



COMMUNIQUE OF THE 2ND EDITION OF SEED CONNECT AFRICA 2022 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION HELD ON 15TH AND 16TH APRIL, 2019 AT NICON LUXURY HOTEL, ABUJA, NIGERIA



ENHANCING THE POTENTIALS OF THE NIGERIAN SEED INDUSTRY

The second edition of SEEDCONNECT Africa convened by the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) in collaboration with Contact Consulting and other key partners was held between 15th-16th April 2019.

A total of 357 participants from Nigerian seed companies, regulating agencies, National Agricultural Research Institutes, CGIAR organizations, IT service provider, Financial Institutions, advocacy groups, policy makers, international collaborators like UPOV, ISTA, ISF, FERA Science, USAID, AFSTA, diplomatic missions and students participated in the conference.

The conference was declared open by the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Heineken Lokpobiri represented by the Director in his office. Also present were the Governing Board of NASC.

The expo also marked the launching of the national Seed tracker which is a tool to upgrade the NASC certification process to an electronic certification system also the occasion marked the official launch of Corteva agriscience in Nigeria.

Seven technical sessions with 15 presentations were made by the rich array of speakers from various fields as it affect the seed industry and this included two shared experience on the benefit of a PVP law to Viet Nam and France. Two presentations on function Seed Tracker and Seed Knowledge Gateway was also presented. These sessions led to a robust question and answer session

The overall objectives of the workshop were to among others:

- Consolidate on the gains from SeedConnect 2018
- Chart a path to fulfilling the visions for a sustainable seed sector in the sub-region
- To leverage on the partnerships and synergies from the convergence of stakeholders
- Develop a road map for the regional seed sector development through robust discourse



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The conference came up with the following observations;

- i. Seed remains the most important input for enhanced production
- ii. The seed industry is operating far below its potential
- iii. Adulteration and seed recycling is still a major issue facing the industry
- iv. The poor funding of the seed sector is still a major bottleneck that must be addressed
- v. Adulterated seeds is a big challenge to the seed industry
- vi. There is still very vague knowledge of the prospects the PVP has to offer breeders
- vii. Accessing funds from NIRSAL has been cumbersome
- viii. The population growth in Nigeria demands strategic planning, the women and youth have not been engaged as they ought to
- ix. Youth and women are most disadvantaged in terms of access to funds and government policies
- x. There is a need to fix the supply chain of seeds in Nigeria
- xi. Issues of policy somersault is still a great concern in the country
- xii. The quantity of unregistered seeds been traded is a source of concern
- xiii. There is need for rapid demonstration and popularization of newly released varieties to enhance adoption

And recommended as follows:

- i. Seed development fund should be initiated to support the industry
- ii. The PVP legislation is needed in Nigeria to encourage more indigenous breeding of varieties
- iii. There is a urgent need for corporate information sharing among stakeholders
- iv. Agricultural processes needs to be rebranded and made strategically innovative to stimulate more interest by youth and women
- v. Women should be treated on their merit, data on women must be used to plan programs for them
- vi. Government intervention should be targeted at reducing cost of production and not directly at price
- vii. Electronic certification and verification of seeds must be encouraged for quality assurance of the industry
- viii. There is need to develop the value chain for seed business



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- ix. Capacity building of regulatory officers must be built to meet up the challenges of their duties
- x. Technology must be deployed for seeds to be made available both access and quality and quantity.
- xi. Protocol for registering of GM crops should be well developed.
- xii. The need to do more to fight adulteration of oil palm seeds

APPRECIATION

The participants wish to appreciate and the National Agricultural Seeds Council and Nigerian government for creating this platform "SeedConnect" for robust interaction towards the development of the seed sector in Africa.