STRENGTHENING THE LINKAGES BETWEEN POLICY RESEARCH AND POLICY PRACTICE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

THE CASE OF RATIONALIZATION AND HARMONIZATION OF SEED POLICIES, LAWS, RULES AND PROCEDURES
[ECAPAPA]
Isaac J. Minde
ICRISAT, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

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Outline

• Problem Identification
• Problem Definition
• Process
• Results
• What Has Changed
• Lessons Learned
Problem

- Complaints raised by ASARECA breeders on failing to move improved germ plasm across national boundaries (1998)
- Private seed companies in East Africa complaint—can’t sell beyond national boundaries

Problem Definition & Proposal Development
(Submission to USAID)
<table>
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<th>Main Seed Issue</th>
<th>Specific Constraints</th>
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| Procedures for evaluation and release of new varieties | • Different in each country  
• Too lengthy - blocking rapid transfer |
| Certification procedures                     | • Different in each country  
• No PVP/IPR                                                |
| Phytosanitary regulations                   | • Based on non-scientific data (posing as trade barriers)  
• Differences in phytosanitary standards  
• Differences in requests for imports/exports |
| Laws and regulations in seed trade          | • Different in each country  
• Quite restrictive                                          |
Questions Asked: Can We
Rationalize? (Within countries)
Harmonize? (Across countries)

ASARECA MAP: Restricted Region
Process

Stage 1: Studies and Analyses
Stage 2: National Stakeholders Consultations and Consensus
Stage 3: Synthesis
Stage 4: Regional Stakeholders Consultations [ASARECA-EAC]
Stage 5: Synthesis
Stage 6: Recommendations
Stage 7. National Level Implementation
Stages

- National Resource Persons – recruited and did studies of national seed industry
- National Consultations with key seed stakeholders on country reports (two stages/multi-institutional/multi-disciplinary) —> 60 < 70
- Consultations with policy makers less than < 15
- Consultations of NRPs with ASARECA-wide + experts in seed
- Wide regional consultations
- Reach agreements
RESULTS

Variety Evaluation, Release and Registration

- No. of seasons for NVPTs reduced from 3 to 1
- Accreditation by NCAs
- Rationalization and Standardization of NVRCs
- Regional Variety List established

RESULTS cont’d

Seed Certification

- Compulsory & non compulsory certification crops established
- Seed classes harmonized (from 8 to 4)
- Accreditation in certification
- Common seed tags
- Inter agency certification
Results Cont’d

Phytosanitary Issues

• Reduced quarantine pests from 33 to 3 pests

RESULTS cont’d

Plant Variety Protection

• Agreed to establish laws to have PVP/IPR

(Tanzania now has an act on Plant Breeders’ Act)
IMPORT/EXPORT

- Documents for export/import have been harmonized resulting in faster movement of seed e.g.
  - **Kenya**: Time reduced from *one week* to *one day*
  - **Uganda**: From *two weeks* to *2 days*,
  - Uniform tariff system in line with EAC Co-op Treaty

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY REVIEWS

- Rwanda has developed a Seed Law, assented to on 23/05/2003
- UG seed law is in final stage
- TZ Seed Bill 2003 was signed by the TZ President in February 2004. Replaces 1973 Act
What did we observe and learn?

• Increased no. of seed companies
• Increased volume of seed trade across borders
• Increased rate of release of varieties
• Amendments and enactment of new legislation
• Strengthened private & public sector dialogue

What did we observe and learn? cont’d

• Opportunity for meeting of scientists
• National and regional variety lists made available
• Field and laboratory standards standardized
What did we observe and learn? cont’d

• Learned skills of operating with multi-disciplinary teams and individuals
• Role of private sector and national seed trade associations key for seed sector growth
• Need to start small and spread out gradually on regional projects
• Found it possible to replicate the policy-change-cycle—(maize, dairy and bio-tech)

What did we observe and learn? cont’d

• Apex umbrella (political/economic) organization for regional agro-economics projects essential
• The stages--technical, political and legislative in the policy-change-cycle found to be important
Research, Community, Policy Makers Interaction

Researchers

Research that is Relevant to Policy/Programme Needs

Communication

Decision makers
Managers Front-line workers

Decision and actions that are Responsive to community needs

Communities
Groups Individuals

Research that is relevant to community needs

Thank You