



# TASAI

THE AFRICAN SEED ACCESS INDEX

Towards competitive seed systems serving smallholder farmers



# TASAI BACKGROUND

Timely availability of improved seeds at affordable prices is critical to improving food security, resilience, and livelihoods for smallholder farmers in Africa. Improved seeds can deliver state of the art technology to farmers including higher yields, disease and pest resistance, climate change adaptation, and improved nutrition. Over the last two decades, formal seed systems in Africa have been gradually liberalized resulting in increased participation of private seed enterprises (multinationals, regional and domestic companies).

## TASAI OBJECTIVES

TASAI seeks to promote the creation and maintenance of enabling environments for competitive seed systems serving smallholder farmers. It is this enabling environment that TASAI seeks to measure, track, and compare across African countries. The intended outcome of this index is improved access to locally adapted, affordable, and high-quality seed of improved varieties by smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## TASAI PRINCIPLES

Simplicity

Accuracy

Transparency

# WHAT IS TASAI?

- The African Seed Access Index (TASAI) monitors a variety of indicators that are essential to the development of a national seed sector.
- TASAI gives an annual scorecard on the vibrancy or competitiveness of a national seed sector.
- TASAI is a useful tool for government policy makers, development agencies, seed enterprises, and ultimately farmers.



# TASAI INDICATORS

	<b>A. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>Crop-specific</b>	<b>Impact on seed access</b>
1	Number of active breeders	Yes	+
2	Number of varieties released in last 3 years	Yes	+
3	Availability of (basic) foundation seed	Yes	+
4	Average age of varieties sold	No	-
5	Percent of varieties with climate-smart features	Yes	+
	<b>B. INDUSTRY COMPETITIVENESS</b>		
6	Number of active crop seed companies	Yes	+
7	Time it takes to import seed from neighboring countries	No	-
8	Market share of top 4 companies	Yes	-
9	Market share of current or past government parastatal	Yes	-
	<b>C. SEED POLICY AND REGULATIONS</b>		
10	Length of variety release process	Yes	-
11	Quality of seed policy framework	No	+
12	Quality of regulatory system	No	+
13	Adequacy of seed inspectors	No	+
14	Efforts to stamp out fake seed	No	+
15	Use of smart subsidies	No	+
	<b>D. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT</b>		
16	Availability of extension services	No	+
17	Quality of national seed trade association	No	+
	<b>E. SERVICE TO SMALLHOLDER FARMERS</b>		
18	Concentration of rural agro-dealer network	No	+
19	Availability of seed in small packages	Yes	+
20	Seed-to-grain price ratios at planting time	Yes	-





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