



ASP SEED POLICY

VISION:

The use of improved seed will lead to: agricultural intensification and diversification, increased land and labour productivity; better use and returns from other production inputs, reduced pressure on marginal lands; lower consumer prices; which should result in improved household food security and increased income.

MISSION:

To contribute to a more vibrant private sector driven seed industry and create greater capacity in the informal seed sub-sector, thereby increasing the timely availability and accessibility of good quality seeds for a wide range of crops which also assures better seed security.

OBJECTIVE:

Increased and sustained availability and use of improved and quality traditional seed and planting materials as a significant contributor to achieve food security and increased income among ASP target groups.

STRATEGY

ASP aims to contribute to a more vibrant and sustainable seed sub-sector by:

- Integrating the seed component as an essential part of ASP components especially with regards to the Crop and Livestock and Entrepreneurship components.
- Promoting the use of improved seed as a means to enhance crop production and diversification in order to achieve food security and income generation among the target groups and beyond.
- Promoting on-farm seed production as a lucrative business.
- Facilitate farmers' access to quality seed that meets their basic requirements in terms of yields, cultural adaptability and quality attributes.
- Facilitate the development of efficient and sustainable seed production systems among ASP target groups.
- Building upon existing formal and in-formal structures within the Zambian seed industry and strengthening them where necessary.
- Encourage environmental friendly seed production techniques, including conservation of plant genetic resources to maintain the agro-biodiversity.

This will be achieved through;

- Supporting production of parent seed for some of the crops by the Soils and Crops Research Branch (SCRB) during 2002/2003 season. This is only to assure supply of high quality parent material for the seed growers for the coming growing season.
- Lobbying Government to take full responsibility for the production of parent seed for on farm seed multiplication from 2004 and onwards in accordance with the draft Seed Policy of 1999.
- Integrating seed multiplication of food and cash crops as well as tree crops in ASP seed activities.
- Promoting the Quality Declared Seed (QDS) approach for seed entrepreneurs, in order to provide a quality control system that is less demanding on resources but is adequate in assuring good quality seed.
- Expanding the market for improved seeds through increasing awareness and knowledge about the value of using improved seed among all farmers, thus increasing the demand. Annual seed needs assessment and market information will further improve the reliability of the market.
- Strengthening existing seed entrepreneurs and associations so that they can intensify and possibly expand their business.
- Strengthening the capacity of Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) to provide adequate seed quality control services in ASP areas.
- Identifying new potential seed entrepreneurs through the facilitation cycle and facilitating them to take up seed business in order to have more seed outlets.
- Facilitating linkages of seed entrepreneurs to small and large-scale out grower schemes.
- Paying special attention to the multiplication of Cassava to ensure that only proven materials that are disease and pest free are promoted.
- Promoting the conservation and use of landraces and indigenous crops and vegetables.