

**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

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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**

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Problem Definition & Proposal Development (Submission to USAID)

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Main Seed Issue	Specific Constraints
Procedures for evaluation and release of new varieties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different in each country • Too lengthy- - blocking rapid transfer
Certification procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different in each country • No PVP/IPR

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Main Seed Issue	Specific Constraints
Phytosanitary regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different in each country • Quite restrictive

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Questions Asked: Can We

Rationalize? (Within countries)

Harmonize? (Across countries)

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ASARECA MAP: Restricted Region



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ASARECA Map: Unrestrictive Unified Market Region



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Process

Stage 1: Studies and Analyses

Stage 2: National Stakeholders

Consultations and Consensus

Stage 3: Synthesis

Stage 4: Regional Stakeholders

Consultations [ASARECA-EAC]

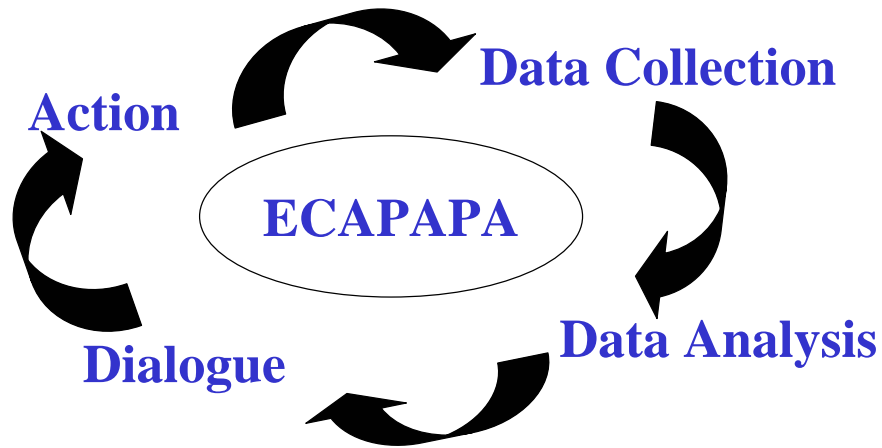
Stage 5: Synthesis

Stage 6: Recommendations

Stage 7. National Level Implementation

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POLICY CHANGE CYCLE



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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

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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**

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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**

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Results Cont'd

Phytosanitary Issues

- **Reduced quarantine pests from 33 to 3 pests**

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RESULTS *cont'd*

Plant Variety Protection

- **Agreed to establish laws to have PVP/IPR**

(Tanzania now has an act on Plant Breeders' Act)

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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

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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

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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**

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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**

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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)**

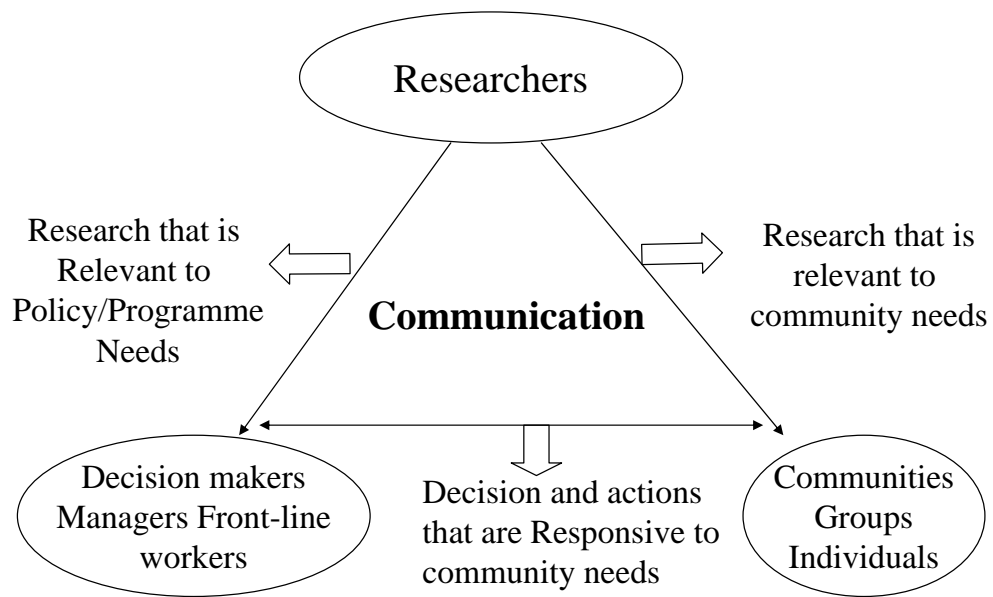
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What did we observe and learn? cont'd

- **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**

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Research, Community, Policy Makers Interaction



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Thank You



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