

## UGANDA QA recommendations

A total of 9 key recommendations to address deficiencies and/or opportunities in the QA area of Uganda'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: Expansion of crop scope/portfolio for seed QA</b>
<b>Description</b>
Support national seed regulatory authority (National Seed Certification Service) to develop protocols for all priority scheduled/focus crops with a view to formalizing seed certification for a wider range of crops, including for vegetatively propagated materials
<b>Estimated cost and/or key determinants of costs</b>
Cost of developing protocols for certification, including meetings

<b>Recommendation # 2: Scoping studies for functional QA laboratories</b>
<b>Description</b>
Conduct scoping study to assess current and anticipated QA laboratory volume; determine adequacy/inadequacy of current labs, staff numbers, staff experience, staff capacity, equipment, staff locational distribution, training needs, facilities, and infrastructure; propose specific approaches to remedy inadequacies; identify levels of capital investment as well as annual financing required to deliver viable and adequate seed testing services. If transition of lab-based activities to private sector is recommended and viable, incorporate the implications of third-party authorization into recommendations and findings
<b>Estimated cost and/or key determinants of costs</b>
Cost of baseline study for lab services, cost of lab equipment, staff requirement and training costs,

<b>Recommendation # 3: Scoping studies for effective field-based QA activities</b>
<b>Description</b>
For field-based sampling and other QA activities such as inspections, conduct scoping study to establish the current and optimal: number of field inspectors, levels of competency, logistical/transport support, equipment, facilities, office infrastructure, and budgetary support. If transition of field-based activities to private sector is recommended and viable, incorporate the implications of third-party authorization into recommendations and findings
<b>Estimated cost and/or key determinants of costs</b>
Cost of baseline study, cost of implementing the findings: hiring of new seed inspectors, training, vehicles,

<b>Recommendation # 4: Establishment of ISTA-accredited seed laboratory</b>
<b>Description</b>
Support development of a new ISTA-accredited lab or upgrading of a current lab to ISTA standards to both serve as a valid reference laboratory and issue export certificates. Bring in appropriate technical advice to advise on steps and investment required
<b>Estimated cost and/or key determinants of costs</b>
Cost of upgrading of lab

<b>Recommendation # 5: Reduction in low quality and counterfeit seed</b>
<b>Description</b>
Develop practical plans to address low quality and fake seed, e.g.: support full adoption and use of scratch card labels; strengthen seed inspectorate units for proper surveillance and monitoring; provide support for retesting and repackaging of expired and torn packets; and implement appropriate levels of pre- and post-control activities. Support enactment and implementation of government legislation and penalties meant to deter dealers in fake and low-quality seed
<b>Estimated cost and/or key determinants of costs</b>
Cost of roll out of scratch labels, cost of hiring and strengthening seed inspectorate department, cost of pre and post control

<b>Recommendation # 6: Digital tools for increased volume and efficiency</b>
<b>Description</b>
Identify opportunities and practical, recommended approaches to support QA processes with digital tools such as e-certification, GPS-linked field tracking and inspection reporting, and online registration of seed growers
<b>Estimated cost and/or key determinants of costs</b>
Cost of implementing e-certification, GPS and training

<b>Recommendation # 7: Implement legal enforcement measures to uphold quality assurance standards</b>
<b>Description</b>
Support enactment and implementation of government legislation and penalties meant to deter dealers in fake and low-quality seed
<b>Estimated cost and/or key determinants of costs</b>

Cost of stakeholder meetings for lobbying
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<b>Recommendation # 8: Sector legal reforms for a vibrant and transformative seed system</b>
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<b>Description</b>
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Support national seed sector transformation from informal to semi-formal and semi-formal to formal, as relevant and practical, by establishing legislation governing seed system options such as standard certified seed and encouraging implementation of quality assurance systems for planting material for vegetatively propagated crops
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<b>Estimated cost and/or key determinants of costs</b>
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Cost on convening stakeholders meeting for review of seed laws, cost of roll out of new seed classes (Standard Seed, QDS)
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<b>Recommendation # 9: Sector dialogue between seed industry players</b>
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<b>Description</b>
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Support government commitment to, and implementation of, inclusive sector dialogue to improve the enabling environment for private sector participants and investors. Strengthen Uganda Seed Traders Association's (USTA) ability to advocate for stronger systems and improve self-regulation among members
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<b>Estimated cost and/or key determinants of costs</b>
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Cost of supporting USTA to carry out member registration and identifying implementing member-value initiatives
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