



**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 5TH EDITION OF SEED CONNECT
AFRICA 2022 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION HELD ON
28TH AND 29TH NOVEMBER, 2022 AT NAF CONFERENCE
CENTRE, ABUJA, NIGERIA**



The annual gathering of national and international seed experts at the “Seed Connect Africa” conference and exhibition over the past 5 years has resulted in robust gains and unrivaled development of not only the Nigerian seed Industry but the sub-regional and Regional Seed System.

The 2022 edition of the conference and exhibition, with the main theme: “Innovations and Strategies for Sustainability in Achieving Seed Security in Nigeria and Africa” was held on the 28th and 29th November, 2022 at Nigerian Air Force Conference Centre, Abuja.

The conference, which was convened by the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) in collaboration with other national and international partners had in attendance (physical and Virtual), policy makers, academia, law makers, major actors across the seed value chain, IT service providers, financial institutions, national and foreign collaborators, advocacy groups, Military institution and several international participants.

The conference, which was declared open by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mohammed Mahmood Abubakar had robust discussions, presentations, drama, amidst several good will messages, plenary and information sessions to address the emerging issues in the seed system.

Participants at the conference observed and discussed issues of regional and national interest and resolved as follows:

- SEEDCONNECT Africa is a platform that has played an important role in bringing Seed Industry Stakeholders from all parts of the World together to discuss issues of mutual benefit to the Seed sector.
- The introduction of Plant Variety Protection instrument (PVP Office, regulation and guideline, and the LOGO) to operationalize the PVP law, DNA fingerprinting technology (IMAGE) and many others will contribute immensely to the growth and development of the seed industry in Africa.
- The theme of 2022 seed connect is sensitive enough to remind us of the position of seed industry in the collective effort to achieve food security.
- Climate change remains a serious threat to National food security. The inclusion of advanced climate smart technologies and innovations is key to mitigating climate and natural disasters, as well as enhancing the growth and development of the seed sector.



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- Inadequate access to quality seeds, abandonment of farm lands, reduced interest in extension activities resulting from insurgencies are outcome of security challenges in the country. Therefore, security is now recognized as a vital agricultural input, hence security agencies should be regarded as key partner for agricultural development.
- There are funding challenges confronting the seed sector in Nigeria and financial institution's interest in supporting seed industry development is very low due to inadequate clarity in the concept of seed system.
- The dearth of active plant breeders still remains a challenge in the country. The government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) and the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) were applauded for the quick commencement of implementation of the PVP Act within a very short period. The Act will encourage more participation of breeders in the seed industry and attract more breeders into the seed industry.
- The importance of potato in the food system of Nigeria was recognized. The major means of potato cultivation is through vegetative means, hence efforts to develop the Nigerian potato seed system that culminated to production and successful launch of the National seed potato inspection and certification guideline was recognized and applauded.

After extensive deliberations, the following recommendations were made

- Government should support the development, protection and deployment of climate smart varieties through massive promotional programs.
- There is need for seed companies to vigorously drive Seed demand so that quality seed is available and accessible for farmers use.
- Effort on seed bank initiative should be intensified by the NASC and should be scaled up to cover the zonal offices.
- The immediate establishment of Seed Agriculture Hub in the universities and strengthening of the existing ones to address the vagaries of seed concerns including research, extension, development/trade and preservation of intellectualism in the seeds system was canvassed.
- Early warning system was identified as one of the viable tools in mitigating the impact of climate change. The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) is to be encouraged to disseminate their early warning signals in local languages.
- The need for the Linkage of seed distribution with nationally and internationally recognized peace days and establishment of collaboration between seed companies, NGOs and peace makers was canvassed.



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- Agricultural discussions should be based on data that can stimulate investment. Therefore, studies with empirical data should be encouraged.
- Security should be regarded as an input in agriculture and human capital development should be explored as one of the measures to curb insecurities.
- There should be awareness creation on the kind of crops that farmers should produce to improve their income, food and nutritional safety.
- Bio-fortified crops should be promoted in conflict prone areas to improve the nutrition of the people.
- There is need for an interaction between financial institutions and the seed stakeholders to make loans available at single digit.
- There is a need for the creation of seed financing platform/framework with NIRSAL for sustainable seed production.
- Seed sector is diverse, Africa should be fully represented in the global seed industry, trade and entrepreneurship fora.
- A framework to ensure that the Nigerian Seed industry are duly introduced to the global seed trade should be developed and the seed sector should take ample advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).
- The seed industry is advised to direct its policies towards improving and building a vibrant private sector. Efforts should be made to develop new partnerships arrangements in a result-oriented manner that could help further develop the seed system.

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