



Increasing the effectiveness of emergency seed programming in humanitarian contexts in Nigeria

International Conference in Abuja, Nigeria

February 17-18, 2025



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Introduction

Despite the recent advances in the performance of Nigeria's seed sector, seed insecurity remains a pressing challenge for farming communities in specific regions of Nigeria affected by climate and conflict stresses and shocks.

Multiple Nigerian and international developmental and humanitarian organisations actively deploy seed interventions in these fragile regions, with the aims of boosting seed security and building community and sector-level resilience, towards sustainably increasing farmers' access to seed of varieties they demand.

There remains an opportunity to collectively strengthen these interventions through enhanced coordination and alignment of involved stakeholders and the expansion of market-based approaches which support the functioning of local and institutional seed markets.

Thus, there is a pressing need to provide a platform for sharing and validating the approaches, experiences, insights and methodologies of partners working to build seed sector resilience in these fragile contexts, enabling learning on what works and under what conditions.

Joining forces for international knowledge exchange

To this end the Collaborative Seed Programme of Nigeria (CSP Nigeria) and the Integrated Seed Sector Development in Africa Programme (ISSD Africa) are uniting to facilitate joint learning and reflection towards the discovery and application of new evidence-based strategies for innovation.

CSP Nigeria is a partnership of Nigerian and Dutch organisations working on multiple topics to advance the implementation of the National Seed Road Map. The programme has been active since 2020 and led by Sahel Consulting Agriculture and Nutrition Ltd and Wageningen University & Research, in close cooperation with the National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC) of Nigeria and other Nigerian partners.

ISSD Africa is an international Community of Practice, active since 2012. The ISSD Africa CoP currently focuses on advancing the Nexus of Humanitarian, Development and Peace (HDP-Nexus) interventions for Africa's seed sectors, engaging in action research in some 12 African countries.

Conference objectives

The attending organisations are invited with the overall aim to deepen the understanding of the current bottlenecks preventing efficient and effective humanitarian seed responses, while identifying concrete pathways towards more effective seed aid responses and institutional market strategies. Further, the event gives specific attention to international exchange, enabling the contextualisation and scaling of lessons and successes across Nigeria and other relevant countries in Africa.

Specific objectives:

1. Increased connection between Nigerian and international organisations working towards strengthening the performance of the seed sector in the fragile regions of Nigeria;
2. Increased awareness and understanding of good seed aid practices, market-based intervention strategies and modalities to improve the functioning of Nigeria's institutional seed markets;
3. Increased awareness and understanding of the opportunities to support community-based seed production and build resilience across farmer-managed seed systems;
4. Increased awareness of the repertoire of evidence-based knowledge and decision-making resources to support organisations working on these topics.

Logistics

The event will be held at the Carlton Wells Hotel, Abuja

The organisation of the international event will be led by Sahel Consulting Agriculture and Nutrition, with support from the Coordination Unit of ISSD Africa.

To receive more information on event organisation, please contact:

- CSP Nigeria: Zayyad Bello, zbello@sahelconsult.com
- ISSD Africa: James Mulkerrins, james.mulkerrins@wur.nl

Conference programme

The event will last for 2 days starting 09:00 Monday 17th February and concluding 15:30 on Tuesday 18th February.

The event will be highly interactive, giving space and encouragement for multiple partners to present and discuss their own insights, experiences and the challenges they encounter. As the event prioritises building connection between invited organisations towards meaningful future collaboration, attendees will be challenged to engage proactively in various types of discussions, breakouts and interactive sessions. Lunch and refreshment breaks will provide space for informal connection and relationship building.

Conference programme overview

Date/time	Title	Description
Monday 17th February		
09:00 – 10:00	Introduction, welcoming remarks and programme overview	Organisers and invited delegates set the scene and give impetus to the discussions
10:00 – 10:30	Keynote presentation: 10 Principles for Good Seed Aid	SeedSystem.org / Mercy Corps presentation
10:30 – 11:15	Seed response strategies in Nigeria's fragile regions	Interactive panel discussion
11:15 – 11:45	Refreshment break	
11:45 – 13:15	Overcoming barriers to applying principles for good seed aid	Interactive discussions led by ISSD Africa Action Learning Project 2 (Mercy Corps & SeedSystem.org)
13:15 – 13:30	Refreshment break	
13:30 – 15:00	Market-based responses for seed system sustainability and resilience	Interactive discussions led by ISSD Africa ALP-3 (Mercy Corps)
15:00 – 15:30	Key lessons from the day & close	Plenary recap of key takeaway insights from the day
15:30 – 16:30	Late networking lunch	

Tuesday 18th February		
09:00 – 09:30	A deeper understanding of the impact of conflict on seed systems	SeedSystem.org / Mercy Corps presentation
09:30 – 11:00	Strengthening Nigeria's Institutional Seed Markets	Interactive validation of the CSP Nigeria study on Nigeria's institutional seed markets
11:00 – 11:30	Refreshment break	
11:30 – 13:00	Resilient and diverse Farmer-Managed Seed Systems	Presentation and discussion of results of specific initiatives around community-based seed production
13:00 – 13:15	Refreshment break	
13:15 – 14:15	Synthesis: Pathways for new evidence-based strategies for innovation	Panel discussion and plenary synthesis discussion on key conference takeaways
14:15 – 14:40	Closing remarks and farewell	
14:30 – 15:30	Lunch	