



PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION | UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA (TANZANIA)

Harnessing the Power of Plant Variety Protection in Reaching Farmers With New Varieties and Opportunities to Improve their Livelihoods in the United Republic of Tanzania.

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- **Dr. Thomas Mgonja (Associate Professor: Emirates Aviation University)**

Presentation Outline:

- 01 Tanzania facts: Agriculture, Crop Varieties & Seeds.
- 02 Plant Variety Protection (PVP) – Tanzania perspectives.
- 03 Advances on PVP – Cases: Maize & Sorghum.
- 04 Lessons and Remaining Challenges.

Agriculture, varieties, seeds

94.5m ha

Total land

44m ha

Arable land

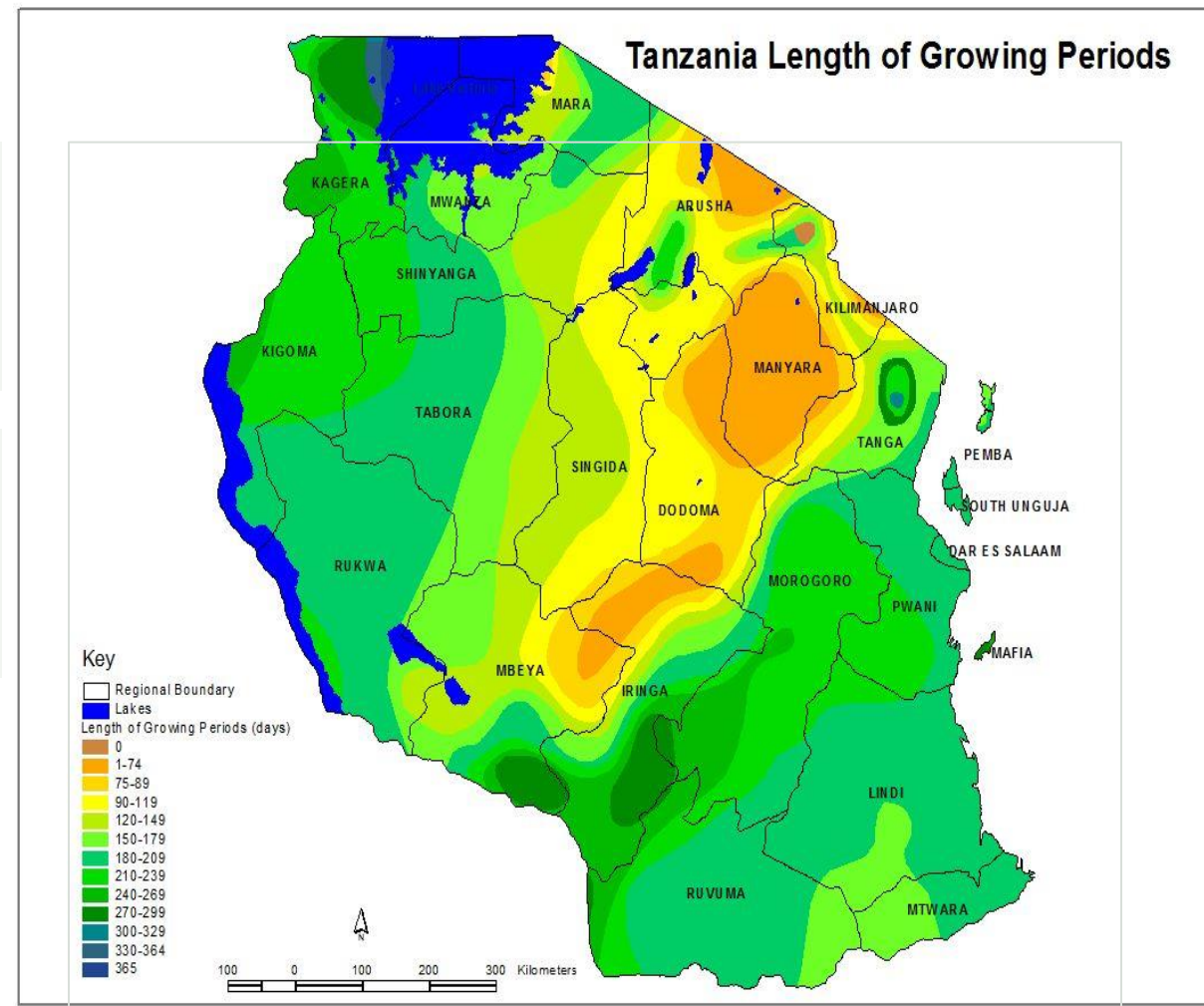
35%

Of arable land is in ag. use

85–90%

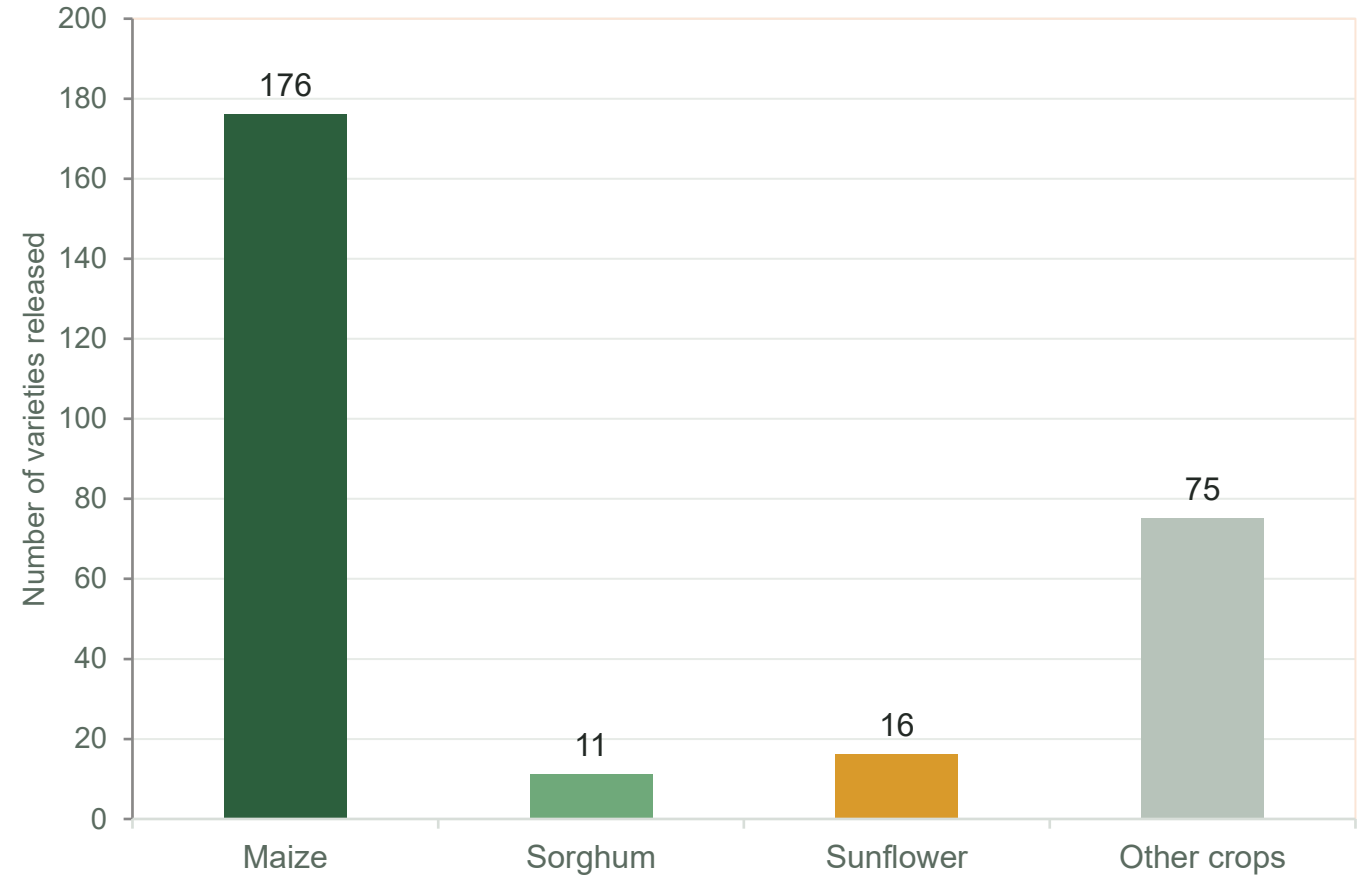
Smallholder farmers

- Farmers' adoption of new technologies remain low.
- 36% maize and 4% sorghum.
- Productivity gains are constrained by **limited access to improved varieties and quality seed.**



Tanzania – length of growing periods

R&D: Varieties and Seeds Released



278

Total variety released across 6 crops-2020

- Varieties include Protected & Non-Protected
- Maize leads with 176 releases (>50%)
 - Sorghum: 11
- Total varieties released by 2025 =1,286.

Seed industry Development in Tanzania – Need for PVP

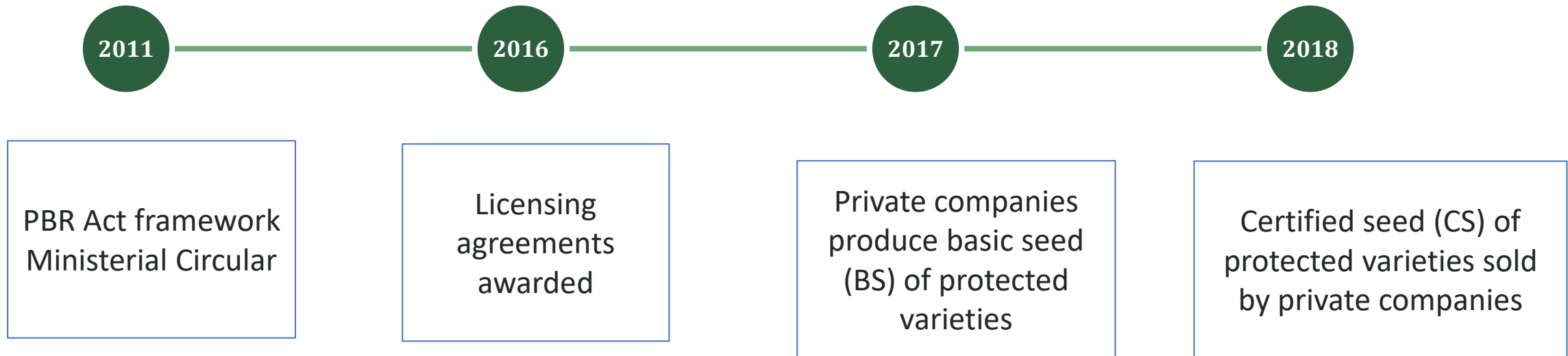
- Growth of agriculture relies on a dynamic seed industry.
- **Less than 30% of farmers use quality seed of improved varieties (protected & non protected).**
- **Low presence of public varieties in the market.**
- **NARS breeders focus mainly on variety development.**

- Inadequate availability of **basic seed (BS) of public varieties.**
- Seed regulations (2007) did not allow private companies to produce BS of public varieties.
- Agricultural Seed Agency is the sole BS supplier for a growing number of local private seed companies.

Need for Seed Policy reforms.

PVP and Licensing as a Strategy to Commercialize Public Varieties.

PVP in Tanzania – PBR Act 2012: Licensing Agreements

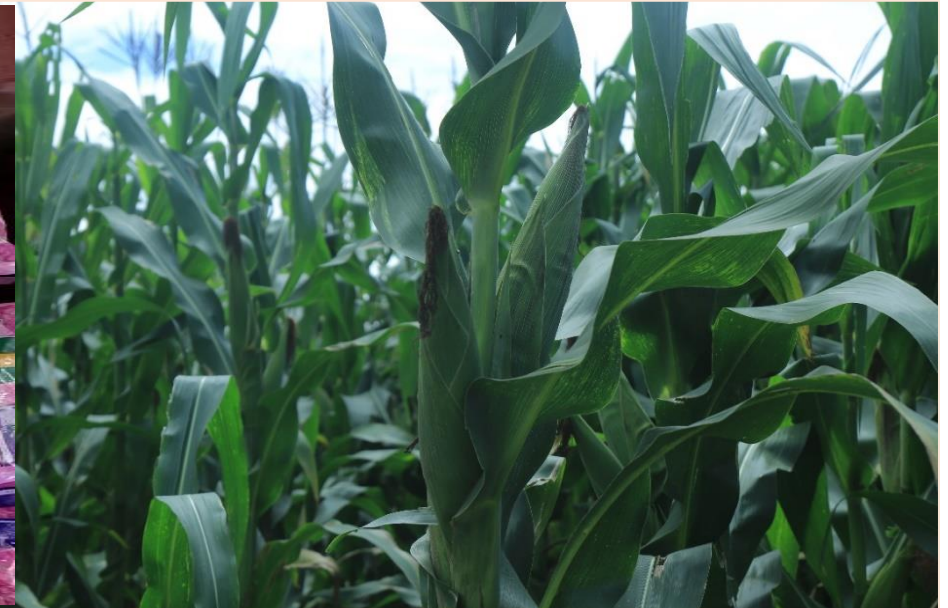




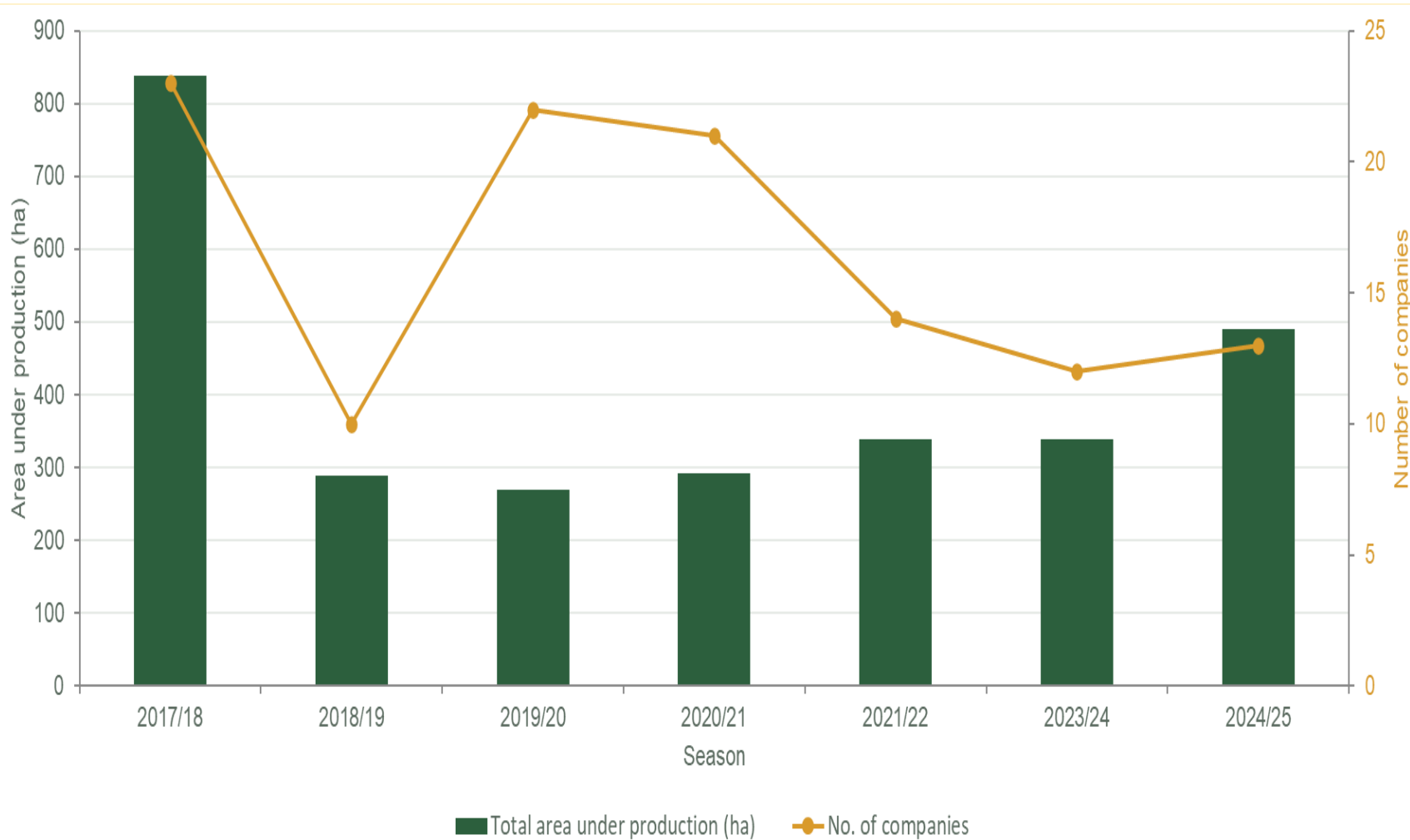
3 private companies awarded licensing agreements in 2016

PVP: Protected Maize Hybrid = UH6303

- Public maize hybrid grown across 12 regions in URT.
- Flint, hard grains – preferred by end-users.
- Pre-basic seed availed to private cos. by NARS.
- Basic and Certified Seed produced by licensed companies.



Maize UH6303: C1 Seed Production 2018–2025



Key points

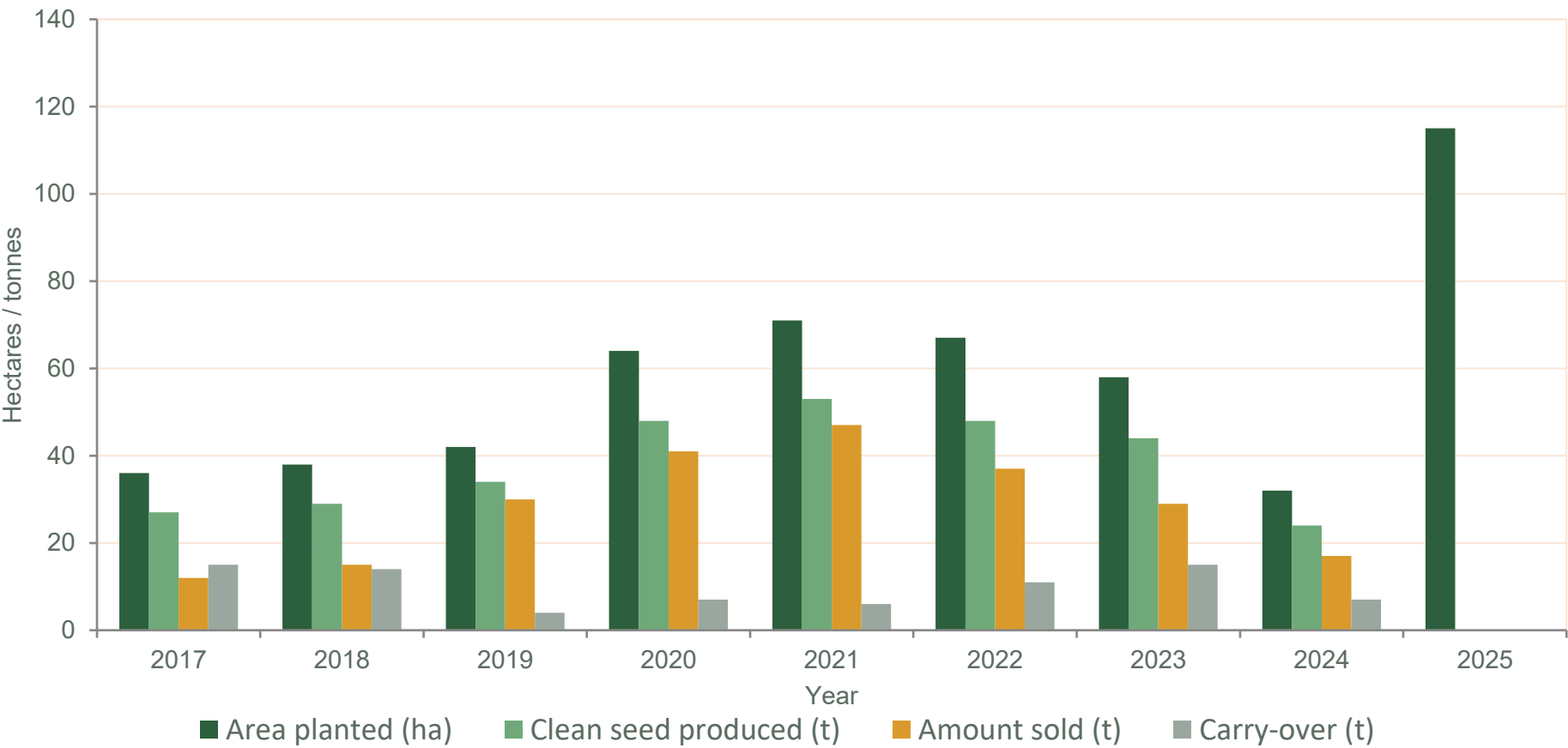
- Production peaked at 838.7 ha in 2017/18,
- The number of companies from 23 to average 12 /year .
- Consolidation among fewer, larger producers.
- ** Preliminary data for 2025/ 2026 has both new and returning co. with >850 ha
- Licensed & Non – Licensed Cos. average seed area 400ha /year
- On average reaching 72,000 farmers per year.

PVP: Sorghum Variety: NACO Mtama 1

- **Privately released** and protected variety.
- Grain quality attributes desired by end-users/ beverage industry.
- Consistent availability of Pre-basic and basic seed from the owner.
- Low adoption of improved sorghum varieties.



Sorghum Seed: Production, Sales & Carry-over, 2017–2025



- Increase Area under seed production.
- Average Planted area is 60ha per year.
- Carry over clean seed
- Need Rigorous Seed Marketing.

2025/2026 : 115 ha planted (Namburi + contracted farmers);

Impact 1: PVP and Youth Empowerment.

Training provided on:

- Seed production.
- Good Agronomic Practices (GAP).
- Agriculture as a business.
- Basics of contractual agreements.
- **940 trained annually via demonstrations and Field days.**

JOBS Created: Youths employed at farm and factory level, and trained youths contracted to produce seed.



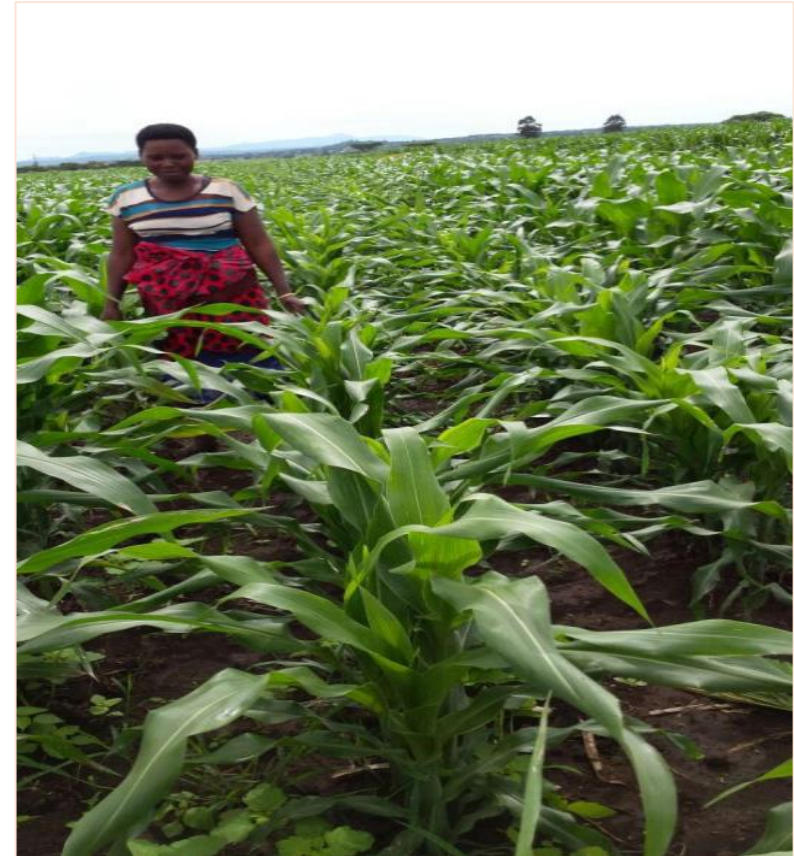
Impact 2: PVP: Company competitiveness and Income :

- PVP of privately owned varieties maintains **quality as a sole** producer to meet high-end markets.
- Contractual arrangements with trained farmers (**8-10 per year**) increase **seed volumes and farmers' income**.
- Demonstrations and field days (**9-14 per year**) build **awareness /capacity** among markets and farmers.
- Farmers saving on maize **seed costs of protected variety is at USD1.3/kg**



Impact 2: PVP and company competitiveness (cont.)

- One licensed company avails **Early Generation Seed (EGS)** of a **protected hybrid** to 6 other companies.
- This expands C1 (certified) **seed area and volume** of the **protected hybrid**.
- Area covered by this *protected hybrid* > 850 ha in 2026).
- **Adding value to R&D** work in URT- farmers are accessing protected public varieties.



UH6303 MAIZE C1 SEED PRODUCTION TZ

Tanzania: Lessons Learned.

- Policy reforms, PVP and licensing give private **companies a route to access public** varieties – enhancing farmers' access to improved varieties.
- Protected varieties go un-licensed and / or unproduced due to limited EGS supplies.
- Promoting protected varieties need to be a continuous activity.
- Need to Protect and promote more and new improved varieties.
- Continuous **capacity building (young breeders) and communication** is key to all.

Summary: Areas for Improvement

- Strengthen the framework and guidelines **for Royalty charging** to benefit breeders.
- **Coordinate EGS production and supply for protected varieties.**
- Provide regular, need-based **capacity building and communication on PVP** and licensing.
- Strengthen regular **data management and synthesis using modern tools** to identify challenges and opportunities.

Conclusion

PVP and Variety Licensing Is a Strategy to:

- Commercialize Public Varieties, add value to Public R&D and reach farmers with quality seed of improved varieties.
- Maintain quality & Sustain Production for Privately Owned Protected Varieties.

Acknowledgement

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI)
- Plant Breeders Rights Office (PBRO)
- Tanzania Seed Trade Association (TASTA)
- Farmers, industries and grain aggregators
- **African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) –support promotion & Conducting Adoption and Impact Study (Sept-Oct 2026) of protected varieties.**
- **Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) –availing seed production data for UH6303**

Thank you

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