



Progress Report Collaborative Seed Programme Nigeria

Programme under the Nigeria-Netherlands Seed Partnership

Reporting Period: 1 June - 31 December 2022

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COLLABORATIVE
SEEDPROGRAMME

Nigeria-Netherlands

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Photo cover: Farmers who have been trained on the use of good agronomic practices for vegetable growing using quality seed. Picture courtesy of East-West Seeds.

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1 Reporting Details

Reporting period	1 June – 31 December 2021
Reporting manager	Marja Thijssen, Programme leader
Reporting institution	Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WCIDI)
Date	13 May 2022

2 Key Project Data

Project title	Collaborative Seed Programme (CSP) under the Nigeria-Netherlands Seed Partnership (NNSP)
Current project phase	Project year 2, period after the inception phase
Project launch	01-11-2020
Closing date	31-10-2024
Budget for reporting period	€ 673,242
Overall budget	€ 3,536,850
Overall contribution by	-

3 Executive Summary

a. Main results or progress towards achieving results, lessons learned and conclusions

The eight CSP topic teams are well on track to deliver on their strategies and outcomes. Baseline studies have been completed or are close to completion; some have been shared for endorsement in multi-stakeholder workshops ('Extension' and 'Variety release'), others not yet ('SQA' and 'Donor alignment'). Topics for action research and pilots have been selected ('Extension' and 'Variety release'); and the first demonstrations are in the field already ('Extension'). Capacity development programmes ('PVP') and guidelines for variety demonstrations ('Seed company promotion') have been designed. The first training of farmers and seed certification officers have been given ('Extension', 'Seed quality assurance').

The programme commenced sector coordination activities to increase programme and National Seed Road Map (NSRM) awareness. Two seed sector platform meetings were organized including a physical meeting of local and international partners at the Seed Connect Africa event. The donor community was briefed of CSP objectives and coordination efforts designed to improve donor alignment.

While carrying out activities and achieving results, the programme understands that documenting and presenting best practices, experiences and strategies from other developing economies to stakeholders for comparison, allows for open discussion on challenges and opportunities for improvement. The CSP is also encouraging public-private partnerships to enable both parties to take more ownership of the system change process as envisioned by the NSRM.

To this end, CSP will continue to be intentional and strategic about communicating the programme's goals, objectives, expected impacts, targets and relations to the NSRM to relevant stakeholders.

b. Main steering implications for the next reporting period

- With the studies finalised, ensure full support to the implementation of field pilots and capacity building activities
- Ensure buy-in of management of the lead organisations in the piloting phase of the programme

- Ensure that the programme keeps its integrated approach, allowing for multiple perspectives and giving voice to various parties
- After two years of online engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic, invest in face-to-face team-building with the topic leads/teams
- Allow for linkage between topics; for example, ensure proper linkage between the topic of 'PVP' and 'Variety release' for development of online application systems
- Based on the topic workplans facilitate close involvement of Naktuinbouw and Plantum for technical backstopping
- Based upon request of some Nigerian topic leads, support in financial management
- In the development of the workplans for 2023, take the upcoming elections into consideration; and finalise key activities which need government involvement well before the elections
- Keep monitoring the security situation and advise programme partners on alternatives in case of problems

4 Introduction

a. Description of project and intervention strategy

The CSP brings together Nigerian and Dutch seed sector stakeholders with the aim to enhance the performance of the Nigerian seed sector. The programme seeks to attain its overarching goal to "Improve farmers' access to and use of quality seed of improved varieties to sustainably increase agricultural productivity". The outcomes areas are addressing the four seed sector functions of: (1) service delivery, (2) market development, (3) governance and (4) regulation:

1. Enhanced capacity of the seed sector to provide high quality, inclusive and differentiated services to seed producers and seed value chain actors (seed services);
2. Enhanced efficiency, fairness and transparency of seed value chains and seed markets (seed markets);
3. Enhanced coordination, alignment and accountability among different seed stakeholders (sector coordination);
4. Enhanced rules and systems that govern seed markets, production systems, service delivery and coordination (sector regulation).

The programme takes a systemic approach for sustainably addressing key challenges in the seed sector and works in alignment with the [National Seed Road Map](#) (NSRM) of Nigeria. The CSP works on eight topics outlined as Strategic Innovation Pathways (SIPs) in the NSRM; these SIPs, including topic ambitions, guide the intervention strategies taken in the CSP. Find in Table 1 the eight topics, including a short description.

Table 1: CSP topics

Topic	Short description
1. Decentralisation of seed quality assurance (SQA)	The topic seeks to develop consolidated, effective, and sustainable seed quality assurance systems covering different crops and provide services to different types of seed entrepreneurs. In addition, the topic seeks to develop and implement specific seed quality assurance standards and protocols for RTBs and vegetables.
2. Extension on seed and cultivation practices	The topic focusses on action research looking into challenges related tot the use of quality seed, improved varieties and advanced cultivation practices. Based on the research results it will develop extension messages to convince farmers that it is worthwhile to invest in quality seed. This topic focuses on vegetables specifically.
3. Seed company marketing and promotion	The topic seeks to increase structural investment by seed companies in the marketing and promotion of quality seed and improved varieties, resulting in increased awareness of farmers and enhanced willingness to pay for quality seed and improved varieties. It supports the establishment of varieties demonstrations for field and vegetable crops.
4. Institutional markets	This topic aims to create a market-driven, dynamic and functioning seed sector that operates sustainably with minimal government, NGO and project subsidies. If any interventions are made, they should promote

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Short description</i>
	accountability and sustainability without distortion of seed markets. Topic implementation is closely linked to alignment of donor interventions as donors are key actors in institutional markets.
5. Seed sector platform ¹	The topic supports the development of a structured and functional National Seed Sector Platform, which brings together key seed sector stakeholders from government, civil society, knowledge institutes and industry to: convey seed sector insights; facilitate dialogue; clarify and consolidate roles and responsibilities; and support collaboration. The platform promotes a collaborative and sector-driven implementation of the NSRM.
6. Alignment of donor interventions	The topic seeks to increase coordination and alignment among donor and development organisations in the seed sector for strategies and activities within the framework of the NSRM.
7. Plant variety protection	The topic seeks to facilitate the implementation and wide adoption of the Plant Variety Protection Act, build country PVP capacity and develop an operational PVP system in accordance to the UPOV System that supports the growth of the seed sector.
8. Variety release	The topic seeks to increase efficiency and transparency in variety release procedures with a more realistic cost-benefit ratio, and enforce ECOWAS harmonisation on variety release to supports private sector investment.

The CSP is being implemented by a consortium of Wageningen University & Research (WUR)-Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WCDI), Sahel Consulting Agriculture & Nutrition Ltd (Sahel Consulting), Plantum and Naktuinbouw, in close collaboration with the key partners Wageningen Plant Research (WPR), National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC), Seed Entrepreneurs Association of Nigeria (SEEDAN), National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology (NACGRAB) and Ahmadu Bello University-Institute for Agricultural Research (ABU-IAR). Partners have divided roles in leading topic teams, established for each of the eight topics; these teams involve many additional stakeholders. WCDI and Sahel are responsible for programme coordination and facilitation. The programme is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) of Nigeria.

b. Review of follow-up measures taken since last reporting period

Contracts with the key implementing partners have been finalised, except for contracts with the NARIs, which will be involved in 2022 piloting activities for the various topics. Collection of field data was completed for all programme and topic studies; and for most topics workshops were organised to discuss and confirm results and conclusions. CSP targets have been confirmed, and in some cases adapted. The first trainings and workshops were implemented, and first pilots for the topic of 'Extension' were started. Pilots for other topics, including the variety demonstrations, were prepared and will start in 2022. Representatives of the international management unit travelled to Nigeria in September and December, to participate face-to-face in key workshops and seed sector events. Activities included: two workshops on variety release; workshop for seed companies in Kano; seed platform core group meeting; presentations in Seed Connect Africa; CSP Steering Committee meeting; NASC management meeting; and two topic lead meetings.

c. Relevant context changes and their potential impact

COVID-19 had a clear impact on the performance of the agricultural sector in general and the seed sector specifically. We currently do not see the need for changing the elaborated strategic innovation pathways and actions as implemented in the CSP for the eight selected topics.

We consider the upcoming 2023 elections in Nigeria, which can potentially create economic and social disruptions with heightened security risks. The programme will keep monitoring implementation in and around peak campaign periods leading up to the elections and post elections for safety concerns and adapt

¹ Note that the name of the component has changed from 'Seed sector coordination' (this is how the topic is mentioned in the National Seed Road Map), to 'Seed sector platform' which better covers the activities of the CSP.

as appropriate. The elections may disrupt the supply and distribution of inputs and affect crop yields, create price shocks and cause massive displacement of labour.

5 Results and Outcome

a. Description of activities, planned and results (outcomes and outputs) or progress towards achieving results, including indicators measured against baseline and target values

Below we summarise the achievements per topic, organised according to the above indicated outcome areas for sector development. For each topic we indicate the strategies and selected key outputs, as well as the two lead organisations. Progress measured against indicators is given in Annex 1.

Enhanced capacity for quality service provision

Table 2: *Topic update service provision*

<i>Topic name:</i>	<i>Decentralisation of seed quality assurance</i>
Outcome:	Decentralised SQA systems for key food and nutrition security crops established and operational
Strategy 1:	Scaling Seed Tracker to maize and rice
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment for the use of a digital seed certification platform for seed quality assurance conducted National Seed Tracker for cassava adapted for maize and rice Training and sensitisation workshop for NASC officers and seed companies implemented on 7 December in Kano (see: https://csp-nigeria.org/2022/01/27/piloting-of-the-upgraded-seed-tracker-kicks-off-with-the-training-of-nasc-officers/)
Strategy 2:	Developing Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs) for tomato and potato
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study on the status of and need for seed quality assurance of tomato and potato for the seed industry in Nigeria conducted
Strategy 3:	Piloting Licensed Seed Inspectors (LSIs)
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study on the need for LSIs conducted
Lead organisations	NASC and WCDI

Enhanced efficiency and transparency of seed markets

Table 3: *Topics update markets*

<i>Topic name:</i>	<i>Extension on seed and cultivation practices</i>
Outcome:	Challenges related to the use of quality seed, improved varieties and advanced cultivation practices addressed
Strategy 1:	Formulation and implementation of action research projects on challenges related to the use of quality vegetable seed and advanced cultivation practices
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline study implemented and shared in stakeholder workshop at ABU, Zaria on 22 September; staff of ABU-IAR also presented technologies which can easily be used by smallholder farmers to increase the productivity of vegetable crops; also issues like gender and socio-economic barriers to seed access were addressed. Criteria for action research formulated Action research topics identified and prioritised Action research started in Q4 – influence of protected nurseries on performance tomato and cabbage.
Strategy 2:	Dissemination of action research results to extension and farmer communities
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A first on-station demonstration/training event for extension agents and smallholder farmers was held on 4 December at the Zaria campus (see: https://csp-nigeria.org/2022/03/04/extension-on-seed-and-cultivation-practices-topic-conducts-first-on-station-demonstration-for-farmers/)
Lead organisations	ABU-IAR and WPR
<i>Topic name:</i>	<i>Seed company marketing and promotion</i>
Outcome:	Capacity of Nigerian and Dutch seed companies to promote varieties increased

Strategy 1:	Design modality for strengthening Nigerian and Dutch companies promoting the use of quality seeds and improved varieties, combined with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company survey assessing the performance of Nigerian seed companies implemented Different projects and stakeholders consulted for input on variety demo designs Draft demo design finalised
Strategy 2:	Support implementation of variety demos combined with GAP by Nigerian and Dutch companies
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop with seed companies in Kano on 29 September organised, for a CSP and topic briefing, and sharing of experiences on requirements of successful variety demonstrations Workshop with Dutch/international seed companies organised through Plantum on 10 December for input on the demo design Call for expression of interest for Nigerian seed companies published in December Selection process devised and scoring methodology developed Evaluation of seed companies ongoing
Strategy 3:	Disseminate results of the use of quality seeds, improved varieties and good agricultural practices
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
Lead organizations	SEEDAN and WPR
Topic name:	<i>Institutional markets</i>
Outcome:	Seed market distortion by institutional buyers reduced
Strategy 1:	Assess challenges and opportunities within existing seed procurement, dissemination and marketing practices and current business models and production capacity of seed companies that supply to institutional markets
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A; activities will be based on the donor mapping exercise ('Donor alignment')
Strategy 2:	Pilot and scale, support and strengthen, assess the impact of and learn lessons from seed business-friendly procurement strategies in institutional markets
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A; only relevant after finalisation of strategy 1
Lead organisations	Sahel Consulting and WCDI

Enhanced sector coordination and accountability

Table 4: Topics update sector coordination

Topic name:	<i>Seed sector platform</i>
Outcome:	Coordination, alignment and accountability among seed sector stakeholders enhanced
Strategy 1:	Establishment of a functional national seed sector platform
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Platform secretariat at NASC established Platform core group with key seed sector stakeholders established; they met 2 times online and 1 time face-to-face at NASC 1 online platform meeting organised: 'Plant Variety Protection Act and its potential for agricultural transformation in Nigeria' (see: https://issdafrica.org/2021/10/27/4037/) 1 face-to-face platform meeting organized. Linkage with Seed Connect Africa was established with contribution to the conference programme through several presentations and a specific session on 'Developing seed markets and increase farmers' demand for quality seed' on 29 & 30 November
Strategy 2:	Strengthen the professional capacity of SEEDAN
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A; scheduled beyond 2021
Strategy 3:	Organise studies on prioritised topics of the National Seed Road Map
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A; scheduled beyond 2021
Lead organisations	NASC and WCDI
Topic name:	<i>Alignment of donor interventions</i>
Outcome:	Alignment and sharing of information contributing to NSRM implementation among development partners enhanced

Strategy 1:	Assess and map donor activities directly and indirectly impacting the seed sector within the framework of the NSRM
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing of the donor community on CSP conducted at the Agriculture Donor Working Group (ADWG) in June Conducted bilateral meetings with key donor organisations and mapped their interventions within the NSRM. Revised and simplified the questionnaire shared with donor representatives following bilateral meetings. The questionnaire was designed to summarise donor activities impacting the seed system of Nigeria and provide further clarifications from the outcome of the bilateral meeting.
Strategy 2:	Develop and operationalise a mechanism for coordination and alignment among development partners on seed sector issues, and to contribute to the NSRM
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A; will be implemented after finalising strategy 1
Strategy 3:	Regularly monitor, document, share impact and lessons learned; provide inputs for continued alignment and scoping modalities for achieving NSRM ambitions
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A; will be implemented after finalising strategy 1
Lead organisations	Sahel Consulting and WCDI

Enhanced seed regulatory systems

Table 5: Topics update regulation

Topic name:	Plant variety protection
Outcome:	System for plant variety protection in place and operational
Strategy 1:	Raising awareness of stakeholders on PVP
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T-shirts, caps, briefs, pamphlets have been designed and printed; a one minute promotional video and two (one minute) radio jingles were developed; a Facebook page is active The nationwide campaign has been kicked off at the Seed Connect event (29-30 November) making use of the above-indicated communication materials On 26 October CSP organised an online Seed Platform meeting on the PVP act and its potential for agricultural transformation in Nigeria (see: https://issdafrica.org/2021/10/27/4037/) 29-30 November NASC organised Seed Connect; PVP was a key topic in this event Conducted an advocacy meeting with actors including research, AATF, OFAB, ARCN, lawyers, NASC, FMOJ; a second meeting was held in December with the Federal Ministry of Justice towards supporting the deposit of the Instrument of Accession of Nigeria to the UPOV Office to finalise the process of Nigeria becoming a UPOV Member Presented a PVP brief at the meeting of the National Committee on Variety Release
Strategy 2:	Setting up the Plant Variety Protection (PVP) office
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A PVP Website was fully deployed and is now active (https://www.pvp.ng/). Effort ongoing to ensure the website can provide service to Plant Breeders everywhere in the world to submit applications and perform necessary services; alignment with the topic of variety release, which is also looking into digital application systems, is needed. Concept note for the conduct of first set of virtual trainings for PVP office staff in the coming year 2022 was developed
Strategy 3:	Develop capacity on Distinctiveness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) testing
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A; will start in 2022
Lead organisations	NASC and Naktuinbouw
Topic name:	Variety release
Outcome:	Efficiency and effectiveness of variety release system improved
Strategy 1:	Conduct baseline study and hold validation workshops
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first and second phases of the baseline assessment of the variety release system have been completed, and the reports are ready: https://cspnigeria.files.wordpress.com/2022/03/variety-release-baseline-assessment-1.pdf

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validation workshop for the first phase of the baseline assessment conducted on 27 September 2021 in Abuja (see: https://csp-nigeria.org/2022/03/03/baseline-assessment-phase-i/) Validation workshop for the second phase of the baseline assessment conducted on 2 December 2021 in Abuja
Strategy 2:	Conduct Variety Release Innovation Pilots
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A set of innovations for the structure and process of variety release have been identified The national variety release committee has endorsed the innovations to be tested in a series of pilot projects Key stakeholders engaged in variety development, variety and seed regulation, seed production and marketing have endorsed the innovations and jointly agreed to engage in four crop-based pilot groups (maize, rice, cassava and tomato) to test the innovations required for institutionalisation; this allows for an integrated approach covering diversity of requirements among the crops and their specific technical and market requirements for variety release
Strategy 3:	Implement Digital Solution to Variety Release
Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national variety release committee has endorsed the proposal to develop a digital platform hosting and facilitating the process, structure and decision making process of variety release
Lead organisations	NACGRAB and WCDI

b. Unintended positive and negative effects of the intervention

Unintended Positive Effects

- COVID-19 forced programme management and topic teams to online engagement; even though this is challenging, it also forced the development of online capacity and showed that a lot is still possible through online engagement

Unintended Negative Effects

- N/A

c. Progress of the implementation of cross cutting themes, gender, youth and nutrition

- Some topics do not directly work with farmers, like the topic of 'Seed sector platform', and the topic of 'Donor alignment'. However, with increased coordination and sector performance, the seed sector will contribute to improving farmer productivity, improving household food security and nutrition, and increasing farm-derived income.
- For a seed regulatory topic like 'Variety release' it will take some time before farmers, including women and youth, can benefit through access to a more differentiated portfolio of varieties fitting their specific needs
- Baseline studies addressed the issue of gender in relation to choice of crops, seed sources and variety use
- For some topics we have set targets in relation to gender and youth. For the topic 'Seed Quality Assurance' we agreed that not less than 30% of LSIs will be allocated to females, while 90% of the LSIs are to be youths. Also in trainings we set targets for participation of females and youth.
- For the topic of 'Seed company promotion' with its variety demonstrations we set selection criteria and targets in relation to involvement of gender and youth in field days; separate field days for women farmers will be organised.
- We have established mixed project implementation teams in terms of gender and generation for each of the eight CSP topics. We specifically encourage the involvement of female and young professionals.

d. Overall project and visibility

Sahel Consulting developed a communication strategy for the CSP, which was also shared with EKN. CSP has created a website to share information on the programme (<https://csp-nigeria.org/>). Information on the programme, the CSP topics, the partners, CSP and seed related activities, exciting events and publications, etc. are published on the website.

The programme leveraged the social media handles of the programme management office and implementing partners while using a common hashtag (#cspseed) to promote visibility and traceability of programme activities. Variations of webinar/event flyers (including speakers' flyers, objectives of the event etc.) were posted on social media to increase awareness and attendance. Live updates that comprise short key takeaway messages, pictures and handles of the speakers during events are also posted on the social media platforms.

During the reporting period, CSP participated in the following events, which created visibility for CSP:

- Presentation of the NNSP, CSP and other seed related projects, together with Nigerian and Dutch representatives, at the SeedNL sounding board meeting on 9 June
- Participation in several sessions of the online conference 'Guiding seed sector transformation in Africa' from 21 to 23 June
- Presentation of the NSP, CSP and other seed related projects at the Seed Connect Africa event in Abuja on 29 and 30 November, with a stand in the exhibition and a presentation at the conference programme

6 Sustainability

a. Measures identified to enhance project sustainability and proposed exit strategy

The issue of sustainability is integrated in the design of the CSP. Programme topics are selected from the NSRM. These topics have been prioritised by stakeholders for improving the performance of the Nigerian seed sector. Topic strategies build upon the strategic innovations pathways as presented in the NSRM. Nigerian topic leads are representatives of a key stakeholder responsible for the topic in the Nigeria; topic teams unite various organisations with a stake in the topic. In this way we create ownership within the sector for the proposed change pathways.

The topic partnerships greatly influences the sustainability of topic results. For example, NASC is highly motivated to scale the Seed Tracker to maize and rice as a step up for making it a national tool for seed certification. NASC also hosts the National Seed Platform, for which we also created a link with Seed Connect Africa; and hosts the PVP office, which will continue its work after closing of the programme. NACGRAB is very motivated to support efforts to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the variety release system. In the extension topic ABU-IAR works closely with NAERLS ABU Zaria, with its strong extension unit and extension mandate. For seed company promotion, SEEDAN is the logical partner.

The CSP aims to create an evidence base for scaling of innovations. Most topics follow a pathway consisting of the following steps: (i) study the current situation; (ii) evaluate opportunities for innovation based on experiences in-country or elsewhere; (iii) share study results and innovation opportunities with stakeholders and jointly prioritise innovations for piloting; (iv) develop pilots, to be implemented in collaboration with the organisations already responsible for the topic; (v) develop capacity for implementation; (vi) evaluate pilots and develop pathways for scaling.

b. Description of exit strategy (if applicable)

The project just concluded its first full project year. Project exit needs to consider sustainability, which needs to be integrated in project design and implementation; see the issues above.

7 Risks

During CSP design we assessed implementation risks and developed risk mitigation strategies. Find those in Annex 2. We have updated the table with the mitigation strategies, which were elaborated in the last progress report. In Table 6 we indicate additional risk mitigation measures on top of those.

In general we see that the situation of insecurity in Kaduna State is getting worse. We envisage that this will not much improve towards the upcoming elections in 2023. We keep on monitoring risks and with a weekly security brief inform partners on risks, and advise how to deal with them. Currently, international programme management is not allowed to travel in Kaduna and Kano State (red area), and only allowed to travel to Kano by plane and stay within the city boundaries (orange area).

Table 6: Additional mitigation measures to the risks

No.	Risk	Additional mitigation measure (additional to those listed in Annex 2)
1.	Situation of high insecurity in Kaduna State disrupts field-based activities	If necessary and possible, allow for activities to move to Kano
2.	Fraud and corruption undermine project implementation	.-
3.	Non-performance of partners who do not prioritise the project-supported interventions	.-
4.	Political economy of the seed sector interferes with project implementation	-
5.	Not sufficiently involving female and young professionals; and not reaching women and youth farmers	-
6.	Farmers are not interested in using quality seed of improved varieties	.-
7.	Unclear relationship between SeedNL, the NNSP and the Collaborative Seed Project	-
8.	Disruption of field activities due to climatic disruptions	-
9.	Lock down and reduced domestic and international mobility due to COVID-19	.-

8 Institutional/Organizational Development and Human Resources

The programme is managed by WCDI and Sahel Consulting, in close collaboration with NASC. Sahel Consulting and WCDI provided support to all the programme topics, directly as well as indirectly by supporting programme partners in the topic activities.

We invested a lot over the past year in the recruitment of a seed systems advisor for Sahel Consulting to join the programme manager for advising the topic teams on the more technical topics. The first person employed for this position had to leave after one month; after that we had several recruitment rounds, but could not find a suitable candidate. We agreed with EKN to use the funds for the advisor to employ two analysts; they joined Sahel in 2022.

The CSP invests in building the capacity of the organisations responsible for the eight programme topics. An example is the establishment of the PVP office at NASC, for which a capacity development plan is part of the CSP workplan for 2022.

9 Finance

Presented in a separate document.

10 Lessons Learned

- We can achieve a lot through online engagement, but face-to-face meetings are necessary for some topics and issues. The visit of the international project management to Abuja in September and December helped to solve some issues and to inspire the team
- The company survey showed that seed companies were able to market the seeds produced in 2020/2021 irrespective of the COVID-19 pandemic; this shows that seed companies can withstand crises, especially if they are tailored towards the right market
- Documentation of experiences and strategies in Africa and bringing evidence and comparison allows for open discussion on challenges and opportunities for improvement. The assessment, pilot and institutionalisation/scaling modality for systemic change as developed in other seed programmes in Africa, appeared very well applicable in the field of variety release and the transformation of the seed sector in Nigeria

- The youth and gender component needs to be incorporated into topic activities and appropriate data collected. The gender target for the programme and topics is 50:50 with justification reported where this is not achieved
- It is important to encourage public-private partnership to enable both parties to take more ownership of the process of system change as envisioned by the programme
- It is important to be intentional and strategic about communicating programmes goals, objectives, expected impacts, targets and relations to the National Seed Roadmap to relevant stakeholders.

Annex 1: Indicators and targets

Indicator number	Indicator description	2021	2022	2023	2024	Baseline	Target	Cumulative reach	% reached
	OUTCOME level								
1	Number of small-scale food producers (SSFP) that progressively decrease the yield gap in Kaduna State	0				0	291,800		
	female						58,360		
	male						233,440		
	<35						90,460		
2	Number of small-scale food producers with increased productivity in Kaduna State	0				0	291,800		
	female						58,360		
	male						233,440		
	<35						90,460		
3	Number of small-scale food producers using quality seed in Kaduna State	0				0	146,190		
	female					0	29,240		
	male						116,950		
	<35						45,320		
4	Number of small-scale food producers using improved varieties in Kaduna State	0				0	146,190		
	female						29,240		
	male						116,950		
	<35						45,320		
5	Number of crop specific seed quality assurance protocols in place and used	1				1	3		
6	Number of NASC inspectors, third party inspectors and accredited seed quality assurance professionals	133				133	177		
7	Number of action research projects on challenges related to the use of quality seed, improved varieties and advanced cultivation practices	1				0	8		
8	Number of organisations in Kaduna State using recommendations on challenges related to the use of quality seed, improved varieties and advanced	0				0	20		

Indicator number	Indicator description	2021	2022	2023	2024	Baseline	Target	Cumulative reach	% reached
	cultivation practices resulting from action research projects								
9	Number of Nigerian and Dutch seed companies operating in Kaduna and Kano States with improved capacity to promote varieties	11				11	16		
10	Number of small-scale food producers reached in Kaduna and Kano States through variety promotion by seed companies	0				0	29,000		
	female					0	5,800		
	male					0	23,200		
	<35					0	8,990		
11	Number of improved varieties included in seed company operated variety demos in Kaduna and Kano State	0					55		
	Field crops					0	25		
	Horticultural crops					0	30		
12	Number of seed market interventions by institutional seed buyers in accordance with the good practice guidelines for institutional markets	0				0	10		
13	Number of dialogues and consultations contributing to NSRM implementation engaging at least 3 different types of stakeholders	12				0	34		
14	Number of collaborative projects contributing to NSRM implementation agreed upon in the seed sector platform and involving at least 3 types of seed sector stakeholders	5				0	55		
15	Number of seed sector interventions by different development partners contributing to the NSRM	50				50	70		
16	Number of organisations capable of and implementing tests for Distinctiveness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS)	0				0	4		
17	Number of varieties granted plant breeders rights	0				0	10		
18	Duration of the process for variety release	43				43	36		
19	Average cost to conclude variety release (in US\$)								
	Maize	15.000 \$				15.000 \$	12.000 \$		
	Rice	27.000 \$				27.000 \$	21.600 \$		

Indicator number	Indicator description	2021	2022	2023	2024	Baseline	Target	Cumulative reach	% reached
	Tomato	12.500 \$				12.500 \$	10.000 \$		
20	Number of varieties released per crop contributing to food and nutrition security per year								
	Maize	9				9	12		
	Rice	1				1	3		
	Tomato	2				0	2		
	OUTPUT level								
21	Number of small-scale food producers directly reached in Kaduna state disaggregated for male/female and age (% <35 yrs)	0				0	109,900		
	female					0	21,980		
	male					0	87,920		
	<35					0	34,070		
22	Number of small-scale food producers indirectly reached in Kaduna State disaggregated for male/female and age (% <35)	0				0	291,800		
	female					0	58,360		
	male					0	233,440		
	<35					0	90,460		
23	Number of Dutch supported interventions in seed sector transformation in Nigeria	11				0	13		
24	Number of strengthened seed sector stakeholders within the process of seed sector transformation in Nigeria	0				0	60		
25	Number of reforms/ improvements in seed policies/laws/regulations benefitting at least tens of thousands of small scale food producers	0				0	25		

Annex 2: Risks and mitigation strategies

The tables below are copied from the approved CSP proposal. We have included the additional mitigation strategies as elaborated in the last progress report.

Risk	Situation of high insecurity in Kaduna State disrupts field-based activities
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This risk only concerns CSP 1, CSP 2 and CSP 3, which include field-based activities in Kaduna State • Work with staff of local partners who understand the local languages and are fully familiar with the local situation • Through local partners enlist the buy-in and support of the local community leaders (e.g. traditional leaders) to facilitate the implementation process of project activities • Confer with existing projects in the various locations to establish critical high-risk security areas within each community to inform decision making on the area of intervention • Restrict the work to those LGA's in Kaduna, which are considered relatively safe¹ • Follow safety instructions of EKN Abuja in relation to traveling and working in Kaduna State; and inform EKN on travel plans of international staff • Host the project field staff in Zaria, which is a generally safe environment; Zaria has good accessibility to both Kaduna and Kano State and therefore creates some flexibility in planning and operating activities in both states • Plan for field-based activities based on continuous security assessments in Kaduna State, and shift activities to Kano State in case of high security risks in Kaduna State; consult EKN in this process • Sahel Consulting works with a company which develops weekly security briefs which are shared with all key CSP partners; we work according to the advice in these briefs⁽¹⁾
Likelihood	Likely (CSP 1, CSP 2 & CSP 3)
Impact	Moderate (CSP 1, CSP 2 & CSP 3)

1 Added based on last progress report

Risk	Fraud and corruption undermine project implementation
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each implementing partner must establish or demonstrate functioning of an anti-fraud and corruption policy; such policies are an integral part of the code of conduct of the project • Establish and agree upon the code of conduct together with all project partners, including clauses on issues like absence of sitting allowances, use of project equipment and project incentives; the code of conduct will become an attachment to partner contracts as well as sub-contracts • Note that in line with government directives, partners like NASC have functional anti-corruption and transparency units, guiding against corruption in public institutes • Establish clear reporting and accounting systems and structures for the project to ensure limited room for fraudulent activities • Annual audit of Dutch lead partner WCDI and Nigerian lead partner Sahel Consulting • Establish an agile and lean contracting structure, where Sahel Consulting will be responsible for subcontracting partners in Nigeria, based on agreed terms of reference • Provide partners with additional funds only after use of earlier provided funds has been appropriately reported and approved, and transfer funds for activities in smaller and more frequent disbursements • Zero tolerance on corruption with blacklisting and exclusion of partners if such practices occur • Set up a whistle-blower system to enable the team and impacted stakeholders to report any fraudulent activities⁽¹⁾

Risk	Fraud and corruption undermine project implementation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the in-depth stakeholder analysis as conducted in the inception phase, invite the appropriate stakeholders to participate in the project's activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask for monthly progress reports and organise monthly progress meetings with topic leads to keep track of performance for the different topics ⁽²⁾ Organise weekly programme management meetings of WCDI, Sahel and NASC; and monthly meetings of WCDI, Sahel and EKN to keep track on progress of the programme ⁽²⁾
Likelihood	Possible
Impact	Moderate

1 Not implemented during the last reporting period; but now implemented

2 Added based on last progress report

Risk	Non-performance of partners who do not prioritise the project-supported interventions
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The seed sector review process (2019-2020) has illustrated high competence and interests of key partners Carefully select non-government project partners with a keen interest in the topic, based on consultation of NASC and Sahel and the in-depth stakeholder analysis conducted in the inception phase Work with leadership of government service providers to ensure that we have continuity of staff in the implementation of the project Develop performance-based contracts outlining clear activities and deliverables, and complete payments only after completion of the activities Develop and implement a project planning, monitoring and evaluation system that keeps track of activities including a warning system in the case of non-performance Discuss non-performance with partners and replace partners in the case of lack of improvement
Likelihood	Unlikely
Impact	Minor

Risk	Political economy of the seed sector interferes with project implementation
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement an in-depth stakeholder analysis during the inception phase, mapping the power and interests, including potential resistance towards change, of Nigerian seed sector stakeholders in general as well as in relation to the different CSP topics Track and keep key stakeholders and partners informed about the political and economic challenges of the agriculture sector in Nigeria to avert potential economic and political challenges Enlist the support of the government agencies for the execution of the project Work according to the National Seed Road Map (NSRM), which has been adopted by government agencies and private sector actors, limiting the impact of political issues on the project Avoid any political party involvement and entanglement by the project and its implementing partners Create transparent governance and management structures for the implementation of the project and its sub-projects Ensure that documentation on project and project topic activities and organisations involved are available within the public domain Ensure regular reporting to a governing or coordination body for the NNSP in which both Nigerian and Dutch stakeholders are represented
Likelihood	Unlikely
Impact	Moderate

Risk	
Not sufficiently involving female and young professionals; and not reaching women and youth farmers	
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a gender and generational analysis in the baseline • Agree with CSP partners to establish mixed teams for project implementation in terms of gender and generation; report and review team composition annually • In the context of CSP 2 and CSP 3, include a clear gender and youth focus in the planning and monitoring of activities such as studies, pilots and meetings, for improving women and youth farmer access to quality seed of improved varieties • Annually report and review achievements of CSP 2 in effectively addressing interests of, and CSP 3 in reaching women and youth farmers; and in case of non-performance take appropriate actions • Note that impact indicators 1 to 4 are measured at the household level, and cannot be separated by gender and generation; indicators 10, 21 and 22 are disaggregated by gender and generation • Agree with partners to ensure that activities as implemented by the project will not negatively impact the access of women and youth to quality seed of improved varieties (do no harm) • Include a Civil Society Organisation in the project's steering committee
Likelihood	Possible
Impact	Minor

Risk	
Farmers are not interested in using quality seed of improved varieties	
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study in CSP 2 how to best implement seed and variety promotion within the current cultural setting • Take a non-judgemental approach on where and how farmers source their seed • Focus on those farmers and crops, where the use of quality seed of improved varieties pays off in terms of increased productivity, income and resilience • Work in line with the production system of farmers, for example, also include OPVs for maize or tomato if these continue to be preferred over hybrids • Combine introduction of quality seed of improved varieties with appropriate cultivation practices • Provide farmers with simple economic models to analyse the profitability of using quality seed of improved and if relevant hybrid varieties • Work with local seed companies who know the seed market • Accept that seed markets fluctuate in relation to crop and food markets, and farmers respond to that in their options for purchase of quality seed
Likelihood	Rare
Impact	Moderate

Risk	
Unclear relationship between SeedNL, the NNSP and the Collaborative Seed Project	
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the project's inception phase, discuss with EKN the governing and coordination structure for both the NNSP (EKN and FMARD in the lead) and the CSP (consortium partners in the lead), and clearly define the relationship • Whereas WCDI and partners are responsible for the CSP, EKN will lead the NNSP • During the project's inception phase, elaborate a clear communication and reporting structure among the CSP, the NNSP and SeedNL • SeedNL is currently in the process of employing a director; work with the director in the establishment of working relationships • WCDI is leading the CSP as well as the SeedNL Ethiopia initiative; these two pilot projects are high on the agenda of the SeedNL partnership
Likelihood	Rare
Impact	Minor

Risk	Disruption of field activities due to climatic disruptions
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This risk only concerns CSP 1, CSP 2 and CSP 3, which include field-based activities in Kaduna State • Most activities in the project are targeting system changes in the sector, and thereby the potential impact of climatic disruptions on the performance of the project remains limited • For the activities in CSP 1, CSP 2 and CSP 3, give major consideration to varieties that are more drought tolerant and have other traits that improve climate resilience • Promote crop cultivation practices that fit with the current climatic conditions • Accept that climatic disruptions, like too much or too little rain may occur and are beyond our control
Likelihood	Possible (CSP 1, CSP 2 and CSP 3)
Impact	Major (CSP1, CSP 2 and CSP 3)

Risk	Lock down and reduced domestic and international mobility due to COVID-19
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage technology for activities that do not require field visits and in-person meetings, using digital conferencing, zoom meetings, web-based planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, etc. • Thus, limit local, national and international travel • Follow the travel guidelines of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and WUR for international travel • In case of limitations in international travel, discuss with the project team how local partners can take over responsibility for certain activities • Ensure all team members (especially field teams) carry the Federal Government issued letter to enable the free movement of stakeholders in the food and agriculture sector • Advocate for and obtain similar letters from the Kaduna government to enable the free movement of project teams • Engage with stakeholders during the pandemic through online surveys and discussions • Adapt project plan if needed based on online surveys and discussions; inform EKN Abuja accordingly
Likelihood	Likely
Impact	Major

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