

Process of National Seed Road Map development

1. Seed sector review

A desk study and a series of focus group discussions (FGDs) organized around four distinct crop groups provided inputs to the seed sector assessment. During the FGDs, resource persons and crop experts identified gaps in terms of seed supply meeting demand and associated challenges in the performance of the seed sector. In addition, they provided inputs for the development of strategies addressing those challenges. The consulting team has translated the challenges and strategies into ambitions and organized them within the framework for seed sector transformation.

2. Identification of challenges

Based upon estimated seed gaps, the FGDs identified major challenges, which were further elaborated using key references (e.g. the Nigeria section of the Enabling the Business of Agriculture report (EBA, 2017¹), The African Seed Access Index (TASAI, Nigeria report, 2019²) and the Access to Seeds Index Western and Central Africa report (AtSI, 2019³)). Challenges were grouped and structured according to the six functions for seed sector transformation, taking into consideration that some challenges are important to all crops, and some are specific to a crop or crop group. Challenges have been verified through a review by key partners of the assessment report⁴. More detailed insights on the challenges for crops and crop groups are available in the crop brief report⁵.

3. Definition of ambitions

Based on the challenges, ambitions were elaborated; they are descriptions of a desired state or outcome of a transformation process. Ambitions are grouped again according to the six functions of sector transformation. They are marked as general, i.e. relevant to the entire seed sector and all crops, or as specific to certain crop groups (maize; roots, tubers and bananas; legumes, rice and small grains; and vegetables). Linkages between ambitions across different functions have been identified.

4. Multi-stakeholder workshop: consolidation and prioritization

Co-organized by the NASC, SEEDAN and EKN, the workshop brought together 28 experts that represented various public, research, private, civil-society and farmer organizations. The workshop (i) reviewed and verified the seed sector assessment; (ii) enhanced stakeholders' understanding of the framework of seed sector transformation and its use to develop the National Seed Road Map; (iii) prioritized ambitions for seed sector transformation in crop groups and stakeholder groups; and (iv) drafted and elaborated prioritized ambitions into strategic innovation pathways as part of the National Seed Road Map. Find more details in the multi-stakeholder workshop report⁶. The following topics with their ambitions have been prioritized during the workshop.

¹ See: <https://eba.worldbank.org/en/data/exploreconomies/nigeria/2019>

² See: https://tasai.org/wp-content/themes/tasai2016/img/tasai_nigeria_brief_2018_lr.pdf

³ See: <https://www.accesstoseeds.org/index/western-central-africa/>

⁴ See: https://issdafrica.files.wordpress.com/2020/02/seed-sector-review-nigeria-assessment-report_final.pdf

⁵ See: https://issdafrica.files.wordpress.com/2020/02/seed-sector-review-nigeria-crop-briefs_final.pdf

⁶ See: <https://edepot.wur.nl/515371>

No.	Topic	No.	Topic
1.	Decentralization of seed quality assurance	12.	Variety release
2.	Revenue generation for seed quality assurance	13.	Financial services and products
3.	Sector governance and coordination	14.	Crop value chains and food security policies stimulating seed demand
4.	Seed information	15.	Company professionalization and specialization
5.	Extension on seed and cultivation practices	16.	Seed distribution networks
6.	Plant variety protection	17.	Community-based seed production
7.	Early generation seed supply	18.	Seed trade association
8.	Infrastructural capacity for seed production and marketing	19.	Alignment of donor interventions
9.	Tackling counterfeiting	20.	Institutional markets
10.	Seed company marketing and promotion	21.	Seed import
11.	Professional variety development	22.	Seed export

5. Strategic innovation pathways

All prioritized topics are presented in the National Seed Road Map and for each of them a strategic innovation pathway has been developed that describes: ambitions with linkages to the six functions of seed sector transformation, a narrative for the challenges, pathway with a maximum of five activities, key stakeholders, an organization that may catalyse the envisaged change process, policy references, and illustrative examples. The description of the pathways have been reviewed by both Nigerian and international experts.

6. Consultation with development partners

Shortly upon the multi-stakeholder workshop, the EKN hosted a meeting with several development partners with activities relevant to the seed sector. The outcome of the assessment and the multi-stakeholder workshop was shared and discussed. Critical in the presentation was the list of prioritized topics which was linked to ongoing donor supported activities. The development partners verified this mapping, which provided an input to the development of the National Seed Road Map and the Nigeria-Netherlands Seed Partnership.

7. Consultation with Dutch seed sector stakeholders

The outcomes of the assessment and workshop have been shared in a meeting with critical seed sector stakeholders in the Netherlands including industry, government, civil society, knowledge and regulatory organizations. Strategic innovation pathways have been identified for which the Netherlands has an interest and comparative advantage in contributing to the transformation of the seed sector in Nigeria. The insights obtained during this meeting are critical to the identification of strategic innovation pathways to be included in the Nigeria-Netherlands Seed Partnership.

8. National Seed Road Map Document

A National Seed Road Map document has been developed that is structured by the framework for seed sector transformation, and that provides a description of the vision for seed sector development, the challenges, the ambitions and the strategic innovation pathways. Partners in the seed sector review and participants in the multi-stakeholder workshop have reviewed the National Seed Road Map document. The National Seed Road Map will be officially launched during the next Seed Connect Conference. The Seed Road Map has been published at the website of NASC⁷.

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⁷ See: https://seedcouncil.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/National-Seed-Road-Map_Nigeria-NASC-Adopted.pdf