

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS TO FACILITATE SEED TRADE

J.K.Cheptaiwa

KENYA PLANT HEALTH INSPECTORATE SERVICE (KEPHIS)

Seed Enterprises Management Institute

SEMIS - Seed Quality Assurance, Management and Control Processes

Course 24th April – 06th May, 2017

2 types

1. International- Technical

- a. OECD Seed Schemes – Field certification
- b. ISTA laboratory methods
- c. IPPC disease movement

2. Regional – Trading blocks, Policy

- a. EAC / ASARECA
- b. SADC
- c. COMESA
- d. ECOWAS

OECD SEED SCHEMES

- Objective: Control of Seed Moving in International Trade
- open to all Members of the Organisation, as well as to any Member of the United Nations
- implemented by the Authorities designated for that purpose by govnts
- A State desiring to adhere to one or more OECD Seed Scheme(s) shall notify the Secretary General
- applicable to seven groups of species

SEMIS UoN
Seed Enterprises Management Institute
University of Nairobi

ISTA

- Objective: Uniformity in seed testing
- The International Seed Testing Association is an association of persons and laboratories
- Founded in 1924, with the aim to develop and publish standard procedures in the field of seed testing.
- Association produces internationally agreed rules for seed sampling and testing
- ISTA is independent and acts free from economic interest and political influence

SEMIS UON
Seed Enterprises Management Institute
University of Nairobi

IPPC

- Aim: control the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products.
- Is a 1951 multilateral treaty overseen by the FAO.
- Convention has 182 parties, which includes 179 United Nations member states
- The only international standard setting body for plant health.
- Members shall base their sanitary or phytosanitary measures on its standards, guidelines or recommendations

SEMIS UoN
Seed Enterprises Management Institute
University of Nairobi

SADC

- Is an inter-governmental organization headquartered in Gaborone, Botswana
- Consist of 15 Member Countries.
- Member states are guided by Common protocols and Declarations
- Objective to achieve development, peace and security, and economic growth.
- Member states implement through Indicative Strategic Devt Plan

SEMIS UON
Seed Enterprises Management Institute
University of Nairobi

ECOWAS

- is a regional group of fifteen West African countries
- founded in order to achieve "collective self-sufficiency" for its member states
- Operate through ECOWAS Community Acts.

Seed Enterprises Management Institute
University of Nairobi

EAC

- Intergovernmental organization of 6 partner states
- Home to 150 million citizens
- Operates through a treaty

SEMIS UoN

Seed Enterprises Management Institute

University of Nairobi

Mode of operation

- national studies on key constraints
- consultation on opportunities for improvements and
- dialogue between the countries to reach common agreements.

SEEMIS UoN
Seed Enterprises Management Institute
University of Nairobi

Key areas for harmonization

- Variety evaluation, release and registration process
- Seed certification
- Phytosanitary measures
- Plant Variety Protection
- Import/export documentation

Technical Out put

ASARECA Monograph No. 4 of 2000.

Harmonization thru EASCOM

COMPOSITION OF EASCOM

- National Seed Trade Associations
- National Certification Agencies
- Ministries of Agric policy dept
- Plant breeders assoc/NARI

SEMIS UoN

Seed Enterprises Management Institute

University of Nairobi

EASCOM's functions

- Influence review of seed policies, laws and regulations to implement agreements
- Strengthen national seed and plant breeders' associations
- Develop and maintain data bases and disseminate information to stakeholders
- Spearhead capacity building for seed industry stakeholders

EASCOM Functions cont.

- Represent seed industry in regional economic blocs - the East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Committees
- Create an effective network of seed industry stakeholders in the region
- Enhance seed market development
- **Strengthen the Private-Public partnerships**

SEMIS UoN
Seed Enterprises Management Institute
University of Nairobi

EAC Harmonization Agreements

- Enact legislation (Seed Act) that accounts for harmonization agreements
- Finalise seed Act implementing regulations;
- Finalise Plant Breeders Rights Act in accordance with UPOV 1991 and its implementing regulations
- Autonomous certification agency
- Activate National Seed Trade Association
- Acceded to OECD and ISTA seed testing rules
- Develop quarantine pest list
- Simplify export/import documentation procedures

COMESA

- organization of free independent sovereign states
- Partner states of 20 countries
- Operates through a treaty

Strategy;

- economic prosperity through regional integration

The 2008 Victoria Declaration of COMESA Ministers of Agriculture

- ***Member States commit to harmonizing, within two years, seed trade regulations in the region and to finalize a regional protocol for the protection of new varieties of plants within the same period;***
- ***It urges member States and development partners to work in collaboration with the COMESA Secretariat to implement the decisions of this Victoria Declaration on Agriculture, together with all decisions of the Ministers as contained in the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Committee of Ministers.***

SEMIJON
Seed Enterprises Management Institute
University of Nairobi

COMESA harmonization initiative

- Formation of COMRAP-ACTESA, a specialized agency for inputs (COMESA)
- Harmonization in the 4 areas, except PVP left out with 12 selected crops
- 6 technical workshops held, and a validation workshop
- COMESA regulations signed Ministers Feb 2015
- Aligning member regulations ongoing

Issues

- Under our Regions, free goods movement, seeds and plant materials excluded
- Agreements are yet to be incorporated in national laws and regulations
- Biosafety laws and regulations need to be urgently included in activities
- What is our role in ensuring success ?
- Can we count successes in harmonization?

Issues

- How do we assist each other in our regions, e.g. reaching secretariats to incorporate agreements, use of standards committee etc
- Expand to other crops
- Can we have regional offices for PVP
- Can we influence the process and policy environment to implement agreements

THANK YOU

Seed Enterprises Management Institute
University of Nairobi