

GHANA EGS recommendations

A total of 3 key recommendations to address deficiencies and/or opportunities in the EGS area of Ghana's seed system have been developed by the assessment team and vetted with stakeholders. The recommendations are roughly, but not strictly, listed in order of importance or recommended sequencing.

Recommendation # 1: Fund CSIR institutes & GLDB to produce, maintain and store early generation seed
Description
Seed growers mainly source basic seed from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) institutes (CRI and SARI) and the Grains and Legumes Development Board (GLDB). The institutions acknowledge that there is a need to improve their seed production and storage capacities to meet the increasing demand for basic seed by seed growers. The institutions need to hire an independent assessor to identify the specific infrastructure needs of these institutions. In addition, the institutions will need to: (i) install irrigation systems and other production-enhancing methods and (ii) refurbish the existing cold storage facilities to prolong the shelf life of EGS that has been produced.
Key determinants of costs
Associated costs: (i) hiring an independent assessor, after which the costs may include establishing irrigation facilities, refurbishing existing seed storage facilities, or establishing new storage facilities
Recommendation # 2: Sustain NASTAG's efforts aimed at building seed companies' capacity to multiply basic seed for maize hybrid varieties
Description
The National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG) has conducted several training sessions on hybrid seed production and the maintenance of parental lines of maize hybrid varieties, in collaboration with Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and Legacy Crop Improvement Centre (LCIC) and the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). These efforts have increased companies' capacities as they shift from focusing on OPV varieties to hybrid varieties. NASTAG should continue to build the capacity of seed companies in this area so that they can multiply and commercialize the maize hybrid varieties being developed by the research institutions.
Key determinants of costs
The costs would include: (i) staff time for NASTAG, LCIC and WACCI; (ii) field-related costs for conducting the training. These costs would be determined by NASTAG as they would build on ongoing exercises.
Additional comments, if needed
This recommendation is closely related to #2 in the QCSP thematic area
Recommendation # 3: Develop a framework to forecast national demand for early generation seed
Description
Seed growers source basic seed from several sources, including public institutions such as SARI, CRI, GLDB and several private entities. However, seed growers occasionally face a shortage of quality basic seed. To address this challenge, the seed companies and the different EGS producers should develop a framework to determine the annual national requirement for the different classes of early generation seed. In addition, the framework should outline the methods through which seed growers can access EGS from the various sources.
Key determinants of costs
The associated costs related to meeting costs between the EGS producers and seed growers