

# CONCEPT NOTE

## 3RD RWANDA NATIONAL SEED CONGRESS 2026

**DATE:**  
July 20 – 21, 2026

**VENUE:**  
Kigali Marriott Hotel

**THEME: “ BUILDING RESILIENT SEED SYSTEMS FOR  
ENHANCED TRADE AND INVESTMENT”**

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## CONCEPT NOTE: THIRD RWANDA NATIONAL SEED CONGRESS 2026

### THEME: “Building Resilient Seed Systems for Enhanced Trade and Investment.”

Agriculture remains the cornerstone of Rwanda's economy, but the sector faces persistent challenges, notably low productivity across major food crops with quality seeds being the most critical input necessary to close the existing gaps and achieve national food and nutritional security goals.

For seeds to play their designated role, the seed sector must be on a sound footing, ensuring the timely availability and widespread utilization of high-quality, adapted varieties. The National Seeds Association of Rwanda (NSAR), in collaboration with the Private Sector Federation (PSF), through its strategic roadmap (*Private Sector Strategic Roadmap for Rwanda Seed Industry 2030*), is committed to driving private sector participation, recognizing that a stable and effective seed system is paramount for seed sector development.

The 3rd Rwanda National Seed Congress (RNSC) thus builds upon the foundational work of previous congresses, providing a high-level, multi-stakeholder platform to foster a continued sense of urgency for harmonizing Rwanda’s seed policy instruments and accelerating progress toward its seven-year agenda that will foster actions towards:

- Strengthening regulatory compliance in the seed sector to align with international standards and promote a self-regulating industry.
- Enhancing the capacity-building efforts of private sector actors within the seed industry through technical support, training and development programs.
- Promote biotechnology (GMO) and climate-smart agricultural practices, focusing on the development of innovative, high-performing seed varieties.
- Seed sector inclusivity through creating job opportunities with focus on women and youths for socio-economic development and overall well-being of its citizens.
- Promoting financial inclusion and formalizing the seed business and value chain to boost intra-African seed trade and long-term national development.
- Strengthen the seed systems with a well-established conducive environment that enables the private sector to operate and attract the investment in seed sector

- Lead the implementation of seed industry development initiatives, aiming to establish a resilient and functional seed system that supports Rwanda's goals of seed self-sufficiency and becoming a competitive seed exporter.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE CONGRESS

The 3rd Rwanda National Seed Congress (RNSC) thus aims to consolidate efforts and drive actionable strategies toward realizing a truly resilient, inclusive and competitive seed system in Rwanda. The primary objectives are to:

1. **Enhance Policy and Regulatory Coherence:** Review, recommend and advocate for the implementation of a harmonized seed sector policy legislation and regulatory framework to facilitate effective and efficient seed systems, particularly to reduce barriers to trade.
2. **Strengthen Variety Development and Production:** Promote investment in, and adoption of, better variety/breed improvement programs and robust seed production technologies to ensure resilience against climate change, pests and diseases.
3. **Promote Private Sector Commercialization:** Prioritize initiatives that accelerate the commercialization of seeds by the private sector, supporting market expansion and distribution channels both for national and regional trade.
4. **Drive Stakeholder Collaboration and Compliance:** Strengthen Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and encourage industry self-regulation and capacity building, ensuring compliance with quality assurance standards throughout the value chain.
5. **Expand Social and Financial Inclusion:** Mobilize key partners to formalize seed sector actors, providing them with essential financial services and social security coverage for long-term sustainability.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Congress is therefore expected to deliver the above-mentioned tangible progress for Rwanda's Seed industry, leading to:

1. **Enhanced Regulatory Framework:** Finalization of policy and regulatory guidelines that streamline operations and enhance both national and cross-border seed trade efficiency

through enhanced national capacity for seed testing and certification (*ISTA, OECD Accreditation*)

2. **Improved Technology Adoption:** Clear roadmaps for the development and adoption of high-yielding, climate-resilient seed varieties and strengthened seed production systems.
3. **Stronger Quality Assurance:** Development of improved quality assurance systems with enhanced collaboration and contribution from all stakeholders, including mechanisms for industry self-regulation.
4. **Boosted Market and Distribution value chains:** Actionable strategies for improved marketing and distribution channels, coupled with enhanced investor opportunities for a transformative seed industry and a strengthened ecosystem for international trade.
5. **Inclusive Value Chain:** Prioritization of cross-cutting issues, including the participation and empowerment of youth and women and the formal enrolment of seed actors into social security and financial inclusion programs for enhanced expansion of decent job opportunities and growth of certified commercial seed enterprises.

## TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The Congress will bring together over 300 participants, including local, regional and international stakeholders in sectors including but not limited to: National Seed Value chain actors, Public Sector (Government Officials, Ministers and Regulators), Seed Industry Leaders and Private Sector Investors, Representatives from Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Development Partners, Research and Academic Institutions, Farmers' Organizations, Youths, and Women representatives among others.

## CALL TO ACTION

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Rwanda National Seed Congress (RNSC) therefore offers a transformative opportunity to our Strategic partners and stakeholders in joining us to accelerate Rwanda's economic development while enhancing the national seed system's readiness to meet global standards. This collaboration will not only support Rwanda's preparations for the ISTA Congress 2028 but also anchor long-term development in the agriculture sector.

We hereby invite you as our esteemed partner to this impactful initiative and contribute to shared national goals for inclusive and resilient economic growth.



## OUR PARTNERS



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