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The Collaborative Seed Programme Newsletter - Issue 1

March 2023

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter! We have been busy working with many partners to enhance the seed sector in Nigeria and we are excited to share updates with you. Please stay informed on the latest seed system activities from the CSP implementing team, we hope you find it informative and valuable.

Mapping of Donor Activities in the Seed Sector within the NSRM Framework



Donors and development partners are crucial to the development of the Nigerian Seed Sector. The CSP conducted a mapping exercise to track the direct and indirect seed sector investments made by key donors and development partners and how they align with the Strategic Innovation Pathways of the National Seed Road Map (NSRM). The NSRM, a policy document of the National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC), envisions a Nigerian Seed Sector that is competitive, resilient, profitable, innovative, adaptive, sustainable, inclusive, resistant and transparent.

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National Seed Sector Platform Webinar: Prioritizing Investments in the Nigerian Seed Sector



The National Seed Sector Platform Meeting for the 4th Quarter of 2022 held on December 6, 2022. The Collaborative Seed Programme (CSP) coordinated the webinar under the leadership of the National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC). The meeting focused on prioritizing investments in the Nigerian seed sector from the perspective of development partners. Key development partners (USAID, EKN, GIZ, KSADP and others) discussed ongoing interventions and how to create an enabling environment to attract more investments into the sector.

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Nigerian-Netherlands: Expert Dialogue on Plant Variety Performance Trials (NPT)



The Variety Release topic convened an expert dialogue between Nigerian and Netherlands experts on Plant Variety Performance Trials to share experiences and discuss potential international cooperation. The session revealed similarities and differences in the Performance Trials in the two countries and for different crops, amongst other highlights. This is an exciting development as it provides valuable insights and highlights areas for future collaboration.

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Tricot: An Innovative Method for On-Farm Crop Testing



The collaborative seed programme in partnership with the NextGen Cassava Breeding project and IITA Cassava Breeding Unit organized a triadic comparison of technologies (Tricot) workshop with the Nigerian variety release committee. The workshop explored the use of Tricot as a better approach for on-farm testing with farmers and processors in Africa. Tricot is an innovation that is cost-effective and involves more farmers compared to traditional methods and we look forward to the positive impact this innovation will have on the development of new crop varieties.

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Transforming Crop Variety Registration and Release in Nigeria



An effective and efficient crop registration and variety release system is crucial to the growth and development of Nigeria's agricultural sector. The Collaborative Seed Programme (CSP) recognized this and embarked on retooling the process, beginning with an in-depth assessment of the current status of the system in Nigeria. The CSP conducted a study on Nigeria's Crop Variety Registration and Release Process, focusing on four crops - Maize, Rice, Cassava and Tomato.

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First Quarterly Seed Sector Platform Webinar of the Year 2022



The Collaborative Seed Programme (CSP) facilitated the first quarterly seed platform meeting for 2022 on April 26th. The meeting, which held virtually, focused on the topic of SEEDCODEX and its potential to improve seed quality assurance and provide farmers with value for money. The meeting was a great success, with attendees gaining valuable insights and information about SEEDCODEX and its benefits to farmers.

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Official Launch of the Collaborative Seed Programme



Finally, we want to remind you that the Collaborative Seed Programme officially launched on April 28th, 2021. This four-year programme, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, brings together Nigerian and Dutch seed sector stakeholders with the goal of enhancing the performance of the Nigerian seed sector. The programme takes a systemic approach to sustainably addressing seed sector challenges. CSP is housed under the Nigeria-Netherlands Seed Partnership (NNSP) and contributes to the vision of the National Seed Road Map (NSRM).

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