



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SEED POLICY**

**DRAFT**

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## ACRONYMS

|        |   |  |
|--------|---|--|
| CBD    | - | Conservation of Biodiversity                           |
| COMESA | - | Common Market for Eastern, Central & Southern Africa   |
| EAC    | - | East African Community                                 |
| DSIP   | - | Development Strategy and Investment Plan               |
| FAO    | - | Food and Agriculture Organization                      |
| FIS    | - | Federation of International Seed Trade                 |
| GMO    | - | Genetically Modified Organisms                         |
| GDP    | - | Gross Domestic Product                                 |
| IPR    | - | Intellectual Property Rights                           |
| ISTA   | - | International Seed Testing Association                 |
| MAAIF  | - | Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries |
| MDG    | - | Millennium Development Goal                            |
| NAADS  | - | National Agricultural Advisory Services                |
| NDP    | - | National Development Plan                              |
| NARO   | - | National Agricultural Research Organization            |
| NARS   | - | National Agricultural Research System                  |
| NGO    | - | Non-Governmental Organization                          |
| NEPAD  | - | New Partnership for Africa's Development               |
| NSCS   | - | National Seed Certification Services                   |
| ODA    | - | Overseas Development Agency                            |
| OECD   | - | Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development  |
| TRIPS  | - | Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights             |
| UBOS   | - | Uganda Bureau of Statistics                            |
| UNCST  | - | Uganda National Council of Science and Technology      |
| USTA   | - | Uganda Seed Traders Association                        |
| WTO    | - | World Trade Organization                               |

## **FOREWORD**

The Crop subsector plays a key role in the socio-economic development of the country. It provides food, employment, export revenue as well as income to the farmers and all stakeholders. The potential of the country's crop subsector is very high, given Uganda's competitive advantage in the region, in terms of the favorable agro-ecological conditions and strategic location.

However, agricultural productivity at farm level is still characterized by a low application of modern inputs, resulting in low yields. Use of improved seed varieties is one sure way of overcoming low production and productivity, coupled with the use of other inputs such as fertilizers and crop protection products.

It is against this background that the seed policy has been developed to provide a formal framework, upon which the seed industry will develop within the framework of the Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP).

The seed policy was developed through a consultative and participatory process, involving a number of stakeholders, both from the public and private sector, notably policy makers, farmer's organizations, seed companies and researchers.

Government is committed to providing an environment that is conducive for the continued development of the crop subsector, and therefore will promote all efforts to stimulate all innovative approaches by the stakeholders in the seed industry.

I wish to acknowledge the efforts of all stakeholders who contributed to the preparation of this policy. It is my sincere conviction that all of us will provide the necessary support, to make implementation of this seed policy a success.

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES  
ENTEBBE**

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **1.0 Background**

#### **1.1 Agriculture and Ugandan Economy**

Currently, Agriculture is the main engine of growth of Uganda's economy, accounting for 21% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), (UBOS 2011), 48% export earning, 80% of employment and provides most raw materials for agro-based industries.

About eighty five percent of the population live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. This sector will continue to be the major source of livelihood for the rapidly growing population.

The performance of the agricultural sector has been fluctuating over the years mainly due to changing climate patterns and fluctuating world prices. However, the current trends indicate a substantial improvement in food crop production because of better policies, increased levels of adoption of appropriate agricultural inputs like improved seed and agro-chemicals, all of which are essential to increased productivity of land.

Despite the substantial improvement in food production, poverty is still rampant, while the population continues to experience problems of malnutrition and the country suffers pockets of hunger, famine and starvation.

### **2.0 Related Macro-economic framework.**

#### **2.1 The National Development Plan (NDP)**

Government has embarked on implementing policy reforms in the agricultural sector within the context of the overall National Development Plan. The agricultural sector component of the National Development Plan outlines the development plan for the agricultural sector and how it intends to contribute to the NDP theme of growth, employment and prosperity. The strategic objective of the National Development Plan is the achievement of Prosperity for All (PFA), which is the national development objective.

## **2.2 Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP)**

The strategic plan for the realization of the agricultural sector objectives is the Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP). The five year plan, in line with the National Development Plan (NDP) shall guide government, the private sector (commercial and smallholder), civil society and development partners in making investments to achieve the objectives of the agricultural sector. The Development Strategy and Investment Plan shall be implemented to raise rural household incomes and improve the food and nutrition security of all Ugandans.

The seed policy is aimed at contributing to the Development Strategy and Investment Plan investment program 1 which focuses on enhancing agricultural production and productivity, through provision of improved seeds and other planting materials, and program 4 that focuses on creating an enabling environment for the private sector in agriculture through improvement and effective implementation of the seed law, standards and regulations.

## **3.0 The Seed industry development in Uganda**

### **3.1 Evolution of the Seed Industry**

The seed program in Uganda was started by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1968/1969, within the aegis of Uganda's second five year development plan, as a seed multiplication scheme, and became operational in 1970 with support from Overseas Development Agency (ODA). It was later turned into Uganda Seed Project. Following the divestiture of the Uganda Seed Project in 1999, it was converted into Uganda Seed Ltd.

The Seed industry in Uganda had for a long time been the domain of government control, supported by public sector research institutions and government parastatals and international donor funding.

### **3.2 Current status of the seed industry**

As a result of the policy of trade liberalization and privatization, there has been marked increase in private seed sector participation, with the resulting

emergence of local and foreign based seed companies involved in seed production, processing and marketing.

There are two main categories of seed supply system currently operating in Uganda, the formal and informal seed sector. The formal seed supply system involves the entire seed production and certification process and is linked to research, production, processing and marketing. It is organized on a commercial basis by seed companies/enterprises and is fully regulated by government. The seed produced by the formal seed sector is of high genetic and purity value, though only contributing about 30% to the seed supply system.

The informal seed system on the other hand has no organized seed production chain, and is heavily unregulated. The source and quality of seed used for planting purposes is in most cases not known. It is mainly a community based seed production (using farm saved seed) and contributes the bulk of seed supply to the farming community, to about 70%.

To-date (2011), there are 23 registered seed companies, which have contributed significantly to increase the production levels of certified seed from 1,800 metric tones in 2001 to about 12,000 metric tons in 2011 (*Source: MAAIF Database 2011*). However, the seed supply is still insufficient to meet the growing demand by the farming community.

#### **4.0 Challenges facing the Seed Industry**

##### **4.1 Lack of a comprehensive seed policy**

Colonial legacy created a precedent of controlling and regulating the seed industry through Acts and Ordinances. The first legislation on Plant Seed was made in 1908 to prevent the importation of cotton seed. A comprehensive act, the Plant Protection Act/Ordinance No. 11 came into force in 1937.

Most Acts were developed without any policy. The Seeds and Plant Act, 2006 was also formulated without guidance from any seed policy. The Act provides for the promotion, regulation and control of plant breeding, variety release, seed multiplication, quality assurance and marketing. Therefore, there is need to develop a seed policy that shall back up the legal framework for seed quality control and enforcement.

#### **4.2 Lack of Plant Breeder's Rights and Protection of indigenous knowledge**

The Seeds and Plant Act, 2006 recognizes the importance of plant breeder's rights. There is however, no sui generis system formally formulated, which is suitable to Uganda's conditions. Absence of the protection of Plant Breeder's rights could constrain foreign investment in the seed sector, as there would not be any incentives/rewards for the breeder's efforts. However, efforts have now been made to develop a Plant Variety Protection law (PVP) that shall, in addition to providing for Plant Breeder's Rights, be an incentive and attract investment in the Seed sector.

#### **4.3 Inadequate in -situ and ex -situ conservation programs**

There has been increased rate of erosion of Uganda's bio-diversity and plant genetic resources through human, economic practices and over exploitation. The situation is exacerbated by lack of adequate programs and infrastructure to ensure sustainable plant genetic banks through in **situ** and **ex situ** conservation. Furthermore, Uganda has not undertaken comprehensive mapping of plant species and cataloguing of plant varieties, leading to loss of its genetic materials without any benefits/rewards to the country.

#### **4.4 Inadequate capacity for effective seed certification and inspection services**

There is inadequate capacity in terms of manpower and infrastructure to cope with the rapidly expanding seed industry and to carry out seed inspection and certification. There is therefore need to develop a policy initiative that shall promote and strengthen seed certification and inspection services through human resource and infrastructural development. In particular, efforts should be geared at recruitment of more staff and upgrading of the existing seed laboratories for improved delivery of seed regulatory services.

#### **4.5 Lack of policy to regulate, guide and monitor genetically modified seeds**

Genetically modified seeds are a recent development in the agricultural sector. There is need to create awareness on safe mechanisms of analyzing its contribution to agricultural development especially in developing countries. National capacities need to be built to enhance the testing, detection, and labeling so that consumers are protected and enabled to make informed decisions.

#### **4.6 Shortage of improved seed**

Shortage of improved seed is due to predominance of farmer saved seed, poverty (low purchasing power), lack of appreciation of using improved seed, and lack of

accessibility to improved seed. Therefore, there is need to put in place a policy framework that shall encourage production of adequate amount of improved seed, and to develop efficient seed delivery mechanisms to farmers at affordable costs, and in a timely manner.

#### **4.7. Globalization**

Globalization poses serious challenges to the seed industry especially due to protection and creation of non - tariff barriers that will hinder effective trade in seed. In order to address constraints of globalization, and to effectively and competitively participate in global seed trade, Uganda shall ratify and seek membership to all the relevant seed trade related protocols such as International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) for laboratory issuance of Orange certificates; and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for varietal field seed certification schemes for seed moving in international trade. In addition, Uganda shall also need to ratify its membership to the Union for the Protection of Plant Varieties (UPOV) for effective implementation of the Plant Variety Protection Law (PVP).

#### **5.0 Justification for a Seed Policy**

Currently, the seed industry is experiencing a rapid growth with many players coming in, which must be well coordinated. In the face of globalization and technological advancements, coupled with investment interests in the seed sector in Uganda, the seed industry involves a wide range of stakeholders with divergent interests. The stakeholders include scientists, Government institutions, private sector, farmers, NGO's, donors and other civil society organizations. There is therefore need to put in place a comprehensive seed policy, with an institutional coordination framework that will involve all the stakeholders; including scientists and seed companies that are involved in seed research, seed companies and farmers engaged in seed multiplication, processing and marketing, and seed certification services for seed inspection and certification for quality assurance.

The seed policy shall address the entire seed industry in a holistic manner. It shall define roles and responsibilities of the key players as well as articulating their linkages, taking into account emerging areas such as biotechnology and GMOs, and promotion of investments through recognition of plant breeders' rights, community and farmers' rights, and protection of indigenous knowledge.

## CHAPTER 2

### 6.0 The National Seed Policy

#### 6.1 Vision

“A competitive, profitable and sustainable, market-led, regulated, and coordinated seed industry”

#### 6.2 Mission

“To ensure the availability of adequate high quality and safe seed on the market”

#### 6.3 Goal

“To significantly contribute to increased agricultural production and productivity for improved standards of living and food security through the use of high quality seed”

### 7.0 Objectives

- To guide the **production, processing and distribution** of high quality seed.
- To protect plant breeders and users rights.
- To support conservation and sustainable use of national plant genetic resources.
- To strengthen partnerships amongst public, private sector and civil society.
- To guide the transformation of the informal seed sector into a formal seed sector, including use of quality declared seed.
- To regulate the trans-boundary movement, of seed, including genetically modified seeds.
- To provide mechanisms for establishment and operation of strategic seed reserves.
- To provide for harmonization of national positions with regional and international conventions and protocols on seed trade.

### 8.0 Guiding principles of the Seed Policy

The National seed policy shall be guided by macro-economic policy reforms like decentralization, liberalization, privatization and responsiveness to emerging areas and market demands.

The principles of the seed policy shall include the following:-

### **8.1 Quality Assurance**

Quality assurance is one of the important pre-requisites for entry into regional and international markets. The seed policy shall guide the development of quality control procedures and standards relating to among others, purity, germination, seed health, processing, registration and labeling. The policy shall also provide for Uganda's accreditation to international conventions and to such bodies as ISTA, OECD and the harmonized laws and regulations within EAC and COMESA for effective participation in seed trade, both regionally and internationally.

### **8.2 Liberalization**

The seed industry has for a long time been a public sector domain in activities related to production, processing and marketing. In line with government policy of privatization and liberalization, the seed sector has been privatized resulting into increased number of players in the industry.

The seed policy shall encourage the effective and efficient participation of the private sector in the seed industry development, while the public sector shall be responsible for providing an enabling environment for seed sector investment through just and fair legal reforms and provision of regulatory services.

### **8.3 Protection of Innovations**

Uganda's genetic resource base is vulnerable to exploitation due to unregulated and uncontrolled use of the natural resources. An appropriate *sui generis* system shall be formulated to protect Plant Breeders rights over their new inventions.

The seed policy shall guide the formulation of a legal framework for the protection of Plant Breeder's Rights, production of vegetatively propagated crops and quality declared seed.

### **8.4 Food Security and Nutrition**

Although Uganda as a whole is generally self-sufficient in food supplies, pockets of food shortages still occur. This is partly attributed to low use of appropriate agricultural technology including improved seed. Seed is a national strategic input. Consequently the policy shall encourage availability of high quality seed to farmers in order to improve on food security and nutrition of the population.

### **8.5 Partnership Building**

There are many players in the seed industry and there in need to build their synergies through the development of partnership among the public and private sectors, civil society, NGOs and farmers in order to build an efficient and effective seed industry. The roles of the stakeholders shall be defined for effective coordination. The seed policy shall provide for proper harmonization mechanisms with East African Community (EAC), COMESA, World Trade Organization (WTO) and relevant international conventions.

### **8.6 Protection of Environment and Biodiversity**

Uganda has a rich biodiversity, which should be conserved. The policy shall provide for sustainable use of plant genetic resources so as to meet the safety, development and environmental needs and concerns of the present and future generations of Uganda. The policy shall also promote in situ and ex situ conservation in order to safe guard and protect the biodiversity of Uganda. The policy shall further provide for exchange of germplasm for crop research and development purposes. Measures shall be put in place to prevent introduction of seed borne pests and diseases and undesirable plant genes.

### **8.7 Sustainability**

The sustainability of the seed industry depends not only on the proper use of natural resources, but also on the creation of an enabling environment to allow various players to fulfill their roles.

There has been continuous dependence on donors for the sustainability of the seed industry in Uganda. Measures shall be put in place to attract both local and foreign investors to establish seed production, processing and distribution networks in the country on a sustainable basis.

### **8.8 Gender Equity**

In Uganda, men and women are involved in agricultural production. Whereas men are involved more in cash crop production, women are more involved in

food production. However, there is an intrinsic tendency for sectoral development programmes not to equitably reach or benefit vulnerable groups.

The seed policy shall therefore enhance deliberate efforts to target and equitably benefit all groups.

## 9.0 Policy Strategies

The strategies for implementing the seed policy shall be guided by the key principles as outlined in 8 above. They shall be guided by participatory approaches during planning and implementation of activities related to the industry.

In general, the strategies formulated will address specific policy areas, as outlined below:-

### 9.1 Quality Assurance

**Policy statement: Appropriate mechanisms shall be put in place to facilitate the production of high quality and environmentally safe seeds.**

Quality assurance is one of the most important pre-requisites for entry into national, regional and international seed markets. Good quality seed is key to improved crop productivity and increasing household incomes.

The policy shall therefore encourage quality assurance mechanisms for promoting the use of high quality and safe seed through:

- Conducting quality control procedures and standards relating to field inspection and certification and laboratory testing for germination, purity, seed health, and registration and labeling.
- Building adequate laboratory capacity for diagnostic and analytical testing and certification of seeds and other planting materials to the required quality standards, including genetically modified seeds.
- Accreditation of public and private seed testing laboratories that are compliant to the national and international seed testing standards.
- Training of seed inspectors, seed growers, processors and merchants on quality seed production.
- Establishing a strong seed inspection and certification service within the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

- Supporting private sector in quality seed production, post-harvest handling and distribution of seed.
- Establishing a registration system for seed producers, nursery operators and seed merchants.
- Ensuring adherence to established standards for utilization of products of biotechnology, such as genetically modified seeds.

## 9.2 Protection of the Rights of Plant Breeders

**Policy Statement: The Rights of Plant Breeders shall be protected.**

The reward to scientists for their innovations is an incentive to generating more improved seed. Plant Breeders have the exclusive rights to withhold from other parties their consent to make use, offer for sale, or import the plant variety that they developed. The policy shall provide protection to Plant Breeders over their innovations.

**The following strategies shall be implemented:-**

- Cataloguing and establishing inventories of plant varieties.
- Establishing a mutual contract for exclusive rights of Plant Breeders.

## 9.3 Partnership Building

**Policy statement: Partnerships shall be built among various seed stakeholders to harness resources and synergies from public and private sector for a vibrant seed industry.**

Seed production has been predominantly a public domain, and this has constrained adequate supply of seed due to limited production. With emergence of private sector, this will contribute greatly to increased seed supply, cutting off monopoly and creating healthy competition and providing a wide spectrum of seed supply. There is insufficient good quality seed on the market, resulting in farmers using inferior seed.

Building partnerships would ensure that many players would be allowed entry into the seed industry including public and private sector, as well as civil society organizations for effective and efficient delivery of services.

**The following strategies shall be undertaken:-**

- Promoting private and public investment for both individual and joint ventures in the seed industry.

- Encouraging establishment of national forum of seed associations, seed dealers and producers to demand for extension services and access credit at affordable conditions.
- Strengthening national programs and developing linkages between public institutions and private sector.
- Building capacity and back-up support to the seed sector through training.
- Developing appropriate infrastructure such as power and roads to ease processing and transport.
- Supporting the production of adequate breeders and basic seed for seed companies to produce sufficient quantities of certified seed.

#### **9.4 Transformation of the Informal seed sector**

**Policy statement: The informal seed sector shall be transformed into a viable, commercial seed sector.**

The informal seed sector is not regulated, seed source is not known and standards are not adhered to. However, the informal seed sector has a strong advantage of conserving biodiversity of land races.

Currently both formal and informal seed production and supply systems operate side by side with the formal seed sector providing 20% of certified seed, while 80% of seed grown is home saved.

**The policy of transforming the informal seed sector into a viable, commercial seed sector will involve the following strategies:**

- Linking research with the informal seed sector.
- Building capacity in terms of training of personnel in the informal seed sector.
- Creating sustainable formal seed markets and rural seed stockists.
- Putting in place mechanisms to control the quality of seed in the informal seed sector.
- Triggering latent demand for improved seed through demonstration plots using improved quality seed.
- Promoting intermediary technologies such as quality declared seed.

#### **9.5 Control and regulation of genetically modified seeds**

**Policy statement: Genetically modified seeds shall be controlled, monitored and regulated.**

Genetically modified foods have been associated with benefits including, but not limited, to improved food quality in terms of enhanced proteins, increased

desirable substances, which are essential to decreasing ailments, like allergens, heart disease and kidney disease.

Despite the fact that genetically modified foods have potential to address hunger, food security and poverty eradication, there is need to do more research on their impact on the environment, biodiversity and human health. Therefore, there is need to regulate and control genetically modified seeds, in order to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks.

**The strategies to address the policy related to control and regulation of genetically modified seeds shall include:**

- Capacity building of personnel and physical facilities for detection of genetically modified seeds.
- Proper labeling to inform the public on benefits as well as risks associated with genetically modified seeds as a “right to know basis”.
- Developing appropriate protocols for the introduction of genetically modified seeds.
- Developing a legal framework and bio-safety regulations and guidelines on genetically modified seeds.
- Establishing an effective monitoring system for utilization of genetically modified seeds.

### **9.6 Strategic intervention for Emergencies**

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| <b>Policy statement: Strategic interventions shall be undertaken to supply seed to cater for emergencies.</b> |
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Government has the responsibility to ensure adequate supply of seed in case of natural disasters such as epidemics, floods, and droughts. The private sector can have a complementary role to play in this situation.

**The strategies to address the policy shall include:**

- Establishing seed banks at appropriate locations in the country.
- Constructing seed storage facilities where necessary, through joint ventures between government, private sector and humanitarian organizations.
- Providing emergency funds to cater for the vulnerable groups.
- Establishing mechanisms for regulating seed supply during emergencies to ensure seed quality.

## 9.7 Harmonization of National policies with Regional and International Conventions

**Policy statement: National positions on seed issues shall be negotiated and harmonized with regional and international conventions and protocols.**

The seed industry must operate in consonance with established protocols, treaties and obligations such as World Trade Organization (WTO), Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in order to match with global requirements, and to be able to cope with the required standards for international trade in seed.

Strong linkages shall be created with international and regional bodies such as International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), Federation of International Seed Trade (FIS), East African Community (EAC) and Common Market for East, Central and Southern Africa (COMESA), for an effective and sound seed industry.

### **The strategies shall include:-**

- Reviewing and harmonization of national legislation and regulations in response to changing regional and international trading conditions.
- Building capacity of scientists, private sector and government officials on negotiation skills and bargaining ability at international for a.
- Establishing, when appropriate national forum, to develop national seed positions before attending international meetings.
- Participation and collaboration with international and regional bodies on seed.

## 9.8 Legal framework for the Seed Industry

**Policy statement: Appropriate legal framework shall be put in place to regulate the seed industry.**

Various segments of the seed industry including seed production, processing, marketing, seed imports and exports have to be undertaken in a regulated manner, thereby requiring a well constituted legal framework to guarantee seed quality to the consumers.

### **The strategies to the policy shall include:**

- Reviewing the existing laws, regulations and institutions dealing with seed, with a view to harmonizing and rationalizing their functions to conform with

National Macro-economic reforms relating to liberalization, decentralization and privatization.

- Formulating a Bill for the Protection of Plant Varieties to grant Plant Breeders' Rights and to encourage further investment in the seed sector.

### **9.9 Institutional framework for the Seed Industry**

**Policy statement: Appropriate Institutional arrangements shall be put in place at all levels to facilitate an effective and efficient seed industry.**

A well defined institutional framework, including the roles of various stakeholders is a pre-requisite to a successful seed industry. The seed industry has many stakeholders, institutions, and agencies involved in its day to day management. Farmer's Associations such as Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE), Uganda Seed Traders Association (USTA) form the basis of a sustainable seed industry. Traders including seed importers, exporters, processors, distributors and stockists undertake commercial aspects of seed business. On the other hand, researchers, extension agents and government agencies facilitate the generation and dissemination of new seed varieties. It is therefore critical that their roles are clearly defined.

**The conduct of an efficient and effective seed industry will among other factors rely on the availability of an appropriate institutional infrastructure by:**

- Rationalizing existing public institutions to ensure efficient delivery of service.
- Redefining the roles of the public and private sector in as far as seed production and marketing, and seed quality assurance.

## CHAPTER 3

### INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The role of the public sector, in as far as the Seed Policy is concerned, shall include research and development of new seed technologies, dissemination of the technologies to the farmers, as well as seed quality assurance, through seed certification and quality control.

On the other hand, the private seed sector shall play an active role in promotion of the technologies developed by public institutions through seed production, marketing and distribution.

#### **10.0 Institutional Framework for Implementation of Policy**

##### **10.1 Public Institutions**

###### **10.1.1. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)**

MAAIF shall be responsible for enforcement of seed rules and regulations in guiding the operations of the seed industry. A technical body responsible for day to day running of seed regulatory services, known as the National Seed Certification Service, established under the Department of Crop Protection is responsible for seed inspection and certification.

###### **10.1.2. National Agricultural Research System (NARS)**

National Agricultural Research System (NARS) shall undertake to develop new seed technologies. The research and development agenda will be undertaken both by Public and Private Institutions in a harmonized manner.

###### **10.1.3. National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS)**

While National Agricultural Research System undertakes research in development of new seed technologies, National Agricultural Advisory Services is responsible for the promotion and dissemination of the technologies to the farming community, through farmer's groups/associations.

For an efficient seed delivery service, farmers are encouraged to form farmer's groups and to select a viable farming enterprise. In the case of the seed industry the farmers could work under Seed Growers Associations (SGA). Such associations would access farm credits/loans at concession rates from

microfinance institutions and other lending institutions. This would enhance and build capacity for seed grower groups in the production and supply of improved seeds.

#### **10.1.4. Uganda National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST)**

The Uganda National Council for Science and Technology has, within its portfolio, the mandate to encourage Agricultural Research and Development in the country.

UNCST is responsible for the registration of private research providers, and acts as a forum for discussion of agricultural research related issues, and also provides competitive grants for scientists willing to undertake research programs.

#### **10.1.5. Universities**

Universities that have developed curricula geared towards agricultural research and development have a complimentary role to play in development of new seed technologies that are suited and adapted to the farmer's needs in the country.

### **10.2. Private Institutions**

#### **10.2.1. Uganda Seed Traders Association (USTA)**

USTA is an umbrella organization that brings together all seed components to work towards improving the seed supply chain to the farmers. In addition, USTA undertake to lobby government on implementation of policies that help to ease the development of the seed industry.

### **11.0 Legal Framework for implementation of Seed Policy**

#### **11.1 Seed and Plant Act (2006)**

The Seed and Plant Act (2006) has been enacted to repeal the Agricultural Seeds and Plant Statue (1994). The Act provides for the promotion, regulation and control of Plant breeding, variety release, multiplication, marketing and quality assurance of seed and other planting materials.

#### **11.2 Seed and Plant Regulations**

The Seed and Plant Regulations 2009 provide the detailed procedures and guidelines in enforcement of the Seeds and Plant Act. The Regulations spell out

the fees to be charged for the various seed activities and fines for specific penalties during implementation of the law.

### **11.3 Other related legislations**

Other related legislations for implementation of the Seed Policy shall include the Plant Protection Act and Plant Variety Protection Act (PVP).

### **12.0 Funding Mechanisms**

In the implementation of the National Seed Policy, funding of the various activities shall be from:-

- (1) Donor grants
- (2) Government sources
- (3) Private sector.