

African seed system models (Formal and Informal) - Eastern, Southern, and Western Africa; the need for harmonization of seed laws

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

*SEED ENTERPRISE MANAGEMENT (SEMIS) SHORT COURSE ON:
NATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS (NPPOS) AND
SEED QUALITY REGULATORS COURSE*

DATES: 16th – 21st January, 2017

By
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AFSTA

AFSTA

- Africa Seed Trade Association
- Established in 2000 to promote trade in quality seeds in Africa
- Hosted in Nairobi, Kenya with a regional office in Dakar, Senegal
- AFSTA is mandated to dialogue with seed stakeholders of public and private sectors at national, regional and global levels, on issues that contributes to the development of the Africa seed industry

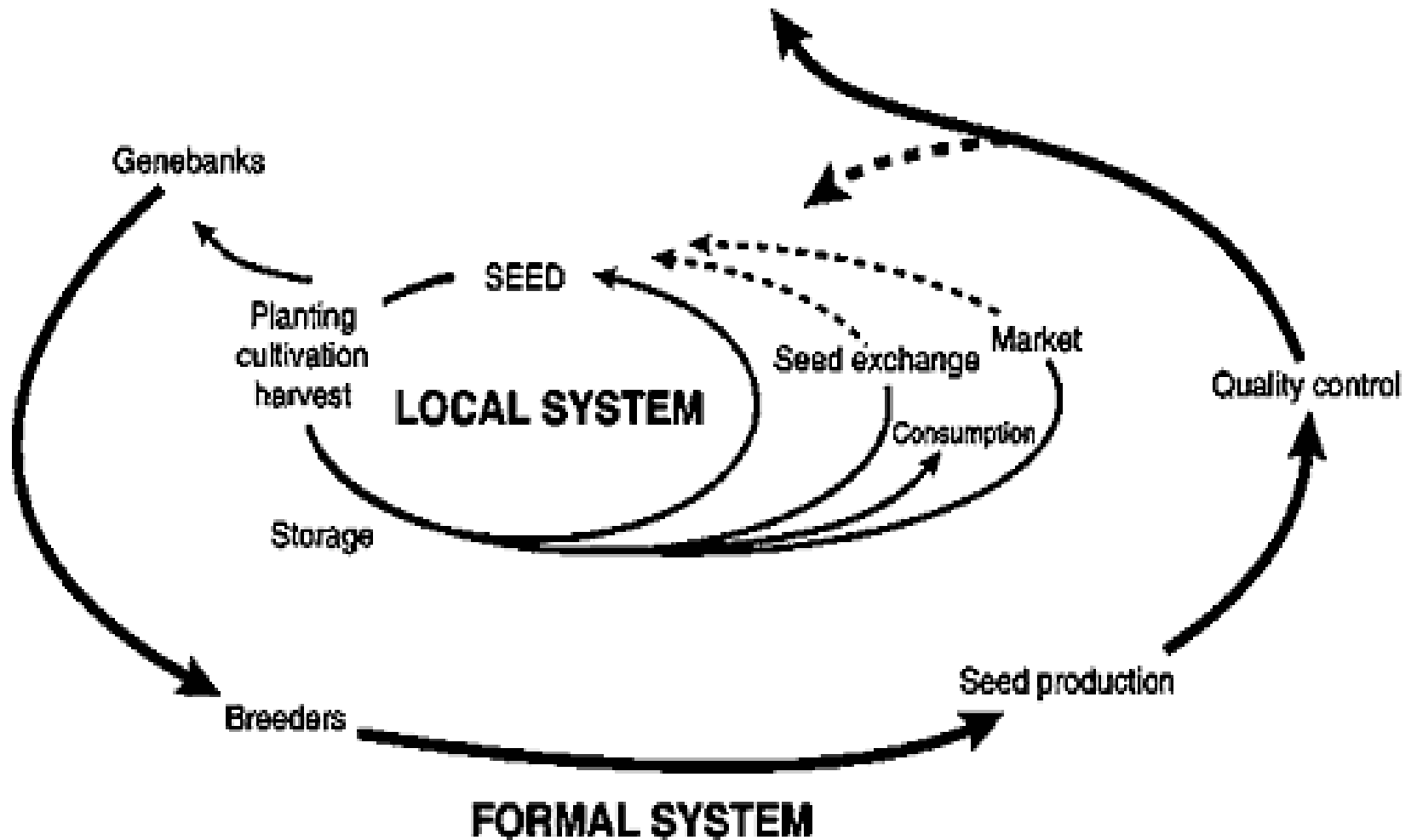
AFSTA in Africa

Mission: *Promoting Trade in Improved Quality Seeds in Africa*



ON
Institute

AFRICA SEED SYSTEM



AFRICA SEED SYSTEM

Informal system

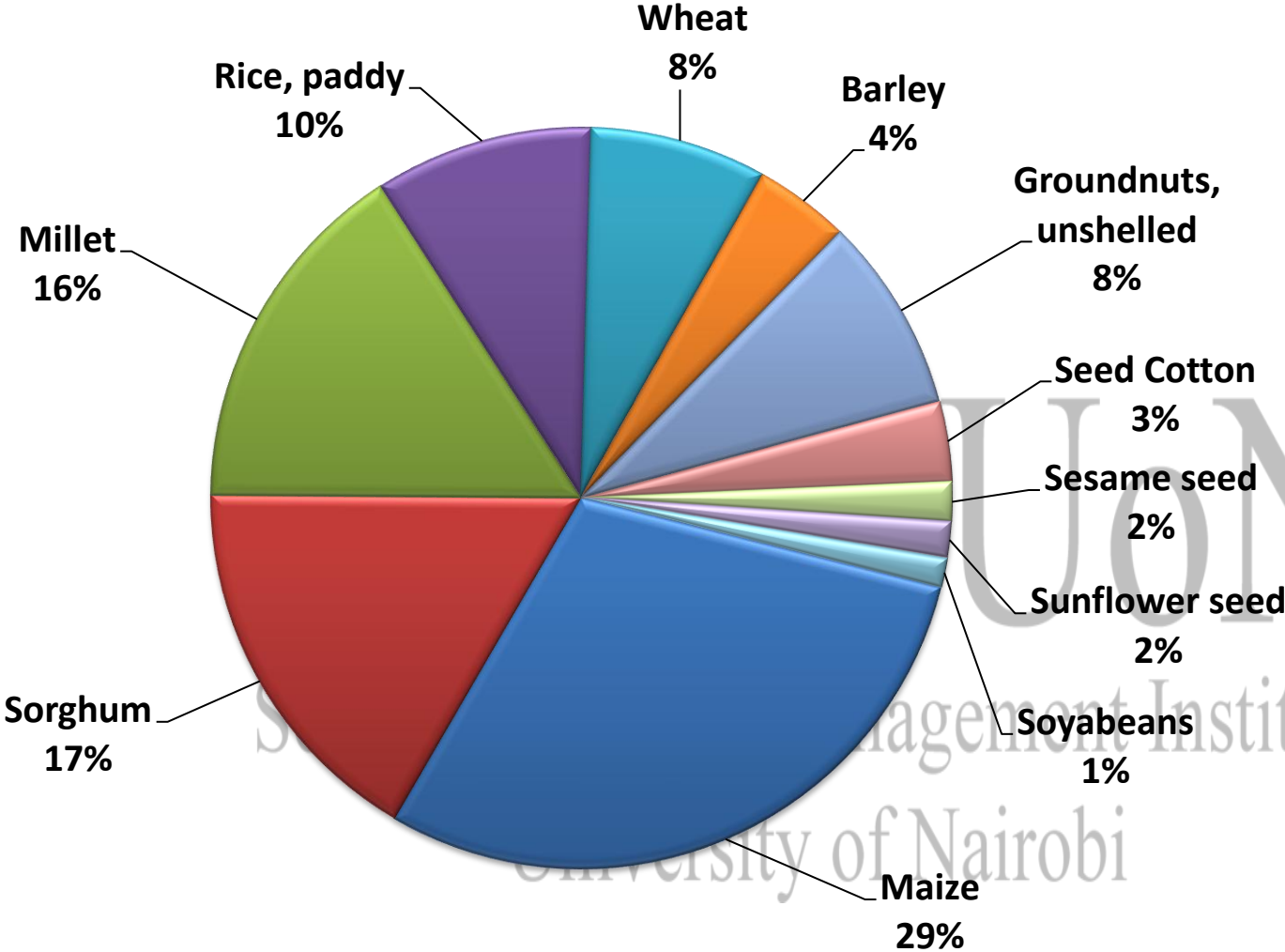
- The unregulated seed source
- The traditional source of seed in the continent
- Here, farmers produce, disseminate and access seed directly from their own harvest or through barter trade
- The seed may be of variable quality and the distinction between seed and grain is not always clear
- Controls over 80% of seed supply for most food crops for communities in Africa
- However, with changing markets, climate and new pests and diseases, informal seed system cannot sustain food production in Africa

AFRICA SEED SYSTEM

Formal system

- **The** regulated seed system, providing about 20% of seed demand
- The system is usually subject to national policies and regulations, and involves various stakeholders
- Dates back to the colonial period when research institutes were established to improve the production methods of cocoa, cotton, oil palm, coffee, tea, tobacco and maize in parts of Africa
- Involves a chain of interlinked public and private activities resulting in seed of well-defined quality
- The interlinked activities include research, multiplication, processing, distribution and uptake, transport and storage of seeds

Key Food Crops in Africa



Africa Seed System

- Low use of quality seeds contributing to food insecurity
- Low adoption of quality seeds by the farmers
- Poor government support to the seed sector
- The seed sector face many challenges that limit growth and competitiveness
- Many uncoordinated seed actors resulting to confusing the sector
- Africa is net importer of seeds despite the potential to produce locally
- Many countries apply outdated seed laws and regulations which limit the availability of quality seeds to farmers
- Weak voice of the private seed sector in the agricultural agenda
- Absence/weak seed trade associations

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Background

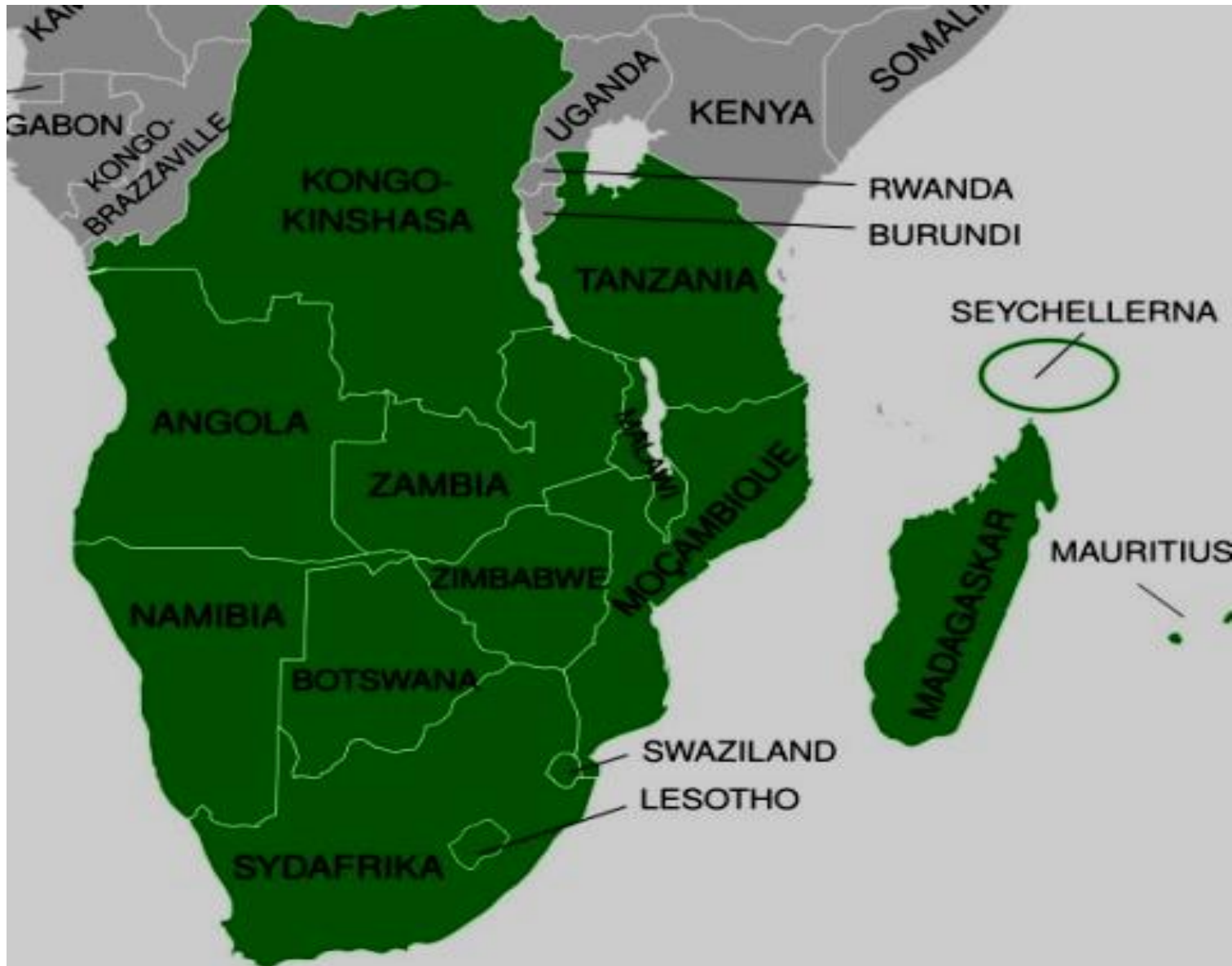
- In the 1930s, hybrid maize breeding was started by white settlers in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) and later in South Africa
- Zimbabwe became the second country, after the United States, to introduce double-cross hybrid maize
- The white settlers lobbied for agricultural research, extension services and favorable policies, and formed Southern Rhodesian Seed Maize Association
- Formal seed production spread to other parts of Africa with strong disparities across countries and crops
- The disparities led to different seed laws and regulations in the various countries thus limiting growth and development of the regional seed sector

SADC HARMONISED SEED TRADE REGULATIONS

- Initiated in 1987 to increase the availability of high quality seed to farmers and remove national regulatory barriers for the movement of seed across borders
- Focus areas;

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SADC MEMBER STATES

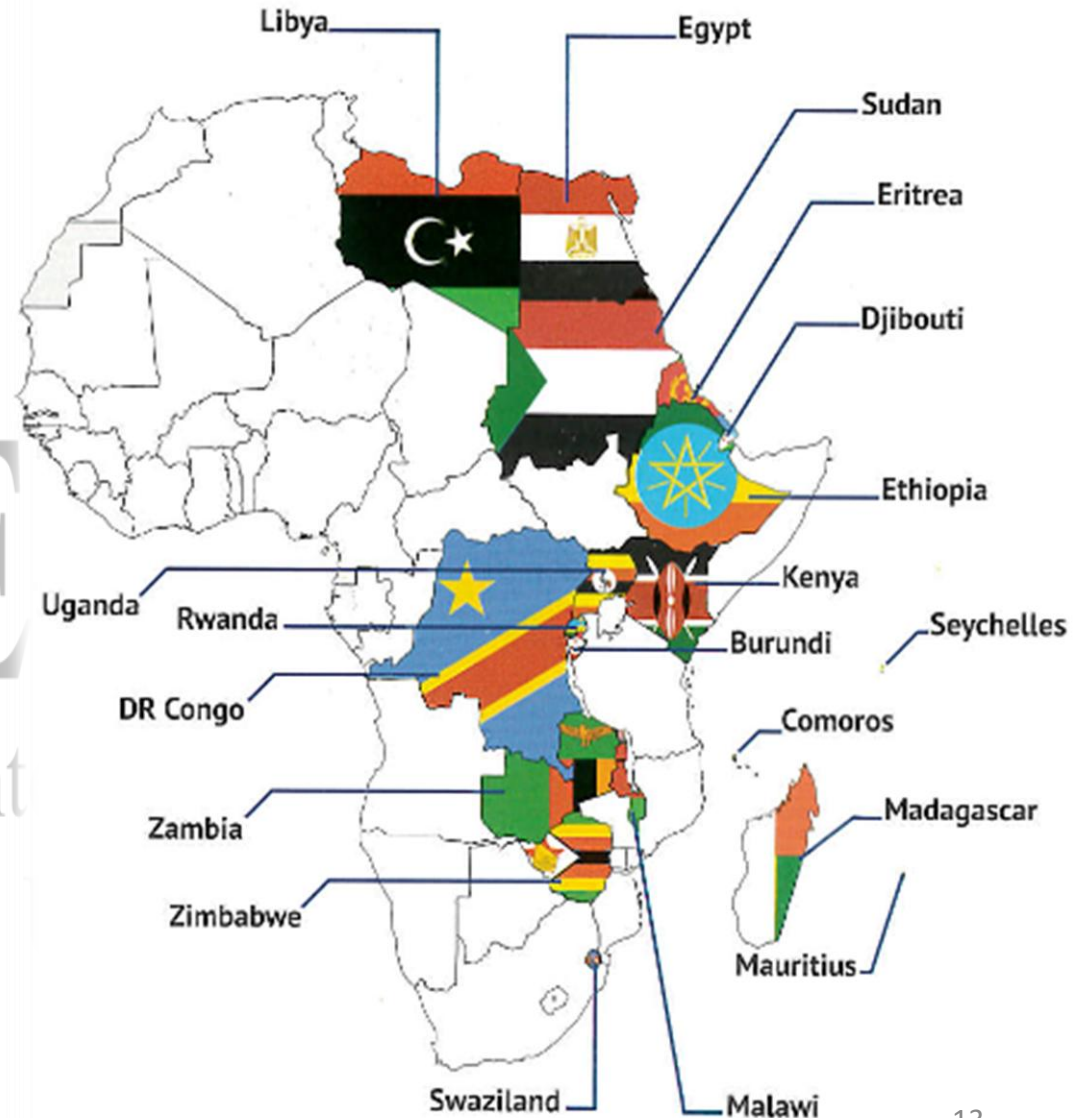


COMESA HARMONISED SEED TRADE REGULATIONS

- Initiated in 2008 to reduce barriers to seed movement in the region
- Focus areas;
 - variety release system
 - seed certification process
 - phytosanitary measures
 - import/export documentations
- Implementation status
 - member states expected to align national laws to COMESA regulations
 - so far only Rwanda and Burundi have aligned

COMESA MEMBER STATES

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Seed Ent



EAC HARMONISATION OF SEED TRADE

Background

- In EAC, production of improved seeds dates back to the colonial period when agricultural research was introduced in Africa
- In the 1950s, hybrid maize production was established in Kenya and Kenya seed company formed
- With independence, agricultural research spread to countries in the region with disparities on crops of interests
- The disparities led to variation in;
 - enactment of seed of seed laws and regulations
 - human resource capacity, infrastructure and institutional frameworks
- In 1999, EAC harmonization of seed policies, laws and regulations was initiated
- EAC harmonisation agreement made in 2002 between Kenya, Uganda and Tz, to focus in 5 areas; Variety evaluation, release & registration, Seed certification, variety release and protection, phytosanitary measures and import/export documentation

EAC HARMOISATION OF SEED TRADE

Implementation status

- Variety release system adopted in Kenya
Uganda and Tanzania
- Adoption of the other thematic areas are
being negotiated

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ECOWAS HARMONISATION OF SEED TRADE REGULATIONS

Background

- Improved seed production was initiated by colonial authorities in the early 1920s focusing on export crops of cocoa, palm etc
- The region has 17 countries
- Very low use of improved quality seeds
- WASP coordinates implementation of regional seed policies

Africa Seed Industry issues

- Low use of quality seeds contributing to food insecurity
- Facing many challenges that limit growth and competitiveness
 - global seed market value; over USD 47 billion
 - Africa seed market value; below USD 10 billion
- Many uncoordinated seed actors, confusing the industry
- Africa is net importer of seeds despite the potential to produce locally
- Many countries apply outdated seed laws and regulations; tariff and non-tariff barriers

Improving the Africa Seed Industry

- More attention to Agricultural Research
- Improve support systems in the seed industry
- Organize commodity markets
- Improve adoption of superior crop varieties
- Climate change mitigation
- Strengthen NSTAs
- Knowledge sharing
- Integrated Approach

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