

AGG Webinar Series:
Maize seed systems development in Africa



Date: July 22, 2021 (16:00 hrs. Nairobi time; 15:00 hrs. Harare time)

About the Series:

The Maize Seed Development Systems in Africa webinar series, hosted by the Accelerating Genetic Gains in Maize and Wheat for Improved Livelihoods (AGG) project, presents practical insights on potential solutions for accelerating the development of the maize seed industry in Africa. Insights and recommendations are based on evidence collected from rigorous and innovative field studies carried out with seed companies, agro-dealers and farmers. The webinars speak to seed company managers, researchers, and government and NGO representatives who are interested in getting new maize varieties to the farmers who most need them. The series also aims to provide a platform for AGG partners to provide feedback and shape future priorities for collaborative action-oriented research. Ample time will be reserved for engagement between presenters and participants.

About the Webinar:

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) with national agricultural research systems (NARS) and seed company partners have long been striving to increase the maize productivity and resilience to climate-induced variabilities and extremes in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) by releasing new improved varieties adapted to multiple stresses in the target population of environments. While impressive progress has been made in scaling up adoption of the improved maize varieties in several countries across SSA, issues related to quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) still remain and need to be effectively addressed. Seed quality can be affected at various stages in the seed value chain: production, processing/conditioning, storage, retail outlets, and at farmer level. In order to have higher impact through delivery of high-quality seed of client-oriented products and accelerate varietal turnover in SSA, there is a need to improve seed quality control. This webinar on **“Maize Seed Quality Assurance/Quality Control”** is aimed especially for the benefit of public and private sector partner institutions under the Accelerating Genetic Gains in Maize and Wheat for Improved Livelihoods (AGG) project.

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Participants:

Managers of small and medium enterprise (SME) seed companies of commercialized maize seed, national agricultural research system (NARS) institutions, seed quality laboratories, seed regulatory bodies, seed trade associations, others

Moderator:

Adefris Teklewold, CIMMYT, Ethiopia

Programme

Time (in min)	Topic	Presenter
10	Welcome and Objectives of the Webinar	B.M. Prasanna , Director, Global Maize Program, CIMMYT, Kenya
15	Importance of QA/QC in seed business: Insights and perspectives from Seed Trade Associations	Grace Gitu , Seed Expert, Africa Seed Traders Association (AFSTA), Kenya
15	Seed quality characteristics and available methods to test genetic purity and identity	James Gethi , Maize Seed System Specialist, CIMMYT, Zimbabwe
15	Molecular markers in QA/QC of maize seed value chain	Manje Gowda , Maize Molecular Breeder, CIMMYT, Kenya
15	Molecular marker-based seed quality control: Experiences from a NARS institution	Godfrey Asea , Director of Research, National Crops Resources Research Institute, NARO, Uganda
15	Molecular marker-based seed quality control: Experiences from a Private Seed Company	Meluleki Zikhali , Molecular Scientist, Seed Co Ltd, Zimbabwe
15	Seed conditioning and effects on quality	John MacRobert , Managing Director, Mukushi Seeds, Zimbabwe
20	Q&A	Participants & Resource Persons
5	Closing Remarks	Walter Chivasa , Maize Seed Systems Coordinator-Africa, CIMMYT, Kenya

Resource persons



Dr. Godfrey Asea

Director of Research
National Crops Resources Research
Institute, Namulonge, NARO, Uganda



Dr. Meluleki Zikhali

Molecular Scientist, Seed Co
Group, Zimbabwe



Dr. John MacRobert

MD, Mukushi Seeds, Zimbabwe



Mrs. Grace Gitu

Seed Expert, Africa Seed Traders
Association (AFSTA), Kenya

Accelerating Genetic Gains in Maize and Wheat for Improved Livelihoods (AGG) brings together partners in the global science community and in national agricultural research and extension systems to accelerate the development of higher-yielding varieties of maize and wheat – two of the world's most important staple crops. Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), AGG fuses innovative methods that improve breeding efficiency and precision to produce and deliver high-yielding varieties that are climate-resilient, pest- and disease-resistant, highly nutritious, and targeted to farmers' specific needs.