



FOOD & BUSINESS APPLIED RESEARCH FUND

Developing economically viable models of foundation seed production for vital food security - MALI



Consortium Members & key staff

Dr Sokona DAGNOKO SISSOKO, Country Director, Sasakawa Africa Association – SAA/Mali; Seed Systems Expert; Project Lead

Dr Ousmane NIANGALY; Rural Polytechnic Institute for Training and Applied Research-IPR/IFRA, Professor and Plant Breeder; Consortium Member

Dr Peter GILDEMACHER, Senior Advisor / Seed System Expert; Royal Tropical Institute – KIT; Consortium Member

Dr Mamadou Moussa DIARRA, Research Director, Rural Polytechnic Institute for Training and Applied Research-IPR/IFRA, Project staff

Dr Gerard BALTISSSEN Senior Advisor / Seed System Expert; Royal Tropical Institute – KIT, Project staff

Project description

Since its inception in 1963, the Malian seed industry still fails to supply farmers, certified seed in sufficient quantity, mainly due to insufficient quantity of foundation seed. This project aims to develop novel foundation seed production models for marginalized but vital crops in Mali that are inclusive of female and male smallholder farmers. To do so, we will conduct field experiments and socioeconomic surveys to find out whether i) smallholder farmers can produce foundation seed under formal seed system; ii) the efficiency (yield, volume, costs, quality, and sustainability) of smallholder farmers centered models of FS production as compared with breeder or seed companies centered models and iii) if smallholder farmers' involvement in foundation seed production is worthwhile in terms of return on investment and volumes compared with other models. Finally, the most efficient models will be promoted and capacities of farmers and other seed actors strengthened in foundation seed production.

Opportunities

- National and regional regulatory frameworks
- Official seed catalogue, and a seed quality control and certification agency
- Motivated stakeholders – Plant breeders, seed companies, contract growers, & farmers organizations for seed multiplication
- NGOs providing extension and advisory services to farmers for quality seed production, post-harvest management, and business management
- Willingness to meet the challenge of food insecurity

Challenges

- Abiotic stresses (unreliable rainfall patterns, climate change, soil conditions)
- Insect-pests and diseases
- Processing equipment and storage infrastructures
- Affordability of certified seed to smallholder farmers
- Access to output and input markets
- Reluctance of farmers to plant certified seed
- Law enforcement

Impact activities and preliminary results

- Partnerships - breeder seed production for planting in the next cropping season to produce foundation seed for rice, sorghum, millet, cowpea, & groundnut
- Partnerships - field experiments - breeder centered model
- Partnerships - field experiments - Farmer centered model
- Partnerships - Field experiments - Seed Company centered model
- Program assistants on board and operational
- Scope of work drafted for gender action plan and strategy and consultant hired
- Project gender action plan and implementation strategy drafted
- Scope of work drafted for economic studies and consultant hired
- Preliminary economic surveys under way
- Project inception workshop organized - 45 participants from public /private sector, and different segments of the seed value chain.
- The workshop under chairmanship of the MA
- Project information shared and stakeholder buy in of the project
- Two consortium meetings held in January 2018

