



# TAAT Policy Enabler Compact

## *Facilitating the Creation of an Enabling Environment for Enhanced Technology Adoption in Africa*

### Key Results in Brief

Seed policy environment assessed in 12 countries where gaps/challenges were identified and raised with policy makers for redress.

- ***Eight (8) policy and regulatory instruments developed and adopted for implementation to facilitate access to agro-inputs.***
- ***Twenty (20) policy dialogue events organized with relevant policy makers and other stakeholders to prioritize interventions.***
- ***High-level policy makers and stakeholders directly engaged to facilitate seed policy, regulatory and institutional reforms.***
- ***One hundred and twenty (120) Agro-input dealers accredited to facilitate access to quality inputs and reduce proliferation of counterfeit agro-inputs.***
- ***Approximately 1.2 Million farmers to be directly impacted by the policy and regulatory instruments that were developed and adopted.***

### What is the problem?

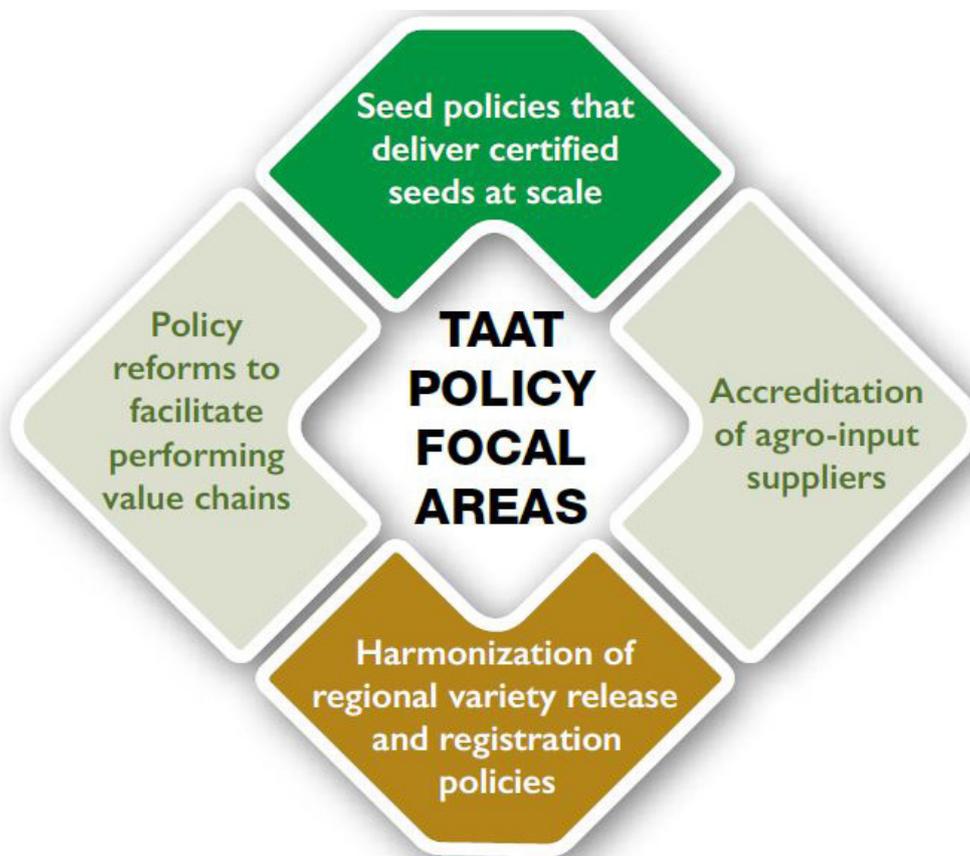
The quest for agricultural transformation must pay attention to large-scale dissemination of productivity-increasing technologies and inputs. Further, it is critical to develop input and output markets structures and incentives that allow the full realization of the value of increased production. To achieve transformation, it is also critical to facilitate an enabling environment comprising of policies, regulations, institutions, support services and other conditions that collectively improve a general business setting where business activities can start, develop and thrive. The following challenges have persisted and remain a focus of the Policy Enabler Compact:

- Inefficient seed systems that are characterized by long and costly processes of seed certification and variety release
- Delays in the adoption of technologies that can be applied to similar agro-ecological regions across borders
- Slow domestication and implementation of regionally harmonized policies for the trade of agro-inputs

- Low quality of agricultural inputs in African input markets as a result of incidences of counterfeit and fake inputs
- Insufficient mechanisms for the accreditation of agro-input dealers hence traceability and quality control and enforcement of standards in input markets is not guaranteed
- Poorly coordinated/integrated agricultural value chains actors
- High transaction costs and information asymmetry.

### Compact Description

The TAAT Policy Enabler Compact (TAAT-PEC) supports TAAT Commodity Compacts through activities aimed at creating an enabling environment for technology deployment and adoption by farmers. This is achieved through policy reform interventions that help to build functional effective seed systems. TAAT-PEC works to hasten variety release and registration, spur market incentives and efficiency along agricultural value chains, and facilitate access to quality inputs through accreditation of agro-input dealers.



### What are the TAAT Policy Objectives?

- Assessment of policy and regulatory environment to facilitate creating a strong seed system for Regional Member Countries (RMCs) of the African Development Bank via an evaluation and prioritization of interventions that can be financed as part of TAAT country programs and dissemination to the seed industry
- Increase access and availability of quality seeds via accreditation of seed, fertilizer, and agro-input suppliers
- Support harmonization of regional technology release and registration policies through the study of existing protocols
- Facilitate enactment of relevant policies that improve cross-boundary movement of seeds and agricultural goods
- Facilitate competitive value-added chains through an analysis of existing value chain studies and synthesis of policies that create market incentives for farmers and agribusinesses.

### What have we achieved so far?

- Completion of rapid seed sub-sector assessments in 12 countries to identify and prioritize policy, regulatory and institutional gaps for targeted advocacy efforts to gain commitment for reforms

- These efforts have led to the passage of Seed Policy in Uganda in 2018, passage of Provincial Seed Decrees and updating of variety catalogue in DR Congo in 2018/2019, Enactment of Plant Variety Protection law in Malawi in 2019 and passage of the Seed law in Liberia in 2020
- Development of guidelines and protocols for accreditation seed suppliers and agro-dealers in Tanzania and Nigeria that serve as a remedy towards proliferation and counterfeit agro-inputs.
- Supporting efforts towards domestication and implementation of regionally harmonized regulations in the main Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa (EAC, COMESA and ECOWAS). Efforts around this have led to (1) Development and adoption of guidelines for testing and registration of Pesticides in the EAC region, (2) Development of the Regional Quarantine Pest List for West Africa, (3) Development of the Executive Regulation for Seed Import and Export for West Africa, (4) Initiating processes for advancing the domestication and implementation of the regionally harmonized seed regulations in COMESA and ECOWAS.

### Were there any key challenges or lessons learned?

- Bureaucracies in the policy making process leading to delays in the implementation of priority actions.

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