



Market Matters Inc., through the Seeds of Development Program (SODP) is proud to host the following session on the 26th of March in Plenary Session 1 from 12:00 to 13:00.

Bridging the Gap between Research and Commercialization: Transfer of Varieties from Public Research Institutions to Private Seed Companies

Agricultural biotechnology has the potential to spearhead “a Green Revolution” that can increase dramatically the productivity of small farms, moving millions of people out of extreme poverty and significantly reducing hunger. However, getting appropriate seed varieties into the hands of smallholder farmers requires a well-coordinated value-chain working under an enabling policy and regulatory environment. As currently structured, a distinct disconnect exists in Africa’s agricultural biotechnology value chain – the gap between product development (mostly done by public research institutions) and commercialization (mostly done by private seed companies). Numerous varieties have been developed through publicly funded National Agricultural Research Organizations (NAROs) and CGIAR research centers (CIMMYT, ICRISAT, IITA, CIP). Most of these technologies are still “sitting on the shelves,” while the private sector is struggling to commercialize a limited range of outdated varieties.

The purpose of this session is to identify ways to better coordinate the flow of biotechnology from public discovery to private use. In accomplishing this goal, some important questions need to be addressed:

- What are the key barriers to technology transfer between public research institutions and private seed companies?
- What are the emerging “best practices” in public-private transfer of agricultural technology to SMEs?
- What are the sources of institutional innovation in promoting successful public-private partnerships (PPPs)?
- What is the role of policy and regulatory framework in impeding and accelerating technology transfer?
- Are there alternatives to public research for SME seed companies?

The Seeds of Development Program (SODP) has assembled a panel of public-sector scientists and administrators entrusted with the responsibility of generating new knowledge for tomorrow’s farmer in Africa. They will address the critical questions posed above, and will respond to questions from over 30 small-to-medium seed companies gathered.

Moderator and Provocateur:

- Dr. Ed Mabaya - Research Associate, Cornell University (Coordinator of SODP)

Panelists :

- Dr. Mpoko Bokanga - Executive Director, African Agricultural Transfer Foundation
- Dr. Calisto Bias - Director, Instituto de Investigação Agrária de Moçambique
- Dr. Fred Muhhukhu - Uganda Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Program
- Dr. Jeremiah Haki - Director of Agricultural Research, Tanzania



Monday, March 26, 2007

Plenary Session I: Getting Seed to Farmers I

11:00-11:15	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by Victoria Seeds in Uganda" - <i>Josephine Okot</i>
11:15-11:30	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by IIAM/UZEBA Seeds in Mozambique" - <i>Celso Ruface</i>
11:45-12:00	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried out by Western Seed Company in Kenya" - <i>Saleem Ismael</i>

Parallel Session 1: Getting Seed to Farmers II

14:00-14:15	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by Qualita in Mozambique" - <i>Charles Schlesinger</i>
14:30-14:45	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by FICA Seeds in Uganda" - <i>Chris Kaijuka</i>
14:45-15:00	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by Pristine Seeds in Zimbabwe" - <i>John Makoni</i>
15:15-15:30	"SODP: An Innovative Business Development Services and Networking Program for African Seed Companies" - <i>Ed Mabaya</i>
16:05-16:20	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by Nalweyo Seed Company in Uganda" - <i>Richard Masagazi</i>
16:20-16:35	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by Faida Seeds in Kenya" - <i>Kahenya Njihia</i>
16:35-16:50	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by Tanseed International in Tanzania" - <i>Isaka Mashauri</i>
16:50-17:05	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by Suba Agro Trading in Tanzania" - <i>Chacha Goryo</i>
17:05-17:20	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by MRI Seeds in Zambia" - <i>Vladimir Ristanovic</i>

Networking Cocktail

18:00-20:00	To facilitate networking among participants in Africa's private seed industry, the Seeds of Development Program will host a cocktail at Hotel Avenida on Monday night. Participation in this event is by invitation only.
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Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Parallel Sessions II: Getting Seed to Farmers III

14:15-14:30	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by Seed-Tech in Malawi" - <i>Frank Samidu</i>
14:30-14:45	"Profile of seed activities carried out by Funwe Farm Ltd. in Malawi" - <i>Chikowe Bunaya</i>
14:45-15:00	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by Lagrotech Seed Company in Kenya" - <i>Moses Onim</i>
15:00-15:15	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by Freshco Seeds in Kenya" - <i>James K. Gichanga</i>
15:50-16:05	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by Semente Perfeita in Mozambique" - <i>David Mariote</i>
16:05-16:20	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by ZUM Seeds in Malawi" - <i>Patrick Khonje</i>
16:20-16:35	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by Kamano Seeds in Zambia" - <i>Dis Horemans</i>
16:35-16:50	"Profile of Seed Activities Carried Out by Progene Seeds in Zambia and Zimbabwe" - <i>Andrew Henderson</i>