



TAAT Maize Compact

Highlights

- **Introduced over 35 high-yielding climate smart varieties for farmer use**
- **Produced and distributed 21,041 tons of improved climate smart certified hybrids maize seeds with high yield potential**
- **Deployed 6,598 tons of certified seed treated with Fortenza Duo for Fall Army Worm control**
- **Increased farm household incomes from less than US\$ 300 per ha to US\$ 495 per ha**
- **2.3 Million farmers accessing and effectively using maize technology products and services in target countries**
- **841,648 ha cultivated using climate smart maize hybrids**
- **99,203 small pack seeds distributed to enhance farmer adoption**
- **4,731 demo plots established, and 828 field days organized to showcase farmer adoption in target countries**

What is the problem?

The erratic and variability of production factors particularly rainfall, pest, and diseases are key risks in any farming business. These risks are quite high in predominantly rainfed agriculture in SSA due to the unreliability of the rains which is a key factor determining field crop production and productivity. Facilitating delivery of proven solutions to farmers at scale still presents a challenge as many African farmers still require access to agricultural credit to eliminate their capital constraints. Hence, the TAAT Maize Compact's objective is to ensure there is access, adoption, and use of climate smart maize technologies and accompanying technologies as well as enhancing market linkages for farmers.

Compact description

Huge investments of more than USD 1 billion have been made in maize crop improvement through various breeding programmes including Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA), Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa (DTMA), Stress Tolerance Maize for Africa (STMA) and Improved Maize for African Soils (IMAS), with emphasis on the development of stress-tolerant maize varieties including drought, low soil-nitrogen and biotic stresses such as pests and diseases. These

investments have led to the release of drought tolerant hybrids that out-yielded best commercial checks by 20-30 % under stress conditions. The TAAT Maize Compact aims to scale out and disseminate Water Efficient and other climate smart maize varieties and complementary technologies across 12 countries. This will be in collaboration with both



Stephen Okola farmer in Kisumu



Happy farmers showcasing cobs from Fortenza Duo (FD) treated seeds during harvest, Zambia. Photo/Samuel Angwenyi-AATF.

the public and private sector, and notably, with significant participation of commercial seed companies for production of certified seed. The Maize Compact target countries include Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, and Benin.

What are TAAT Maize Objectives?

- Increase uptake and use of high-yielding climate-smart maize hybrids from WEMA, DTMA, STMA, DTMAS, IITA and NARS maize breeding platforms by smallholder farmers.
- Increase profit margins in the maize value chain through improved market linkages, value adding activities and agribusiness training and incubation.
- Increase number of women and youth entrepreneurs and employment in the maize value chain.
- Involve women and youths in the maize value chain by increasing their participation in maize farming and processing by 20% and 10%, respectively.

What are the TAAT Maize technologies?

- Elite Water Efficient Maize for Africa varieties (WEMA)
- Appropriate fertilizer blends
- Optimal maize planting density
- Efficient pest, disease and weed management
- Post-harvest management
- Supportive marketing
- Mechanization of farming operations
- Promoting good agricultural practices (GAPs) in maize production

What have we achieved so far?

The Maize Compact has identified and deployed eight (8) Maize technologies to increase maize productivity by 30%

across the program's target countries. Through its network of NAREs, PPPs and farmer groups, 2,393,690 direct beneficiaries have learned and benefited from the value add of climate smart maize hybrids commercialized through accompanying field days, open days, hands-on training sessions and small seed packs distribution. In partnership with 40 seed companies across target countries, the Maize Compact has so far: facilitated the establishment of 4,731 demonstration plots, conducted 828 field days, and has distributed 99,203 free small pack seeds to boost the scale up of over 21,041 tons of climate smart maize seeds produced in partnership with the seed companies.

Were there any key challenges or lessons learned?

- Strong partnerships and engagements with all stakeholders is required in order to have a functional and productive maize value chain.
- Droughts and unpredictable rainfall patterns have continued to disrupt demos, trials and other farming activities. However, the use of weather prediction platforms can assist to alleviate this problem as this could help with better planning to escape the effects of unfavorable weather thus minimizing crop damage.
- For farmers to obtain the expected yields, a package of accompanying technologies including GAP, among others are required.
- Market linkages are key, to ensure farmers are incentivized to venture into maize farming as a business and further adopt climate smart maize varieties. Seed companies will also produce more, if they are sure that farmers are interested in these varieties. It is a win-win for all partners

Compact contact:

Munyaradzi Jonga, PhD, Maize Compact Leader

African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), (<https://www.aatf-africa.org/>), P.O Box 307709,00100, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 (0)20 422 3730 | Mobile no: +254 735 99 2020 | Email: j.munyaradzi@aatf-africa.org | Skype: Munya5 Jonga



For more information, please contact:

TAAT Programme Management Unit, IITA HQ, Ibadan – Nigeria | TAAT Clearinghouse, IITA Benin, Cotonou – Benin



TAAT-Africa@cgiar.org



+229 60855188