

Issues for AFSTA

Training of Trainers
4 – 8th May 2015
UPOV Headquarters

AFSTA mission

To promote trade in improved quality seeds and technologies in Africa for the benefit of members and farmers



Plant Breeding in Africa

- ▶ Plant breeding in Africa dates back to 1920s with Research Institutes to improve the genetic stock and production methods for major export crops in West, East and Southern Africa; cocoa, tea, coffee, etc.;
- ▶ Breeding for hybrid maize and later on wheat, rice, potatoes and other crops started between 1930's-1950's in Zimbabwe and Kenya;
- ▶ A few countries have a dynamic research systems that involve the private sector with well established variety release systems (Kenya, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia – Members of UPOV).



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Issues for AFSTA

- ▶ In general, plant breeding is still a public domain in Africa whereas the national budget allocated to research has been reduced for the last 30 years;
- ▶ Different perceptions of “good PVP law” e.g. “the African Model Law on IPR” which is supposed to guide the African countries to set up their PVP law;
- ▶ Absence of PVP systems i.e. no motivation for the private plant breeders in African countries (no return on their investment);



Issues for AFSTA

- ▶ Challenges for the enforcement of existing PVP law (royalty collection for instance);
- ▶ Low awareness of policy makers on the importance of PVP as a sustainable way to support farmers (more choice on varieties);
- ▶ Less interest of youth to study agriculture in general and plant breeding in particular;
- ▶ Varieties developed by the public sector do not meet farmers' needs for some crops – Inadequacy of public Research and farmers' needs.



What need to be done

- ▶ Awareness raising on the importance of PVP in partnership with various stakeholders involved in the PVP;
- ▶ Review agricultural policies and legislation to facilitate the development of effective PVP for the countries;
- ▶ Strengthen Public Private Partnership in plant breeding programs to facilitate flow of improved germplasm among countries;



What need to be done

- ▶ Promote the implementation regional PVP systems such as OAPI (and forthcoming ARIPO);
- ▶ Develop plant breeding and seed technology curricula in universities and graduate fellowship opportunities in order to train future technicians and scientists;
- ▶ Communication and advocacy through National Seed Trade Association at national level to set up an effective PVP systems.



END

THANK YOU

