

Introductory Brief

Nigeria Seed Sector Review

29 August 2019



Nigeria and the Netherlands have agreed to work together enhancing the performance of Nigeria's seed sector. This introductory brief informs stakeholders on a review shaping the collaboration and presents its initial steps.

Policy context

The Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Abuja have agreed to collaborate in the development of Nigeria's seed sector. One of the steps to shape this collaboration is to conduct a seed sector review with the aim to support the development of a multi-year seed sector development strategy or Seed Road Map, endorsed by the major seed sector stakeholders in Nigeria. The Seed Road Map shall be used to develop the Nigeria-Netherlands Seed Partnership, which will become part of a multi-annual collaborative horticulture and seed sector development programme.

Review partners

Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WCIDI) has been selected as lead party to conduct the review. It collaborates with Sahel Consulting, Agriculture & Nutrition Ltd., East-West Seeds and its Knowledge Transfer Foundation, the National Agricultural Seeds Council and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Approach, Process and outputs

The partners have been requested by the Dutch Government to be guided in the review by the Integrated Seed Sector Development approach (see text box). Furthermore, the review takes a multistakeholder approach in the development of the Seed Road Map and shaping the collaboration.

Integrated Seed Sector Development

Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) approach, which recognizes and builds upon a diversity of seed systems in the sector. The approach considers that the performance of a seed sector is influenced by the structures and functioning of the government, legislation, and economy. Most seed value chains are composed of a mixture of stakeholders from public and private sectors, and civil society, as operators and service providers. The way in which they interact in formal, intermediary and informal seed systems, through their operations or in provision of services is subject to the enabling environment including the legislative and business environment. ISSD takes into consideration that seed value chains differ by crop and creates options instead of one-fit-all solutions for variety release, seed quality assurance, plant variety protection and promotion of seed entrepreneurship. ISSD seeks for a functional balance between public and private efforts in the seed sector, balancing commercial and developmental interests. The ISSD approach is brought into practice in Africa through comprehensive national seed sector development programmes in Burundi, Ethiopia and Uganda as well as an African-wide community of practice.

Figure 1 shares the steps, activities and outcomes of the review. Outputs will be:

- Assessment of seed sector performance
- Seed Road Map for Nigeria
- Assessment of comparative advantages of the Netherlands as partner contributing to innovation pathways enhancing the performance of the seed sector in Nigeria
- Nigeria-Netherlands Seed Partnership

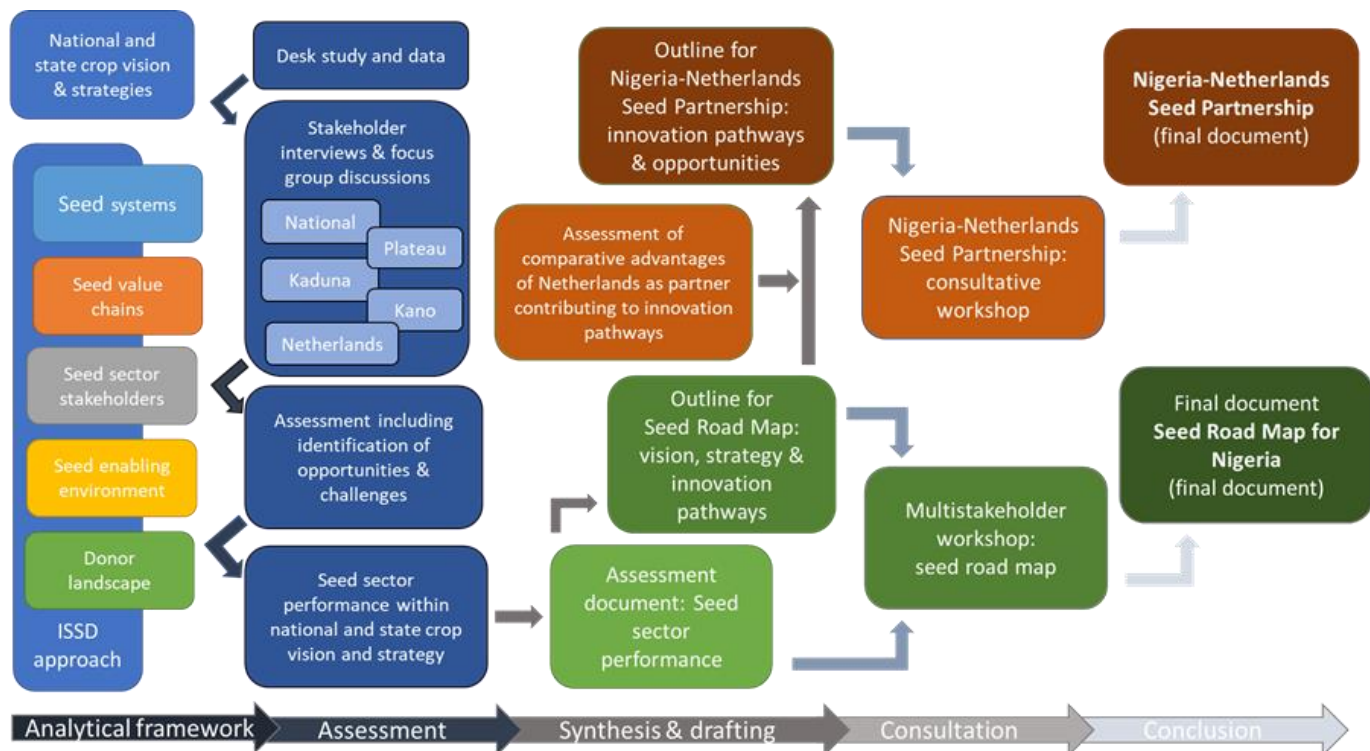


Figure 1: The five phases and different activities of the seed sector review

Federal level and states

The development of the seed road map has a national character and covers all crops. The inputs to the development of the partnership focuses at both federal level and zooms in on focus states in the Nigeria-Netherlands collaboration being Kano, Kaduna and Plateau States.

Crop groups

The initial steps of the review are organized by crop groups, each characterized by specific seed systems, structure and functioning of seed value chains, stakeholders, constraints and opportunities in their performance. The crop groups are (a) maize; (b) other cereals (e.g. rice and sorghum); (c) legumes (e.g. cowpea, groundnut and soybean); (d) root- and tuber crops and banana (RTB) (e.g. cassava, yam, sweet potato, plantain and potato); and vegetables (e.g. tomato, onion, chili pepper). Upon the crop-group based assessment, the team will be working driven by specific transversal topics as early generation seed supply and quality assurance.

Initial steps

The team conducts a desk study, collects data and produces a series of crop briefs. It will organize eight focus groups discussions (FGDs). Each FGD will focus on

one crop group and eight representatives of public, private, civil society and knowledge stakeholders will be invited. The FGD will be organized as follows:

- National: Maize & RTBs
- Kaduna: Maize & Vegetables
- Kano: Legumes & Vegetables
- Plateau: Legumes & RTBs

Given the three focus states, it is decided not to include the crop group of other cereals in the FGDs. In addition to FGDs, the team will identify key stakeholders of individual interviews. FGDs and interviews will take place in the period of 10-20 September.

Next steps

Based on the synthesis of data and information collected, the outcomes of the FGDs and interviews, the team will compile a first document for the assessment of the seed sector. This assessment will be a basis for developing the Seed Road Map and the Nigeria-Netherlands Seed Partnership. A national multistakeholder workshop will be organized in the last week of October in Abuja. The team will also discuss the assessment with seed stakeholders in the Netherlands and identify and elaborate areas where the Netherlands has a comparative strength to contribute to the Seed Road Map. This discussion will feed into the outline for the Nigeria-Netherlands Seed Partnership.