

Terms of Reference for a Consultancy to Produce a Situation Analysis report on Domestication of SADC and COMESA Harmonised Seed Regulatory Systems among APPSA countries

1) INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) is a subsidiary organisation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). It was established in 2011 and started its full operations in 2013. CCARDESA has a mandate of coordinating agricultural research and development and contributing to better food security and livelihoods in the region. Among the Research and Development (R&D) programmes being coordinated by CCARDESA is the World Bank funded Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA).

APPSA started with three countries (Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia) in 2013 (First Phase) and expanded to Angola and Lesotho in 2019 (Second Phase). The main thrust of the programme is to improve agricultural technology generation and dissemination within and among participating countries; building capacity within national Research and Development (R&D) systems, and enhancing regional collaboration in agricultural research and development. The implementation of APPSA is based on partnerships and collaboration among SADC countries. Each country under APPSA establishes a Regional Centre of Leadership (RCoL) in its respective commodity area that distinguishes it as a leader in the region and beyond. So far, Zambia has established an RCoL in food legumes and legume-based farming systems, Malawi in maize and maize-based farming systems and Mozambique in rice and rice-based farming systems. In the current phase, Angola and Lesotho are establishing RCoLs in Cassava and Cassava-based farming systems and Horticulture and Horticulture-based farming systems, respectively.

Investments from or through APPSA are expected to support the national seed authorities in the APPSA countries in building their capacity and aligning national legislation and regulatory systems to the SADC and/or COMESA harmonised seed regulatory systems (HSRS).

2) JUSTIFICATION

In its coordination role of APPSA, CCARDESA is expected to support policy dialogue and harmonisation activities with other key stakeholders as appropriate. Regional harmonisation is expected to facilitate access to new and improved varieties, ease the movement of seed, improve distribution, simplify administrative procedures, encourage investments and reduce costs. Greater investment in the SADC region will also allow farmers to grow and access more varieties at more affordable prices, which will eventually lead to greater food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation. The SADC HSRS also aims at integrating small and isolated seed markets in the region through harmonisation of variety testing, certification, and registration procedures, adoption of a certification and quality assurance system, and the implementation of uniform quarantine and sanitary and phytosanitary measures for seeds.

The SADC and COMESA systems stipulate that once a variety has been released in two member states, the variety can be included in the regional variety catalogue. The entry of a variety in the SADC Variety Catalogue implies that the variety can be traded freely anywhere in the SADC Region.

SADC's efforts to advance the HSRS have been ongoing since Member States began discussing the harmonisation of seed laws in 1988 and the MoU on implementing the HSRS was approved in 2009. Over two-thirds of SADC Member States have signed the SADC HSRS MoU since 2009. However, regional seed policy harmonisation is progressing slowly in some countries, including the APPSA implementing countries. During past APPSA Implementation Support Missions, there were recommendations that options for increasing the regional release of varieties, in particular, those tested under APPSA should be explored. APPSA Phase 2 countries are also encouraged to disseminate technologies that were generated by Phase 1 countries and those generated by other collaborating institutions operating outside the region. If APPSA countries and those they are collaborating with have not fully domesticated the SADC and COMESA HSRS, it will be difficult to achieve the above as well as other related milestones.

In addition, there is a necessity for further dialogue on these issues, involving key stakeholders from the countries and the region on operationalisation of the SADC and COMESA HSRS, increasing the capacity to manage risks to prevent the transmission of pests and diseases through seed or vegetatively propagated material, clarification of intellectual property rights, implementation of biosafety regulations and other related topics. To effectively engage in such dialogues, stakeholders would benefit from a situation analysis report on the domestication of the SADC and COMESA HSRS among the current APPSA countries for which CCARDESA would like to engage a consultancy.

3) OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the consultancy is to conduct an assessment of the current status of domestication of the SADC and COMESA HSRS among the current APPSA countries (Angola,

Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia) in order to enhance their capacity to effectively integrate seed policy harmonisation issues into national planning and implementation.

4) SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Specifically, the objectives of the assignment are to:

- i. Review and document the current status of the national seed policy framework in each of the APPSA countries.
- ii. Determine the extent to which the countries' capacities, national legislation and regulatory systems are aligned to the SADC and COMESA HSRS. What are the gaps, and what actionable recommendations are proposed for countries to fully domesticate the SADC and COMESA HSRS?
- iii. Identify bottlenecks associated with domestication of seed regulatory systems in the APPSA Countries and suggest solutions
- iv. Document the role played by APPSA and other agencies in supporting the domestication efforts in the five countries.
- v. Act as a resource person for subsequent regional dialogues to be organised by CCARDESA where key stakeholders are expected to participate.

5) EXPECTED OUTPUTS/DELIVERABLES

Deliverable	Time Frame
1. A draft situation analysis report detailing the methodology, workplan (including validation for delivery of final report, and budget)	one (1) week after signing of the assignment contract
2. A draft situation analysis report, which shall include: the current status of national seed policy framework in each of the APPSA countries; assessment of the extent of alignment of national capacities, legislation and regulatory systems to the SADC and COMESA HSRS; role played by APPSA and other agencies in supporting domestication efforts in the five APPSA countries; and current gaps and recommendations on how	Seven weeks (7) after the approval of the inception report,

national seed regulatory systems in the current APPSA countries can be capacitated, strengthened and/or improved to fully domesticate the SADC and COMESA HSRS	
3. A final situation analysis report. The final report should incorporate comments received from CCARDESA, APPSA countries and other key stakeholders	Within two (2) weeks of acceptance of the draft situation analysis report.

6) CONSULTANCY APPROACH

This is a desk study, requiring less or no travel by the Consultant.

7) DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The Consultant is expected to conduct this assignment within a period of 25 working days spread over a period of 3 months.

8) QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSULTANT

The Consultant shall be required to have the following qualifications and experience:

- i. At least a Master's degree in Agricultural Sciences, Plant Sciences, Breeding, Seed Science and technology or other Agricultural related fields;
- ii. Have good understanding of the SADC and COMESA Seed regulatory frameworks;
- iii. At least 15 years working experience, including at least 10 years in the seed regulatory space;
- iv. Demonstrable ability to write concise technical papers and synthesis reports on subjects related to the assignment; and
- v. Experience in policy development and analysis

9) REPORTING

The Consultant will report to the APPSA Regional Coordinator who will be responsible for daily technical and administrative issues for the assignment.