0	3	0	2	2	0	0	0
EG.3.1-b: Number of national policies supporting regionally agreed-upon policies	Number	Policy area;	2016	0	16	0	0	2	0	6	6

Indicator	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Baseline Year	Baseline Value	LOP Target	2016 Target	2016 Result	2017 Target	2017 Result	2018 Target	2019 Target
for which a national-level implementation action has been taken with USG assistance		Country; Process/Step									
Cross cutting indicators											
EG.3.2-5: Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of Feed the Future assistance	Number	Partnership focus; Country	2016	0	14	0	0	3	0	4	5
EG.2.2-1: Number of firms receiving USG-funded technical assistance to export	Number	New/Continuing	2016	0	30	0	0	0	0	6	9
Custom 10: Value of grants distributed by the Seed Trade Project	US Dollar	Country	2016	0	\$1.5 mil.	\$0	\$0	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000	\$300,000

APPENDIX: TRAINET REPORT

Programs Sorted By Name

Report Parameters:

Activity: Feed the Future Southern Africa Harmonized Seed Regulations Project (HSRP).

Start Date After: 01/01/2017

End Date Before: 03/31/2017

Program Status: Completed

Name	Location	Status	Start Date	End Date	Activity	Males	Females	Total Trainees	
Malawi SPF Presentation - February	REG	Completed	02/07/2017	02/07/2017	Feed the Future	24	4	28	
SADC DUS and VCU Training of	REG	Completed	03/13/2017	03/17/2017	Feed the Future	14	6	20	
SADC Seed Certification Training of	REG	Completed	03/20/2017	03/23/2017	Feed the Future	15	4	19	
Zambia SPF Presentation - February	REG	Completed	02/14/2017	02/14/2017	Feed the Future	10	1	11	
Totals for Report:						Program Count	Total Males	Total Females	Total Trainees
						4	63	15	78

COUNTRY FACTSHEETS



Project Objectives

- Promote the trade of high quality seed among SADC countries;
- Increase farmers' access to affordable, improved seed varieties;
- Promote regional integration; and,
- Enhance food and nutrition security in the region.

SOUTHERN AFRICA SEED TRADE PROJECT

Seeding a Brighter Future

The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project is designed to increase the availability of high-quality seed of improved varieties to farmers in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to increase food security and nutrition. The five-year project provides diverse assistance to implement the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR) to foster seed trade across the region and integrate smaller and isolated national seed markets into a larger, more efficient SADC-wide seed market.

The Seed Trade Project focuses on a number of critical aspects of SADC's HSR including: seed variety testing, registration and release, seed certification and quality assurance, and quarantine and phytosanitary measures for seeds. It also helps policy-makers put in place the mechanisms needed to improve access to high-quality, affordable seed – allowing smallholder farmers and large private sector producers to grow more food at cheaper prices for consumers across the region.

The Project's Strategic Partnership Facility (SPF) cultivates public-private partnerships to improve the availability of better technology, management practices, market opportunities, and innovations within the seed sector. Potential partnerships include: introducing new seed varieties, laboratory development, market expansion, outgrower schemes, processing upgrades, anti-counterfeiting technologies, and seed information systems.

The Seed Trade Project also works closely with the SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate (FANR) and the SADC Seed Centre to play a leading role in multi-stakeholder coordination and partnerships to improve policies supporting agricultural growth and develop efficient seed value chains. The goal is to expand the reach and effectiveness of the SADC Seed Centre while promoting its sustainability.

With offices in Pretoria, South Africa, and Lusaka, Zambia, and resident advisors in Malawi and Mozambique, the Seed Trade Project supports activities in three Feed-the-Future focus countries: Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique; and is also active in Zimbabwe, an aligned Feed the Future country. However, its regional project activities benefit all 15 SADC Member States.



FEED THE FUTURE

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

FEED THE FUTURE

Feed the Future is the U.S. Government's global food security initiative designed to transform lives to end extreme poverty, under-nutrition and hunger. To achieve this, Feed the Future agencies work hand-in-hand with partner countries to develop their agriculture sectors and break the vicious cycle of poverty and hunger. Feed the Future works from farms to markets to tables to improve incomes and nutrition.

The initiative strives to increase agricultural production and the incomes of both men and women in rural areas who rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Investments in inclusive agriculture-led growth encompass improving agricultural productivity, expanding markets and trade, and increasing the economic resilience of vulnerable rural communities. Feed the Future seeks to unleash the proven potential of small-scale agricultural producers to deliver results on a large scale.

Feed the Future assistance is helping to increase agricultural production and generate opportunities for economic growth and trade in developing countries. It boosts the harvests and incomes of rural smallholder farmers who are the key to unlocking agricultural growth and transforming economies. It works to improve agricultural research and development and delivers existing, proven technologies to more people across the world. Feed the Future also increases resilience to prevent recurrent crises and helps communities to better withstand and bounce back from crises when they occur.

The Feed the Future Approach

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- Fostering policy environments that enable private investment;
- Advancing big ideas and climate-smart agriculture through research and innovation;
- Integrating agriculture and nutrition, with a particular focus on mothers and children; and,
- Maximizing cost-effective results that create the conditions where development assistance is no longer needed.



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FEED THE FUTURE

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

The Southern Africa Seed Trade Project:

Seeding a Brighter Future

Malawi



Seed Trade Project Focus

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The focus is primarily on three Feed-the-Future countries: Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique, as well as Zimbabwe, an aligned Feed the Future country.

Seed Trade also works closely with the SADC Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate in Gaborone to implement activities benefiting all 15 SADC Member States.

The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project: Malawi

The Southern Africa Seed Trade Project (the Seed Trade Project) is designed to increase the availability of high-quality seed of improved varieties to farmers in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to increase food security and nutrition. The Project provides diverse assistance to implement the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR) to foster seed trade across the region and integrate smaller and isolated national seed markets into a larger, more efficient SADC-wide seed market. The Seed Trade Project also helps policy-makers put in place the mechanisms needed to improve access to high-quality, affordable seed – allowing smallholder farmers and large private sector producers to grow more food at cheaper prices for consumers across the region.

HSR Awareness and Outreach: The Project partners with organizations like the Seed Trade Association of Malawi (STAM) and the SADC Seed Centre to build institutional capacity and promote HSR awareness, and usage. Working closely with civil society organizations (CSOs), the Seed Trade Project works to overcome misunderstanding around HSR and engage smallholder farmers regarding the benefits of HSR.

Strategic Partnership Facility (SPF): The Seed Trade Project fosters public-private partnerships to improve the availability of better technology, management practices, market opportunities, and innovations within the seed sector. Potential partnerships include: introducing new seed varieties, laboratory development, market expansion, outgrower schemes, processing upgrades, anti-counterfeiting technologies, and seed information systems.

Demand-driven Capacity Building: Committed to building local capacity, the Seed Trade Project is conducting training for phytosanitary/quarantine border and customs officials on HSR phytosanitary measures. DUS and VCU testing workshops for breeders and official examiners involved in variety evaluation and registration is being implemented. Training on field inspection, accreditation, and seed testing to entrench standardization is also being conducted.

Domestication of SADC-HSR: The Seed Trade Project supports efforts to increase the domestication of national seed laws with SADC-HSR. Through these efforts, the project works to ensure smallholder farmers are fully engaged and benefit from HSR and access to improved seed varieties.

SADC Seed Centre: The Project is contributing to the development of a viable business model for the SADC Seed Centre including innovative technology to address issues related to SADC seed labels and counterfeiting measures. The goal is to expand the reach and effectiveness of the SADC Seed Centre while promoting its sustainability.



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The Feed the Future Approach

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- Fostering policy environments that enable private investment;
- Advancing big ideas and climate-smart agriculture through research and innovation;
- Integrating agriculture and nutrition, with a particular focus on mothers and children; and,
- Maximizing cost-effective results that create the conditions where development assistance is no longer needed.

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The Southern Africa Seed Trade Project:

Seeding a Brighter Future

Mozambique



Seed Trade Project Focus

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The focus is primarily on three Feed-the-Future countries: Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique, as well as Zimbabwe, an aligned Feed the Future country.

Seed Trade also works closely with the SADC Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate in Gaborone to implement activities benefiting all 15 SADC Member States.

The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project: Mozambique

The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project (the Seed Trade Project) is designed to increase the availability of high-quality seed of improved varieties to farmers in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to increase food security and nutrition. The Project provides diverse assistance to implement the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR) to foster seed trade across the region and integrate smaller and isolated national seed markets into a larger, more efficient SADC-wide seed market. The Seed Trade Project also helps policy-makers put in place the mechanisms needed to improve access to high-quality, affordable seed – allowing smallholder farmers and large private sector producers to grow more food at cheaper prices for consumers across the region.

HSR Awareness and Outreach: The Seed Trade Project partners with organizations like APROSE and the SADC Seed Centre to build institutional capacity and promote HSR awareness, and usage. Working closely with civil society organizations (CSOs) like AGRA, the Seed Trade Project works to overcome misunderstanding around HSR and engage smallholder farmers regarding the benefits of HSR.

Strategic Partnership Facility (SPF): The Seed Trade Project fosters public-private partnerships to improve the availability of better technology, management practices, market opportunities, and innovations within the seed sector. Potential partnerships include: introducing new seed varieties, laboratory development, market expansion, outgrower schemes, processing upgrades, anti-counterfeiting technologies, and seed information systems.

Demand-driven Capacity Building: Committed to building local capacity, the Seed Trade Project conducts training for phytosanitary/quarantine border and customs staff on HSR phytosanitary measures. DUS and VCU testing workshops for breeders and official examiners involved in variety evaluation and registration will be implemented. Working closely with IIAM, training on field inspection, accreditation, and seed testing to entrench standardization is being undertaken.

SADC Seed Centre: The Seed Trade Project contributes to the development of a viable business model for the SADC Seed Centre including innovative technology to address issues related to SADC seed labels and counterfeiting measures. The goal is to expand the reach and effectiveness of the SADC Seed Centre while promoting its sustainability.





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- Integrating agriculture and nutrition, with a particular focus on mothers and children; and,
- Maximizing cost-effective results that create the conditions where development assistance is no longer needed.

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FEED THE FUTURE

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

The Southern Africa Seed Trade Project: *Seeding a Brighter Future*

SADC



Seed Trade Project Focus

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The focus is primarily on three Feed-the-Future countries: Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique, as well as Zimbabwe, an aligned Feed the Future country.

Seed Trade also works closely with the SADC Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate in Gaborone to implement activities benefiting all 15 SADC Member States.

The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project: Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project (the Seed Trade Project) is designed to increase the availability of high-quality seed of improved varieties to farmers in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to increase food security and nutrition. The Project provides diverse assistance to implement the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR) to foster seed trade across the region and integrate smaller and isolated national seed markets into a larger, more efficient SADC-wide seed market.

The Seed Trade Project also helps policy-makers put in place the mechanisms needed to improve access to high-quality, affordable seed – allowing smallholder farmers and large private sector producers to grow more food at cheaper prices for consumers across the region.

SADC Seed Centre: The Seed Trade Project partners with the SADC Seed Centre to provide human resource and operational support. It also explores viable business models including innovative technology to address issues related to SADC seed labels and counterfeiting measures. The goal is to expand the reach and effectiveness of the SADC Seed Centre, while promoting its institutional sustainability.

SADC Wide-activities: The Seed Trade Project contributes to the goal of improving HSR regionally by providing institutional and policy support to the SADC Seed Committee, helping to pilot SADC Seed Certification, increasing the number and types of varieties listed on the SADC Seed Catalogue, and revising the SADC Pest List.

HSR Awareness and Outreach: The Seed Trade Project partners with local seed trade associations and the SADC Seed Centre to build institutional capacity and promote HSR awareness and usage. Working closely with SADC and civil society organizations (CSOs), the project creates better understanding of HSR and engages smallholder farmers regarding the its benefits.

Domestication of SADC-HSR: The Seed Trade Project supports efforts to increase the domestication of national seed laws with SADC-HSR. Through these efforts, the project helps to ensure smallholder farmers are fully engaged and benefit from HSR and have access to improved seed varieties.



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The Southern Africa Seed Trade Project:

Seeding a Brighter Future

Zambia



Seed Trade Project Focus

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The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project: Zambia

The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project (the Seed Trade Project) is designed to increase the availability of high-quality seed of improved varieties to farmers in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to increase food security and nutrition. The Project provides diverse assistance to implement the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR) to foster seed trade across the region and integrate smaller and isolated national seed markets into a larger, more efficient SADC-wide seed market. The Seed Trade Project also helps policy-makers put in place the mechanisms needed to improve access to high-quality, affordable seed – allowing smallholder farmers and large private sector producers to grow more food at cheaper prices for consumers across the region.

HSR Awareness and Outreach: The Seed Trade Project partners with seed trade associations like the **Zambian Seed Traders Association (ZASTA)** and the **SADC Seed Centre** to build institutional capacity and promote HSR awareness, and usage. Working closely with civil society organizations (CSOs) like the **CGIAR Centers**, the Seed Trade Project works to overcome misunderstanding around HSR and engage smallholder farmers regarding the benefits of HSR.

Strategic Partnership Facility (SPF): The Seed Trade Project fosters public-private partnerships to improve the availability of better technology, management practices, market opportunities, and innovations within the seed sector. Potential partnerships include: introducing new seed varieties, laboratory development, market expansion, outgrower schemes, processing upgrades, anti-counterfeiting technologies, and seed information systems.

Demand-driven Capacity Building: Committed to building local capacity, the Seed Trade Project conducts training for phytosanitary/quarantine border and customs officials on HSR phytosanitary measures. DUS and VCU testing workshops for breeders and official examiners involved in variety evaluation and registration will be implemented. Training on field inspection, accreditation, and seed testing to entrench standardization will be held.

Domestication of SADC-HSR: The Seed Trade Project supports efforts to increase the domestication of national seed laws with SADC-HSR. Through these efforts, the project works to ensure smallholder farmers are fully engaged and benefit from HSR and access to improved seed varieties.

SADC Seed Centre: The Seed Trade Project contributes to the development of a viable business model for the SADC Seed Centre including innovative technology to address issues related to SADC seed labels and counterfeiting measures. The goal is to expand the reach and effectiveness of the SADC Seed Centre while promoting its sustainability.



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The Southern Africa Seed Trade Project:

Seeding a Brighter Future

Zimbabwe



Seed Trade Project Focus

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The Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project: Zimbabwe

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HSR Awareness and Outreach: The Seed Trade Project partners with seed trade associations like the Zimbabwe Seed Trade Association and the SADC Seed Centre to build institutional capacity and promote HSR awareness, and usage. Working closely with civil society organizations (CSOs) like the CGIAR Centers, the Seed Trade Project works to overcome misunderstanding around HSR and engage smallholder farmers regarding the benefits of HSR.

Strategic Partnership Facility (SPF): The Seed Trade Project fosters public-private partnerships to improve the availability of better technology, management practices, market opportunities, and innovations within the seed sector. Potential partnerships include: introducing new seed varieties, laboratory development, market expansion, outgrower schemes, processing upgrades, anti-counterfeiting technologies, and seed information systems.

Demand-driven Capacity Building: Committed to building local capacity, the Seed Trade Project conducts training for phytosanitary/quarantine border and customs officials on HSR phytosanitary measures. DUS and VCU testing workshops for breeders and official examiners involved in variety evaluation and registration will be implemented. Training on field inspection, accreditation, and seed testing to entrench standardization will be held.

Domestication of SADC-HSR: The Seed Trade Project supports efforts to increase the domestication of national seed laws with SADC HSR. Through these efforts, the project works to ensure smallholder farmers are fully engaged and benefit from HSR and access to improved seed varieties.

SADC Seed Centre: The Seed Trade Project contributes to the development of a viable business model for the SADC Seed Centre including innovative technology to address issues related to SADC seed labels and counterfeiting measures. The goal is to expand the reach and effectiveness of the SADC Seed Centre while promoting its sustainability.



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