

Ongoing and planned CTA activities in Seed Sector Development in Africa

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Ghana, 9th April 2013



Photo: Inception Workshop

CTA's Mission

To advance **food and nutritional security**, increase **prosperity** and encourage sound **natural resource management** by providing access to information and knowledge, facilitating policy dialogue and strengthening the capacity of agricultural and rural development institutions and communities in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.



CTA countries – 78/79 in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific

CTA works - through partnerships

CTA focus – empowerment of ACP communities through knowledge

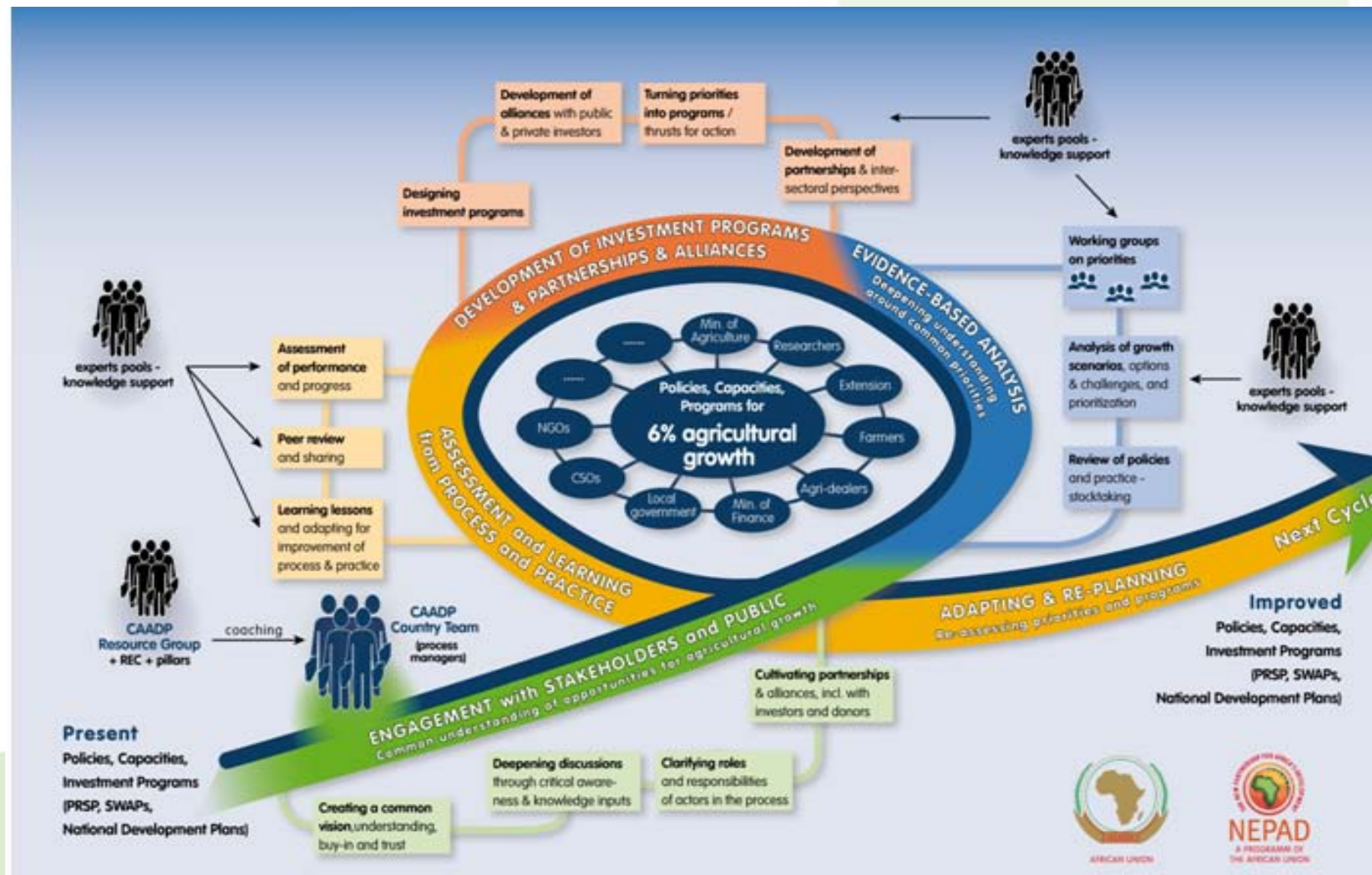


CTA's Strategic Goals

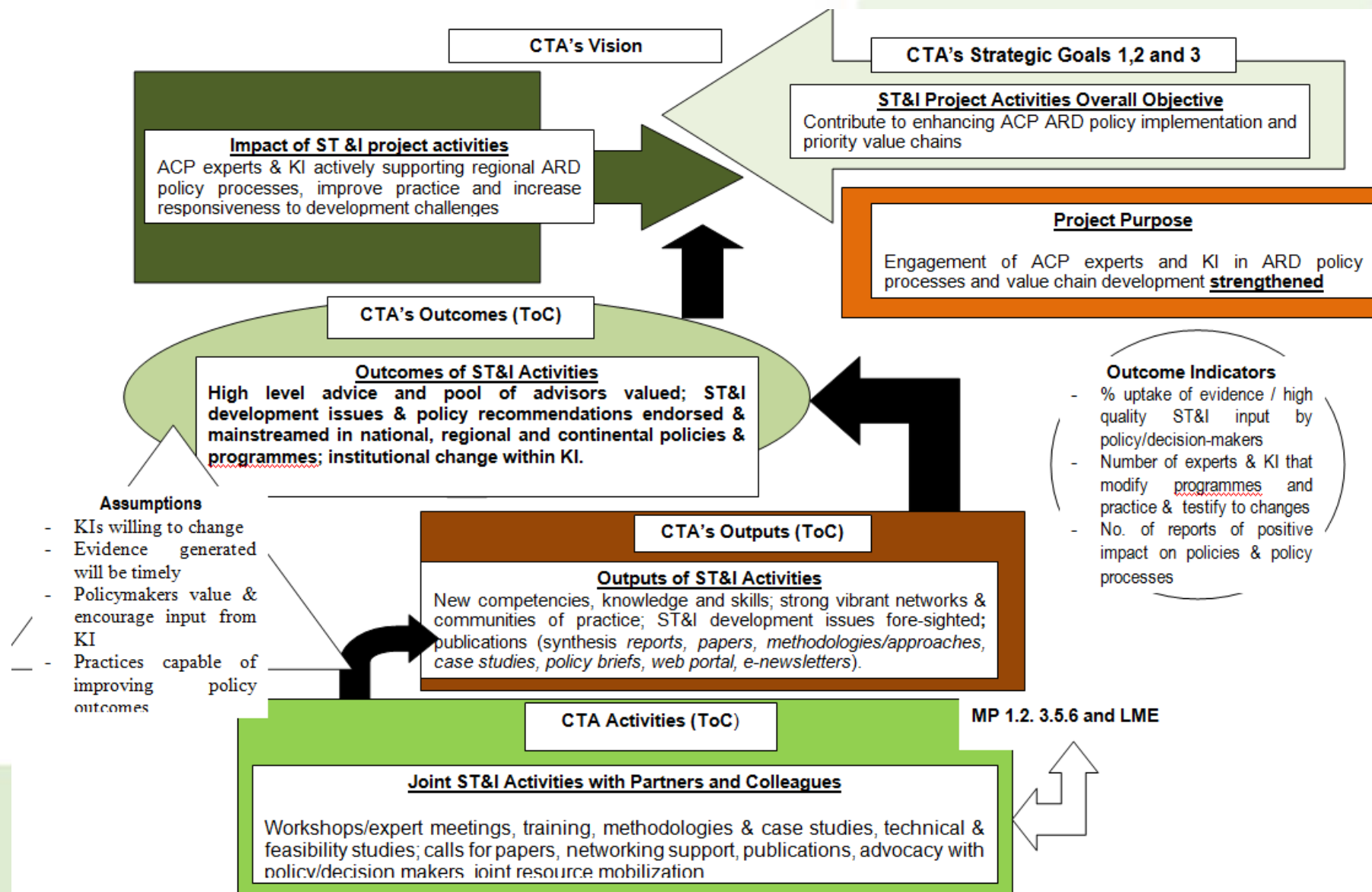
- **Goal 1** – Support agricultural **policy processes** and **strategies** in ACP regions
- **Goal 2** – Enhance priority agricultural **value chains**
- **Goal 3** – Strengthen information, communication and knowledge management (**ICKM**) **capacities** of ARD institutions and networks in ACP



Africa - The CAADP Country Process



Impact Pathway : CTA's ST&I Project Activities



CTA and S&T in relation to ISSD II

- **Strengthening** the position and **role of knowledge institutes**, especially universities and related networks e.g. ANAFE and RUFORUM in seed sector development;
- Facilitating the **linkage with regional economic communities and continental organizations** so as to contribute to achieving impact at regional and continental levels (e.g. ECOWAS, NEPAD);
- **Documenting** and **sharing** the experiences and success stories on university engagement in seed sector development in Africa to enhance programmes, practices and policies in support of seed innovation and entrepreneurship that benefit farmers and nations.



CTA and S&T in relation to ISSD II (cont'd)

- 6 **universities** were supported through CDI:
 - University of Burundi, Ghana, Zambia, Malawi (LUANAR), Mekelle University - Ethiopia and Makerere University - Uganda
- Each
 - conducted a **case study** on their engagement in seed sector development &
 - hosted **a multi-stakeholder university seminar** to share results of case study & ISSD
- **Feedback results** to regional networks; ANAFE, RUFORUM & other bodies e.g. ASARECA, ECOWAS



Central Role of Universities in Development

Knowledge Institutes

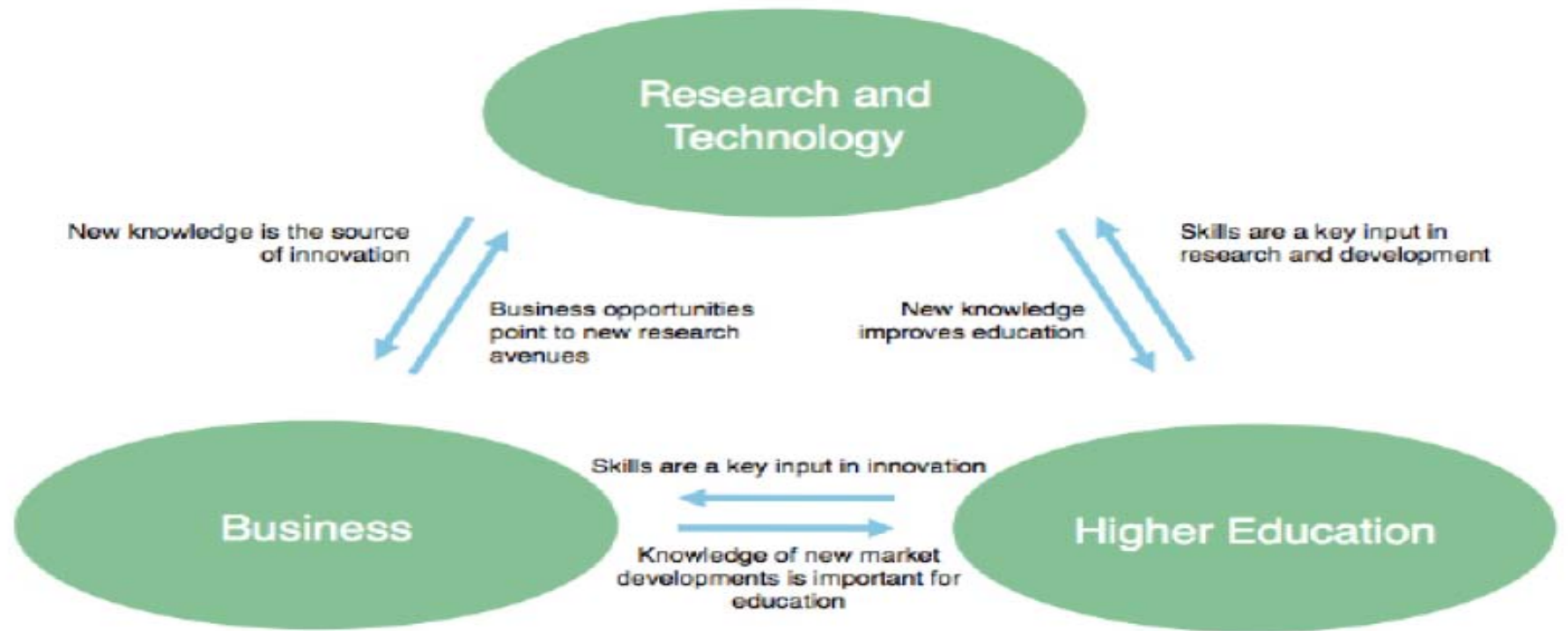
Universities

Private Sector incl. Farmers

Governments/Public Bodies



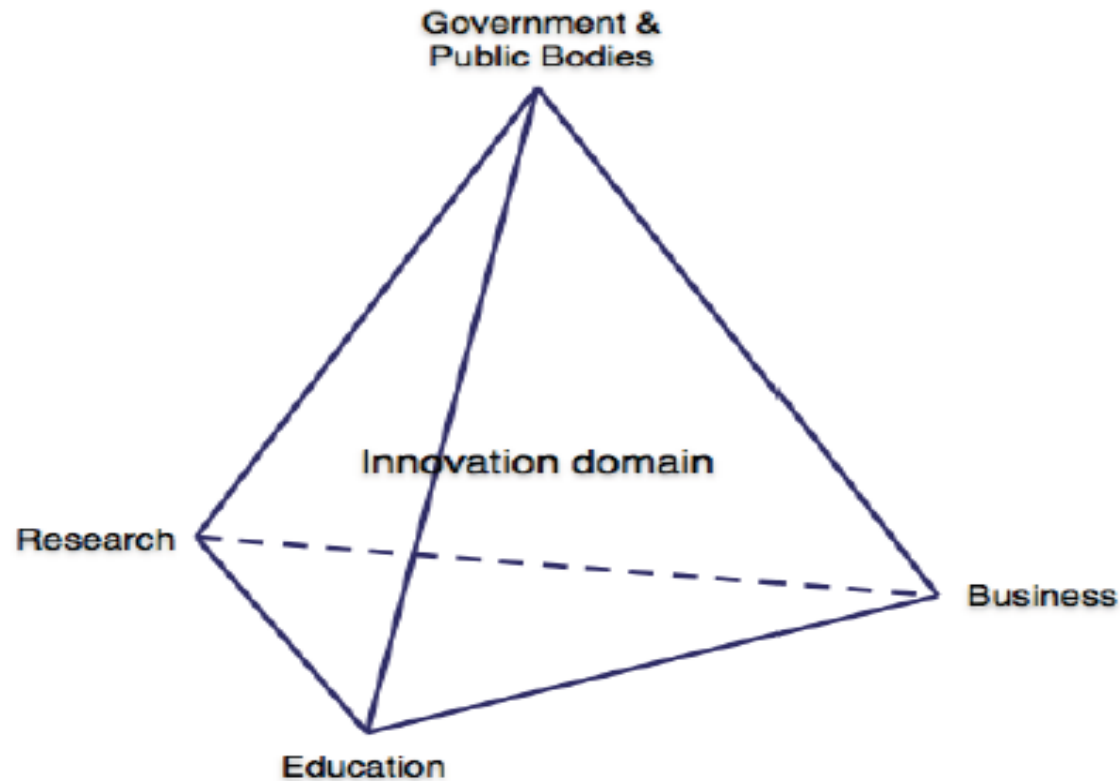
Knowledge Triangle



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Council of the European Union (2008). 2020 Vision for the European Research Area

The Innovation Pyramid



Source: Climate-KIC Business Plan

Lessons learned from university engagement

- At individual level on ISSD:
 - The **range** of ongoing university seed projects
 - Need for **coordination** in national seed sector
 - Predominance of **familial /informal** seed system & importance of strengthening it
 - Importance of training in **seed policy & law**
 - Need for actively engaging & collaborating with key stakeholders for **innovation**
 - Demand driven research



Lessons learned from university engagement

- For supporting national and regional policies:
 - Need for **active engagement** of all stakeholders
 - Need for **proper channels** inc with ministry officials
 - Need for considering **formal and informal** seed system
 - Important role of **university research**
 - Need for **awareness raising** on farmers' rights
 - Need to link with other **societal challenges** - climate change, environmental protection, sustainability
 - **Previous recommendations** were never followed up



Lessons learned from university engagement

- For the university :
 - Greater **coordination** on seed issues within university
 - Need to play a greater role in seed system development (production, certification, dissemination & adoption)
 - Improve **crop science**; integrate seed science, seed & plant breeding, policy & law courses; offer MSc & PhD
 - **Patent** research outputs to earn income – develop IPR
 - **Encourage** & support more innovative and demand driven research, as well as **prioritize** research
 - Strengthen **linkages** with all stakeholders



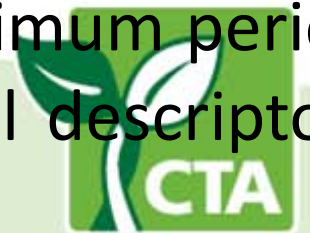
Applying lessons learned

- By lecturer - researcher/individual :
 - Create enabling environment; **enhance participation** in seed sector related activities
 - Promote capacity development within the university
 - **Collaborate** with government to formulate policies & strengthen role in seed quality control
 - Source funding & collaborate with relevant bodies for patenting of key research findings
 - Facilitate **updating of seed legislation**
 - Establish **seed sector networks** with other universities



Applying lessons learned to policy processes

- By university :
 - **Curriculum review** & expand training and capacity building on seed law policy, production, conservation etc
 - Emphasize the **link between policies** related to biodiversity/ plant genetic resources and seed
 - **Champion** national seed development forum & organize policy level meetings
 - Create awareness **on farmers' rights**
 - Provide **evidence** for policy e.g. specific optimum period required for “generation control” & varietal descriptors for enforcing breeders' rights



The Way Forward

- CTA in collaboration with universities, regional university networks, sub-regional & continental research and S&T organizations & economic communities will seek to:
 - Consolidate the findings & **institutionalize** ISSD process
 - Organize a **policy learning event** & promote outcomes
 - **Publish and disseminate** a policy brief & papers and related publications on seed sector development
 - Facilitate the development of **course outlines** for selected priority thematic areas linked to SSD.



Thank you

