



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 OBJECTIVE

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: Easy interpretation without sacrificing rigor.

ACCURACY: Data cross-checked from multiple sources.

TRANSPARENCY: Open to inquiries and updates.

WHAT IS TASAI?

- The African Seed Access Index (TASAI) monitors a variety 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

	A. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	Impact on seed access
1	Number of active breeders	+
2	Number of varieties released in last 3 years	+
3	Availability of foundation seed	+
B. INDUSTRY COMPETITIVENESS		
4	Number of active crop seed companies	+
5	Time it takes to import seed from neighboring countries	-
6	Market share of top 1,2,3,4 companies	-
7	Market share of current or past government parastatal	-
C. SEED POLICY AND REGULATIONS		
8	Length of variety release process	-
9	Quality of seed policy framework	+
10	Quality of regulatory system	+
11	Adequacy of seed inspectors	+
12	Efforts to stamp out fake seed	+
D. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT		
13	Availability of extension services for smallholder farmers	+
14	Availability of seed in small packages	+
E. SERVICE TO SMALLHOLDER FARMERS		
15	Concentration of rural agro-dealer network	+
16	Quality of national seed trade association	+





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