

THE 2nd

**RWANDA NATIONAL
SEED CONGRESS 2024**



CONGRESS PROGRAMME

DATE: July 29 - 30, 2024
VENUE: Kigali Marriott Hotel

DAY 1: 29TH JULY 2024

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Arrival of Delegates and Registration	NSAR Secretariat
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Arrival of the Guest of Honor and Inauguration of the Exhibition	NSAR Secretariat

OPENING SESSION

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	<p>Opening remarks – NSAR</p>  <p>Innocent Namuhoranye, NSAR Chairperson</p>
10:15 AM – 10:20 AM	<p>African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA)</p>  <p>Dr. Yacouba Diallo, Secretary General</p>

<p>10:20 AM - 10:30 AM</p>	<p>Alliance for Africa Green Revolution (AGRA)</p>  <p>Dr. George Bigirwa, Director Centre of Excellence for Seed Systems in Africa (CESSA) at AGRA</p>
<p>10:30 AM - 10:40 AM</p>	<p>FAO Rwanda</p>  <p>Coumba D. Sow, Country Representative</p>
<p>10:40 AM - 10:55 AM</p>	<p>Guest of Honor</p>  <p>Hon. Dr. Ildephonse Musafiri, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources MINAGRI</p>
<p>10:55 AM - 11:10 AM</p>	<p>GROUP PHOTO</p>
<p>11:10 AM -11:30 AM</p>	<p>TEA BREAK</p>

SESSION

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/PANELISTS
Setting the Scene		
11:30 AM – 11:45 AM	Key Components and Support systems of a dynamic and vibrant seed sector in Africa: lessons from Southern African Region (Online Presentation)	Dr. Magdeleen Cilliers Policy and Science Manager – South African National Seed Organisation (SANSOR)
<p>A dynamic and vibrant seed sector enables farmers' continuous access to new high yielding and climate-resilient varieties of the right quality, quantity, at the right time, and affordable price, from a range of seed companies and producers and distribution channels. This seed sector would include components such as, although not limited to, efficient variety development, release, registration, seed production, marketing, distribution, and use, as well as effective regulatory systems including seed quality control using self-regulation. This keynote presentation will delve into the ingredients of a dynamic and vibrant seed sector taking lessons from the Southern Africa Region that would apply to Rwanda.</p>		
11:45 AM – 12:15 PM	Detailed implementation plan of the Private Sector's Strategic Roadmap for Seed Industry in Rwanda, and roadmap to self-regulation	Lomo van Rensburg, Emea Group (Consultant)
<p>The 1st Rwanda Seed Congress unveiled the Private Sector's Strategic Roadmap for the Seed Industry in Rwanda. This presentation will dwell on the strategy's detailed implementation plan.</p>		
12:15 PM – 1:10 PM	Panel 1: What is required to realize the implementation of the Private Sector's Strategic Roadmap	
<div>      </div> <div> <p>Dr. Mark Bagabe, Director General - Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority - (RICA)</p> <p>Dr. Telesphore Ndabamenye, Director General - Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board - (RAB)</p> <p>Kate Ojunga, Vice-Chairperson NSAR</p> <p>Dr. Patrick Karangwa, Director General of Agriculture Modernisation - MINAGRI</p> <p>Moderator: Eugene Anangwe CEO, East Africa Media Group LTD</p> </div>		

This panel discussion will bring together representatives of seed industry and institutions responsible for policy, the national seed authority, and research and extension to explore the implementation plan and express their views. This is expected to catalyze contributions from the audience.

1:10 PM - 2:10 PM

LUNCH BREAK

Advances in Crop genetic improvement for food security

2:10 PM – 2:25 PM

Global Trends in Plant Breeding Innovation: enabling wider choice for farmers and consumers

Dr. Kulani Machaba,
Regulatory Leader, Africa
& Middle East Region -
Corteva,

This session will focus on global advances in plant breeding innovation. The benefits of breeding innovations, methods (include future-groundbreaking work) and public policy for plant breeding innovation products.



2:25 PM – 2:35 PM

Advancing biotechnology to solve Africa's food challenges

Dr. Canisius Kanangire,
Executive Director - **AATF**

Harnessing biotechnology to modify plant genetics offers Africa the opportunity to develop crops that adapt to climate threats, are resistant to pest and diseases, nutrient and water efficient and are nutrient dense (nutritious). Some African countries have approved the commercialization of biotech crops. This keynote address intends to demonstrate the increasing relevance of genetically modified crops in Africa. It will draw lessons from AATF's TELA maize project which is initiating the commercialization of transgenic drought-tolerant and insect-protected maize in several African countries.



2:35 PM – 2:45 PM

The Rwanda Biosafety Law

Dr. Patrick Karangwa,
Director General of
Agriculture Modernization
- **MINAGRI**

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the recently enacted Rwanda Biosafety Law and steps towards its operationalization.





2:45 PM - 3:45 PM		Panel 2: Enabling Genetic technologies for food security: The case of Rwanda				
<div></div> <div>Dr. Patrick Karangwa, Director General of Agriculture Modernisation - MINAGRI</div>		<div></div> <div>Dr. Canisius Kanangire, Executive Director AATF</div>		<div></div> <div>Dr. Kulani Machaba, Regulatory Leader, Africa & Middle East Region CORTEVA</div>	<div></div> <div>Godwin Lemgo, Regulatory Scientific Affairs Lead for Africa BAYER</div>	<div></div> <div>Dr. Mark Bagabe, Director General - Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority - (RICA)</div>
<div></div> <div>Juliet Kabera, Director General, Rwanda Environment Management Authority - REMA</div>		<div></div> <div>Moderator: Ajay Panchbhai, PhD, Global Partnerships and Capacity Building Lead CGIAR - Seed Equal</div>		<p>Discussions focusing on the steps to obtain the full benefit of advanced technology that results in development of genetic modified organisms. Panelists will examine the human, institutional and infrastructural capacities that need to be in place by Rwanda to develop/ adopt biotech crops, conduct field trials and commercialize them, as well as Requirement to import, export, and purchase GMOs for commercial purposes. Panelists will elucidate the coexistence of conventionally breed and biotech crops/seeds in the market.</p>		
3:45 PM – 4:00 PM		TEA BREAK				
Strategic Policies and Systems to catalyze seed sector development Sessions						
4:00 PM – 4:15 PM		Building a robust and sustainable seed sector for agriculture transformation in Africa		Dr. Solomon Gizaw, Head of TAAT Clearing house - International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)		
<p>This key note address by the Technologies of African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) will focus on its work with African countries' to expand access to climate-resilient crop varieties and facilitate the building of robust and resilient seed systems to improve the availability, access and use of quality seeds of these varieties by farmers. It will highlight challenges to wide-scale dissemination improved crop varieties and ways to address them.</p>				<div></div>		

4:15 PM – 4:25 PM	Harnessing International Agreements and Governance Mechanisms for Advancing Rwanda's Breeding and Seed Trade Systems.	Dr. Kent Nnadozie, Secretary – FAO International Treaty On Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
<p>Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) are essential for countries to ensure food security and promote sustainable agriculture and adapt to climate change. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) plays an important role in providing an effective governance framework for the management and exchange of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Rwanda ratified the treaty in January 2010 and hosted the 7th Governing Board's meeting on 30th October – 3rd November 2017. This session intends bring awareness of the International Seed Treaty and their mechanisms.</p>		
4:25 PM – 4:40 PM	Seed quality assurance	Dr. Andreas Wais, Secretary General - International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)
<p>Since the 1st Rwanda Seed Congress, the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) has provided training to Rwanda. However, the National Seed testing laboratory must fulfil certain conditions to achieve ISTA accreditation. During this keynote address, a representative of ISTA will present lessons learnt from the accreditation process of selected African countries.</p>		
4:40 PM – 4:50 PM	National and OECD Seed Certification Systems: An overview	Csaba Gaspar, Head of Section - OECD Codes and Schemes
<p>The roadmap for Rwanda Seed Industry prioritises membership of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), whose Seed Schemes provides an international framework for certification and purity of seed moving in international trade. Rwanda is in the process of applying for OECD Seed Schemes membership. Personnel of the National Seed Authority (NSA) and the private sector have received training from OECD. Rwanda's NSA has instituted a plan to achieve compliance to OECD seed schemes. This presentation intends to raise awareness and to engage policy makers and the seed sector of the key role of OECD Seed Schemes in facilitating the production of quality seed for domestic use and international trade. The discussion will generate input for the implementation plan.</p>		

4:50 PM – 5:00 PM	Considerations for the establishment of effective variety protection systems in Africa (Online Presentation)	Leontino Taveir, Director of Global Development and Technical Affairs UPOV (Online)
<p>Countries that introduce effective plant variety protection (PVP) systems attracted greater investments in breeding and involvement of the private sector in the Seed Industry. The Countries experience increased availability of new superior varieties and better avenues for international seed trade. The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) provides and promotes an efficient system of plant variety protection. This session will raise awareness of benefits Rwanda stands to gain by adopted an efficient PVP system.</p>		
5:00 PM – 5:40 PM	Panel 3: Role of International and Regional Organizations in the Seed Trade: Prospects for Rwanda	
<div><div><p>Dr. Andreas Wais, Secretary General - International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)</p></div><div><p>Csaba Gaspar, Head of Section - OECD Codes and Schemes</p></div><div><p>Ildephonse Niragire, Director of farm Product and Processes Inspection Unit - RICA</p></div><div><p>SYLVESTER O. OIKEH, Ph.D., TELA Maize Traits Launch Project Manager African, Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)</p></div><div><p>Moderator: Kemoneiloe Kim Phatoli, CEO - National Youth Council (South Africa)</p></div></div>		
<p>The Roadmap for the Rwanda Seed Industry recognizes efforts must be made to harmonize national seed laws and regulations to the international regulatory framework for seed trade, covering access to delivery of quality seed, to farmers. The international regulatory framework includes OECD seed Schemes, ISTA and UPOV. This panel will discuss proposals highlighted in the Roadmap for the Rwanda Seed Industry and provide practical recommendations for Government institutions regarding harmonizing the country’s seed standards and regulations, and infrastructure to comply with ISTA, OECD Seed Schemes and UPOV.</p>		
5:40 PM – 5:50 PM	Day 1 Wrap-up	Eugene Anangwe MC
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	GALA DINNER	All

DAY 2: 30TH JULY 2024

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/PANELISTS
9:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Keynote Address: Unlocking Rwanda's Investment Potential Opportunities for the Seed Sector	Francis Gatare, CEO - Rwanda Development Board - (RDB)
<p>Rwanda has consistently been ranked among the top attractive investment destinations in Africa. The country ranks 1st for Government transparency and 2nd for doing business in Africa. Rwanda is the 2nd fastest growing economy in Africa and a growing bilingual and educated workforce. The country has established a conducive enabling environment for the private investment. This keynote address will explore Rwanda's investment opportunities and incentives available in agriculture for the private sector.</p>		
9:45 AM - 10:05 AM	Financing of Food Systems by International Financial Institutions: Prospects for the Seed Sector Development	Edson Mpyisi, Chief Financial Economist and Coordinator, Enable Youth Program - African Development Bank Group
<p>This address will delve in AfDB's interventions to improve Africa's food systems in their current state-recovering from COVID 19, the Russian-Ukraine war and still facing the impact of climate change. It will highlight AfDB's finance mechanisms (i) immediate response to the Ukraine war (AEFPF), (ii) the sovereign loan and Grants window to RMCs for agricultural investments (iii) Private sector window – risk sharing financial instruments. The presentation will highlight main approach for seed sector development which brings together financing, policy engagement, technical assistance and leveraging of programs - that ramp up the scaling of promising technologies /innovations, enhance digital innovation adoption and policy engagement in the seed sector. AfDB investments in agriculture and seed sector development on the Africa continent will be show cased for learning or adoption.</p>		

10:05 AM – 10:20 AM	Addressing micro-economic factors influencing agricultural lending and how technology can assist in creating an improved economic environment for the role-players.	Levi Gasangwa, Chief Business and Corporate Solutions - Bank of Kigali Plc
This presentation will examine the factors influencing agricultural lending and how lending to agribusinesses and farmers can be improved.		
10:20 AM – 11:20 AM	Panel 4: Affordable Financing for seed value chain actors	
<div><div><p>Dr. Olivier Kamana, Permanent Secretary - MINAGRI</p></div><div><p>Dr. Edson Mpyisi, Chief Financial Economist and Coordinator, Enable Youth Program - AfDB Group</p></div><div><p>Levi Gasangwa, Chief Business and Corporate Solutions - Bank of Kigali Plc</p></div><div><p>Jean Claude ILIBONEYE, Head of Business Development - Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) Plc.</p></div><div><p>Faustin Mbundu, Owner & Chairperson - MFK Group/ Chairperson of Board of Directors - MTN Rwanda.</p></div></div> <div><p>The share of agriculture lending to the total lending portfolio from financial institutions in Rwanda is still low. The available finance is not affordable for those engaged in agriculture and there are other challenges that limit agricultural value chain actors' access to finance. This high - level panel delve into what is being done to make financing affordable for agriculture and suggest ways for improvement.</p></div> <div><div><p>Dr. Jolly Dusabe Folta, Deputy Chief of Party – CNFA Hinga Wunguke</p></div><div><p>Moderator: Eugene Anangwe CEO - East Africa Media Group LTD</p></div></div>		
11:20 AM – 11:40 AM	MOUs Signature	
11:40 AM – 11:55 AM	TEA BREAK	

11:55 AM –12:45 PM**Panel 5:** Improving Rwanda's agricultural value chains Competitiveness and trade

Alexis Bizimana,
Head of Agribusiness
– **Bank of Kigali**



Stephen Rurangwa,
Manager, Agriculture
Portfolio -
Development Bank
of Rwanda (**BRD**)



Alice Mukamugema,
DG Agriculture Value
Chain Management
and Trade – **MINAGRI**



Jean Marie Vianney Munyaneza,
Export services
Division Manager -
NAEB



Jean de Dieu Umutoni,
CNFA Enabling
Environment Director,
Hinga Wunguke

Key drivers for improving agricultural value chains competitiveness and trade include: (i) a competitive business environment, (ii) adoption of technologies and innovation along value chains, (iii) strengthening trade logistics and facilitation measures, (iv) investment in productive infrastructure – roads, water/ irrigation, energy-to power irrigation, processing etc, telecommunications and ICT, (v) access to finance – to invest in productive capacities and trade logistics (vi) technical, managerial and enterprise skills development, (vii) elimination of harassment at borders, and (viii) export promotion policy frameworks. This panel discussion will draw technocrats in policy and export promotion, experts from the financial sector and development partners to the performance of Rwanda in these key domains and what is required for match top performers on the African Continent.



Moderator:
Eugene Anangwe
CEO - **East Africa Media Group LTD**

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM**LUNCH BREAK****1:45 PM – 2:45 PM****Panel 6:** Building gender inclusivity in the Rwanda seed sector.

Dr. Bancy Waithira Waweru
Research Scientist
Rwanda Agriculture
and Animal Resources
Development Board (**RAB**)



Dr. Regis HITIMANA,
Chief Benefits Officer
– Rwanda Social
Security Board (**RSSB**)



Ingrid Karangwayire,
Executive Secretary –
BK Foundation



Winnie Ruzindana Gatarayiha,
Relationship Manager
Agribusiness
– **Bank of Kigali**



Moderator:
Kemoneiloe Kim Phatoli,
CEO - **National Youth ICT Council**

In Africa women play a crucial role in the seed sector. They are involved across the seed value chain, in the development of varieties as breeders, in the production and distributions of seeds as seed companies, agrodealers and cooperatives and purchases of seed as farmers. Women face significant challenges that prevent them from effectively participating in the seed sector. For example, up to 50% of the agricultural labour force in Africa are women, but the majority use farmer saved seeds or buy seed from informal markets. Further, women are under-represented in variety development, seed production and marketing. They concentrate on lower-paying, less secure jobs, and have limited access to resources and training opportunities. Women farmers are limited access to resources (land, livestock ownership, capital etc.), equal pay, participation in decision-making entities and access to credit and financial services.

However, there is much higher level of empowerment among women in agriculture in Rwanda compared to many other countries. Nonetheless, compared to men, women in Rwanda are significantly less likely than men to access financial services and extension services and participate in the marketing of agricultural commodities. In the seed sector, compared to men there are few women agrodealers, women headed seed companies and breeders. To address these challenges, initiatives are needed to promote gender equity in the seed sector, such as providing women with access to credit, training, and markets, and involving them more fully in research. This session will focus on building gender inclusive agriculture and seed sector in Rwanda where the role of women is increased and the gender gap narrowed.

CLOSING SESSION

2:45 PM – 3:05 PM	<p>Call to Action: Modernization</p>  <p>Ajay Panchbhai, PhD Partnerships and Capacity Building Lead CGIAR- Seed Equal, Regional Breeding Lead – Africa CGIAR- International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)</p>
3:05 PM – 3:15 PM	<p>Congress key resolution and the Way forward</p>  <p>Innocent Namuhoranye, Chairperson – NSAR</p>
3:15 PM – 3:50 PM	<p>Closing remarks</p> <div>    </div> <div> <p>Jeanne Mubili, Chairperson – Private Sector Federation (PSF)</p> <p>Dr. Olivier Kamana, Permanent Secretary – MINAGRI</p> <p>Prof. Chrysostome Ngabitsinze, Minister of Trade and Industry – MINICOM</p> </div>

Note: The total presentation time mentioned above also includes the Question & Answer session.

The image shows a close-up of several corn cobs. The husks are a mix of light green and yellow, indicating they are ripe. The kernels are a deep yellow. Overlaid on this image are horizontal blue lines, similar to those on a piece of lined paper, creating a notebook-like background.

A background image of a corn cob with yellow kernels and green husks, overlaid with horizontal blue lines for writing.

A background image of a corn cob with yellow kernels and green husks, overlaid with horizontal blue lines for writing.

The image shows a close-up of several corn cobs. The husks are a mix of light yellow and white, with some green leaves visible at the top. The corn kernels are a pale yellow. Overlaid on this image are horizontal blue lines, similar to those on a piece of lined paper, running across the entire width of the image.

PARTNERS

