

UGANDA SMD recommendations

A total of 11 key recommendations to address deficiencies and/or opportunities in the SMD 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.

Recommendation # 1: National seed distribution mapping exercise
Description
Establish number, type, geographical density and capacity of seed distributors to determine investments for upgrading and scaling. Support for regulator (National Seed Certification Service) to carry out continuous online and or manual registration, monitoring and surveillance to enhance quality seed distribution
Key determinants of costs
Engage with Uganda Agro Dealers Association leadership to explore the best way to map agrodealers at reasonable cost. Establish the cost of creating awareness for need of registration
Recommendation # 2: Seed distribution associations
Description
Strengthening of the existing seed distribution association (Uganda National Agro Dealers Association – UNADA) at national and or sub-national level to encourage dialogue and advocacy for favourable seed distribution environment. Support establishment of mechanisms for self-regulation and linkage to the Uganda National Seed Traders Association (USTA) for proper coordination
Key determinants of costs
Determine the cost of having a structurally functional association comprising of active membership from grass root to national level
Recommendation # 3: Reduction in low quality and counterfeit seed
Description
Facilitate training for adoption of technology (e.g., scratch off labels) that will enhance customer confidence in certified seed quality and authenticity. Support for the regulator to carry out surveillance, create seed quality awareness among distributors etc. Support the regulate to enforce compliance to seed quality by all channels of distribution
Recommendation # 4: Smart subsidy design and implementation
Description
Ensure design and implementation of subsidy initiatives that avoid seed market distortions, promote private sector participation and support seed quality for farmers
Recommendation # 5: Credit support for business improvement and expansion
Description
Link private distributors to information and/or affordable credit facilities to enable them invest in seed scaling initiatives such as proper storage (potentially including facilities such as cold rooms), farm input promotional activities, and general expansion (potentially including vegetatively propagated planting materials)

Recommendation # 6: Agrodealer business training
Description
Facilitate capacity building in business management, product knowledge and agronomy and scaling for seed distributors, to improve sustainability and quality of service providers, drive the establishment of more outlets for farmer access to quality seed, and diversify the supply of crop seed varieties with emphasis on new varieties
Key determinants of costs
Make the training periodical with cost sharing component
Recommendation # 7: Sustainable private sector extension agents
Description
Link seed/ag input distributors to private extension agents such as Village Based Advisors (VBAs) to support product promotion through demos and field days and income opportunities (commissions) for the agents to sustain their work
Key determinants of costs
Define a sustainable cost shared private sector extension network with the distributors
Recommendation # 8: Carryover seed handling
Description
Link seed distributors with seed producers and seed regulators to carry out timely product retesting and repackaging with a view to limiting losses arising from expiry and poor handling of consigned/sold seed
Key determinants of costs
Determine the basis for cost sharing on seed transport, packages and retesting costs with the distributors
Recommendation # 9: Smart digital solutions for business
Description
Support seed distributors to identify and adopt ICT innovations and digital solutions to assist in ordering, accounting, marketing and general stock management to improve efficiency and reduce costs
Recommendation # 10: Vegetatively propagated planting material distribution
Description
Explore best practices for distribution models for sustainable private sector supply of quality assured planting materials for vegetatively propagated crops to farmers
Key determinants of costs
Support distributors in acquisition of cold storage facilities for vegetative propagated materials
Recommendation # 11: Cross-cutting recommendation with Policy, Legal, Regulatory
Description
Support the enactment, revision and implementation of regulations and seed laws that enhance efficiency in seed distributor registration, licensing and operation
Key determinants of costs
Determine the cost implications of implementing new seed laws and regulations