

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

THE NATIONAL SEED POLICY



POPULAR VERSION

JANUARY 2020

National Seed Policy | Popular Version



PREFACE

Many households in Uganda derive their livelihoods from agriculture. The availability, accessibility and affordability of quality seed is key for a sustainable agricultural production. The National Seed Policy shall contribute to increased use of quality seed of improved varieties for domestic, regional and international markets.

Chapter One

Introduction

The National Seed Policy was approved by cabinet in October 2018 and launched by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries in March, 2019.

The main objective of the National Seed Policy is to foster growth and development of a vibrant seed sub-sector in Uganda. It clearly explains the supportive efforts that the formal and informal seed systems play in providing seed to the farming community. Thus, the need to develop this popular version for all stakeholders to have access, read and understand the importance of using quality seed.

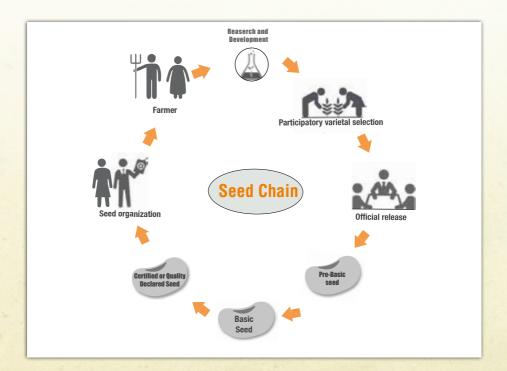


Chapter Two

Policy Objectives

The policy objectives are to:

- i. strengthen research and development for the seed sector;
- ii. strengthen capacity of the key players along the seed value chain to achieve an effective and efficient seed sector;
- iii. strengthen the seed quality control system along the entire value chain and;
- iv. enhance knowledge and information management for the seed sector.



Where we are now and where we want to be (Policy direction)

Majority of farmers in Uganda rely on home saved seed while others use seed from unknown sources (fake seed) leading to low crop yields. To improve crop yields, there should be increased uptake and use of quality seed.

The National Seed Policy, therefore, provides an enabling environment in which farmers can access quality seed for increased production and productivity. This will; improve food and nutrition security, increase household income, and provide raw materials for agro-industrialization.



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Chapter Three

Policy priority areas and strategies

How will research contribute to the development of quality seed?

Research and academic institutions including the National Agricultural Research Organisations, will participate in developing new commercial and nutritional food security varieties. This shall be done through plant breeding and production of new seed varieties for the farmers.



How will government ensure that there is enough quality seed for farmers in Uganda?

Through regulating the functions of the seed companies which produce Certified Seed and Local Seed Businesses which produce Quality Declared Seed. This will be implemented by:

- supporting farmers, farmers' organisations and cooperatives while building their capacity to demand and use quality seed;
- supporting schemes that expand the infrastructure for seed production, conditioning and storage and;
- promoting improved affordable and gender friendly technologies to support seed multiplication.



How will farmers access quality seed for planting?

Farmers can access quality seed through Seed companies, seed stockists, agro dealers for certified seed and Local Seed Businesses for Quality Declared Seed. This will be done through:

- strengthening seed distribution and marketing to enhance commercialization of quality seed;
- seed companies and Local Seed Businesses will market seed in appropriate and affordable package sizes to promote the use of quality seed by all farmers;
- promoting the establishment of seed marketing outlets and networks of agro-dealers and seed stockists near farmers.



How does government ensure quality of seed in the market is maintained?

Goverment shall conduct routine; inspection, seed testing, issuance of certification labels, monitoring and post-market surveillance to ensure compliance to seed quality based on the established standards.

This will include:

- routine and spot checks of agro-input stores;
- · random sampling for testing;
- receiving feedbacks from farmers and agro-dealers; and
- removing and destroying noncompliant seed from stores.





How does Government ensure a proper Seed Sector Intergrated Information Managment System?

Government will put in place an integrated seed information management system as part of the implementation of the National Seed Policy. Sector Intergrated Information Managment System is a data base consisting of hardware and software used to coordinate seed subsector information to aid seed related management decisions.

Seed Sector Intergrated Information Managment System will support real time information sharing with stakeholders on; actual seed demand, tracking and tracing systems, and linking seed producers with users.



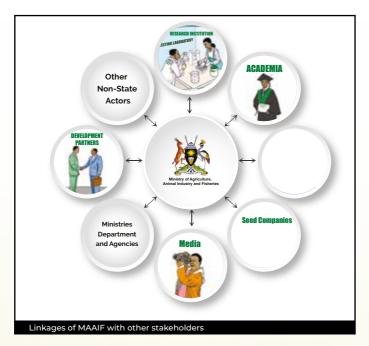
What is required to build the Human Resource capacity for seed science and technology?

- establish seed science and technology training centers including universities, agricultural training colleges and seed research institutions;
- · develop and popularize a seed science and technology curriculum;
- select and recruit required competent personnel for seed science and technology;
- establish seed science training and skilling centers across the country; and
- procure the necessary tools including Information, Education and Communications materials, laboratory equipment, among others for use in seed science and technology.



How will Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries work with the different stakeholders in the seed value chain for successful implementation of the National Seed Policy?

The Ministry responsible for agriculture will collaborate and partner with among others, the key stakeholders for successful implementation of the National Seed Policy.



Role and Responsibilities of seed value chain stakeholders

Value chain	Key players	Roles and responsibilities
Strengthen Research and Development	National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) Academia International Agricultural Research Systems (IARs), Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIARs),Seed companies	Generating new commercial and food and nutritional security varieties
Seed multiplication and conditioning	Seed companies, Local Seed Businesses	Multiply high-quality seed under the formal, and informal seed system
Seed marketing and distribution	Seed companies, Agro dealers, Local Seed Businesses	Distribute and market Quality Seed to enhance farmer uptake and commercialization.

Seed quality assurance	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (Department of Crop Inspection and Certification) Local Governments (District Agricultural Officers)	Conduct Monitoring, inspection, seed testing, and post-market surveillance to ensure compliance to seed quality based on the established standards
Seed Sector Integrated Information Management	Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Academia Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Development partners	Establish and implement a coordinated Seed Sector Integrated Information Management System (SSIIMS)
Capacity building in seed science and technology	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (Department of Crop Inspection and Certification and Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services) Academia and agricultural training institutions	Train, skill and retool seed scientists, technicians and other actors in the seed value chain to manage the seed systems.
Collaboration, coordination, partnerships and linkages	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Ministry of Local Government, Gender, Trade, Education, Health, Works, Energy, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of East African Community Affairs (MEACA), Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Lands, Water, Etc.) Uganda Seed Trade Association, Uganda National Agro Dealers Association (UNADA), Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE).	Building linkages and partnerships for a vibrant seed industry

Chapter Four

Cross cutting issues

A. Intellectual Property Rights

The National Seed Policy will be implemented in tandem with other policies and laws that protect communities' intellectual property rights over their traditional varieties.



B. Environment and Natural Resource Protection and Conservation This National Seed Policy will be implemented in consistency with the Environment Management Act and cognizant of the need to preserve Uganda's heritage for current and future generations.



C. Gender and Development

Women, men and the youth play a pivotal role in the seed subsector including; variety selection, multiplication, seed conditioning and seed marketing. The policy provides interventions to facilitate youth, women, men and other vulnerable groups to strategically intervene in enhancing availability of quality seed and promoting gender-friendly technologies to support seed multiplication and post-harvest handling.



D. Climate Change

The impacts of climate change on agricultural production include erratic rainfall, frequent droughts, floods, higher temperatures and occurrence of more destructive pests and diseases. Crop improvement interventions envisaged under the National Seed Policy will ensure better use of climate smart technologies to adapt and mitigate adverse effects of climate variability; thereby enhancing the resilience of the farming systems.



Chapter Five

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

Qn1. How can I differentiate between quality seed and grain?

Ans: I can differentiate seed from grain in the following ways;

- (i) Source of seed should be got from an authorized agro-input dealer and Local seed businesses
- (ii) Packaging of seed is usually in the sizes from 1-10Kg with company name and physical address
- (iii) Presence of a tamper-proof label attached to the seed bag indicating the seed lot Number, germination, purity and moisture content percentages.

Qn2. What is improved seed?

This is quality seed of improved varieties porpulary known as "improved seed"

Ans: There is no improved seed, but we have quality seed of improved varieties. Seed produced from a crop variety selected for specific qualities such as high yield, pests and disease tolerance, drought tolerant and liked by the farmers.

Qn3. Why is quality seed expensive?

Compared to planting grain as seed, quality seed is not expensive. The costs incurred in the production, conditioning and certification of the improved seed are what make the final price of the seed. Improved seed matures earlier, gives better yields, is tolerant to drought, pests and diseases.

Qn4. How can I get quality seed of improved varieties?

Ans: All seed produced under the certification services of Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) is of improved varieties. Therefore, one can get seed of improved varieties from seed companies, agro-dealers, stockists and Local Seed businesses.

Qn5. What is the difference between seed with a blue label and seed with a green label?

Ans: Seed with a blue label is certified seed produced by seed companies, while seed with a green label is Quality Declared Seed produced by Local Seed Businesses.

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The contents of the popular version are the sole responsibility of the Minstry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

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