

## GHANA QCSP recommendations

A total of 5 key recommendations to address deficiencies and/or opportunities in the QCSP 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.

<b>Recommendation # 1: Strengthen the seed quality control capacities within seed companies and growers</b>
<b>Description</b>
The Seed Regulations outline the requirements for registration of seed growers in Ghana, in terms of human resource and infrastructure. These requirements are also outlined in the ECOWAS Seed Regulations of 2008. These requirements are intended to ensure that all registered seed growers produce quality commercial seed in line with national standards. The Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) should strictly implement these requirements among all seed growers, starting with their registration. For example, ECOWAS Regulations require that all seed producers have sufficient land, qualified technical personnel and appropriate equipment and facilities. The PPRS, in collaboration with the National Seed Trade Association of Ghana (NASTAG) and the Seed Producers' Association of Ghana (SEEDPAG) should conduct an annual audit of each seed company and grower to assess whether they adhere to these requirements and standards. In case there are gaps, a plan should be put in place to address these gaps within a given timeline. Failure to address some of these gaps may lead to a withdrawal of the grower's or company's operating license.
<b>Key determinants of costs</b>
Associated costs include: (i) Staff time for PPRS and NASTAG staff, (ii) transport costs for PPRS staff to conduct audits of all registered seed companies and growers.
<b>Additional comments, if needed</b>
This may also be captured under the Quality Assurance Thematic Area

<b>Recommendation # 2: Refurbish the government seed processing facilities at Winneba, Ho, Kumasi, Tamale, Bolgatanga, and Wa.</b>
<b>Description</b>
Most seed growers process their seed at the various government-owned seed processing facilities at Winneba, Ho, Kumasi, Tamale, Bolgatanga, and Wa. Most of the processing equipment in these facilities needs repair, impeding their capacity. PPRS needs to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the status of these facilities and then invest in their refurbishment.
<b>Key determinants of costs</b>
The associated costs include: (i) hiring an expert to assess the status of these facilities; and (ii) costs related to the purchase of new equipment and/or refurbishment of old equipment at these facilities.
<b>Additional comments, if needed</b>
The costs in (ii) above may also be outlined under the National Quality Assurance thematic area. Further, the specific costs can only be determined after the facilities have been assessed.

**Recommendation # 3: Develop a post-PFJ marketing strategy to reduce seed growers' dependence on the program and facilitate the steady development towards a market-driven seed distribution system.**

**Description**

Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) is the government's agricultural support program, implemented by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The PFJ program is the main buyer of certified seed from seed growers, accounting for between 66% of cowpea seed purchases and 92% of rice seed purchases in 2020. The PFJ program was slated to end in 2020; however, it is still on-going. The National Seed Council (NSC) and the National Seed Traders Association of Ghana (NASTAG) should work closely together to develop a post-PFJ program marketing strategy that will reduce the seed growers' dependence on the program. Alternatively, the program should be phased down instead of ending abruptly to allow growers to transition into other sales avenues.

**Key determinants of costs**

The associated costs include: (i) staff time for NASTAG and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA); (ii) costs of meetings convened by the National Seed Council to discuss this issue (ii) Consultant to carry out an evidence based study to guide government adopt an efficient and sustainable system to purchase inputs (smart subsidy) and also guide seed companies market seed in a sustainable manner

**Recommendation # 4: Sustain and enhance the range of government efforts to address the challenge of counterfeit/ fake seed and monitor their effectiveness**

**Description**

There have been notable improvements in the government's response to the challenge of fake seed. According to the TASA Ghana report of 2020, seed growers have acknowledged these improvements – their satisfaction with the efforts has increased from 49% in 2016 to 75% in 2019. To sustain the improvements, the National Seed Council (NSC) and NASTAG should monitor the following specific interventions: (i) inspection of seed fields, processing facilities, and agro-dealer outlets by the Ghana Seed Inspection Division (GSID); (ii) a requirement that all seed be sold in packages with labels and certification tags; (iii) a requirement that evidence of procurement of basic seed is provided when selling to the PFJ program, and (iv) a farmers' awareness campaign as part of the PFJ program (v) adopt e-verification system (scratch cards).

**Key determinants of costs**

Costs are difficult to estimate as these are all part of on-going day-to-day government operations.

**Recommendation # 5: Promote the uptake of newly released modern varieties among farmers**

**Description**

According to the Ghana Catalogue of Plant Varieties, between 2002 and 2019, a total of 49 maize varieties, 20 rice varieties, 24 cowpea varieties, and 12 soya bean varieties were released. Most of these varieties were developed with important features such as climate smartness, nutrition-enhancement and pest and disease-tolerance. However, despite the availability of these newly released modern varieties, seed growers still sold old varieties to farmers. There is a need to invest in the promotion of these new varieties as farmers are not benefiting from these special traits.

**Key determinants of costs**

Costs are difficult to estimate as these are all part of on-going day-to-day government operations.

**Additional comments, if needed**

This recommendation may also be considered under the thematic area on Farmer Awareness and Promotion