

SFSA's experience of ECOWAS seed regulation

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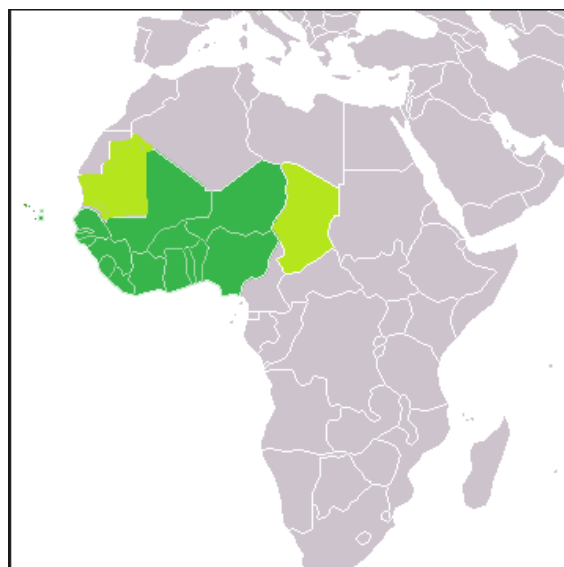
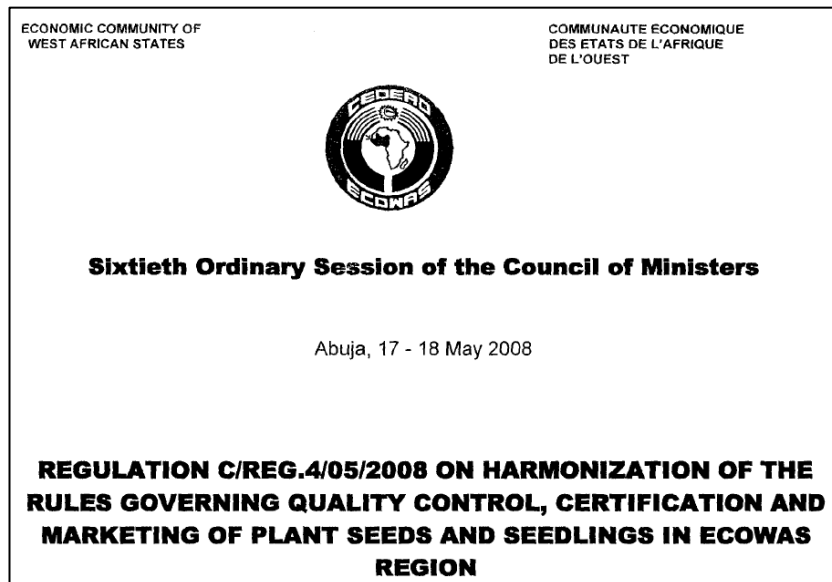


Plan

1. Background on the West African Seed Regulation
2. SFSA focus on seed regulation and variety registration
3. Our past activities on policy / seed regulation in West Africa
4. Our current experience as an applicant
5. Other pending questions & topics

1. Background on the West African Seed Regulation

- « CEDEAO-UEMOA-CILSS » regulation
- Signed in 2008
- 15 ECOWAS countries + Mauritania and Chad



1. Background on the West African Seed Regulation

- Among many other objectives, the harmonized seed regulation aims to:
 - Standardize variety registration procedures
 - Ensure access, recognition and use by all other countries of any material registered in one member state.
 - Allow sales in country « B » of a seed produced, certified and/or distributed in country « A »
 - Build a Regional catalogue of released varieties, which is the sum of all National catalogues

1. Background on the West African Seed Regulation

- ECOWAS mandated **CORAF** « **West Africa Seed Programme** » (**WASP**) for implementation of the Regional regulation
- 5-years work done by **CORAF/WASP** in order to harmonize regulations and procedures in the 17 countries
- Syngenta Foundation partnering with **CORAF/WASP** since 2012 to support implementation of the harmonized regulation



Measures to be undertaken by ECOWAS-WAEMU-CILSS Member States	Target Countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication in the Official Gazette (2.1) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Regulatory framework (2.2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National Seed Law ✓ Decree on National Catalogue of Plant Species and Varieties ✓ Decree on National Seed Committee ✓ Decree on Executive Regulations related to Seed Production, Quality Control, Certification, etc. ✓ Decree on Seed Sector Support Fund 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation of Procedures Manuals (2.3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Variety Release (VR) ✓ Seed Quality Control & Certification (SQCC) ✓ Import/Export (PC) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening capacities on (2.4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Human Resources (VR, SQCC or PC) ✓ Capital¹ Resources ✓ Financial Resources² 	
Total in country%	

2. SFSA focus on seed regulation and variety registration

- Our work on ECOWAS regulation is different:
 - With other African economic groups (COMESA, SADC, EAC, we are able to focus on extending marketing consent from existing registrations
 - With ECOWAS → necessary for us to generate new registration data in order to test the system as an applicant

3. Our past activities on policy / seed regulation in West Africa

Main objective:

Capacity building with NARS in Mali and Senegal to implement Regional variety registration protocols






3. Our past activities on policy / seed regulation in West Africa

In Mali:

- Working with sorghum breeders of IER in order to collect DUS and VCU data as per « ECOWAS protocols » (following UPOV guidelines)



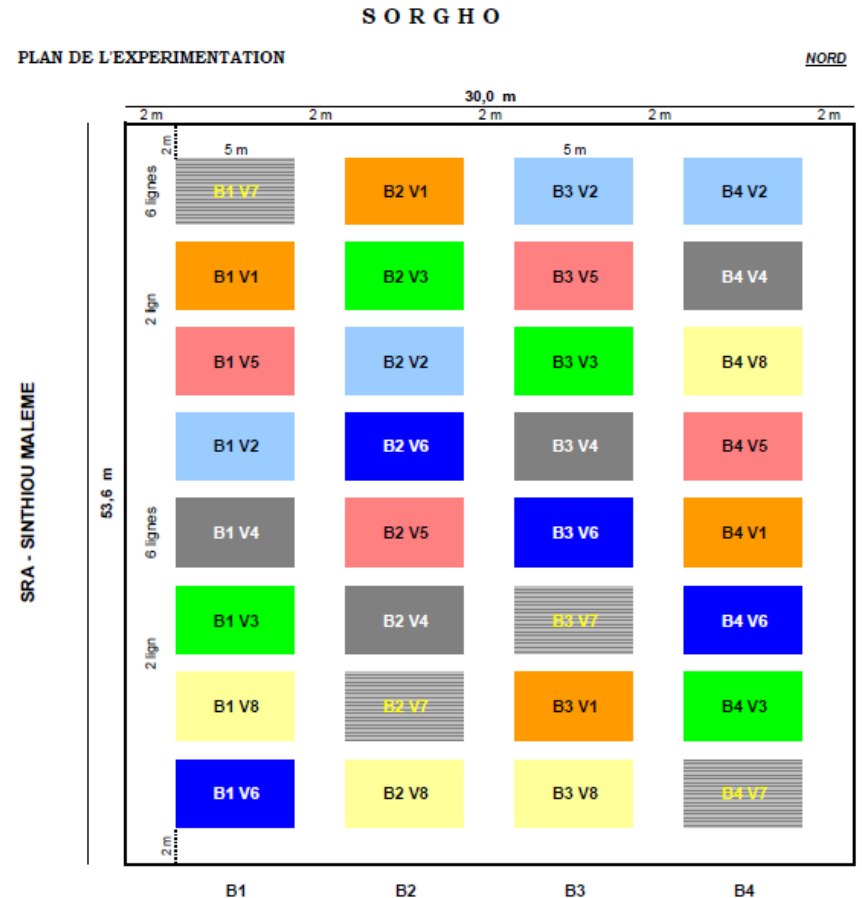
N°	Caractères et Echelles de Notation				
10.	Coloration jaune de la nervure principale de la dernière feuille <i>Observée à l'apparition des panicules</i>				
	1 = Absente ou Très Faible	3 = Faible	5 = Moyenne	7 = Forte	9 = Très Forte
14.	Aristation de la glumelle <i>Observée à la floraison</i>				
	1 = Absente ou Très Faible	3 = Faible	5 = Moyenne	7 = Forte	9 = Très Forte
15.	Pigmentation anthocyanique du Stigmate <i>Observée à la floraison</i>				
	1 = Absente ou Très Faible	3 = Faible	5 = Moyenne	7 = Forte	9 = Très Forte
16.	Coloration jaune du Stigmate <i>Observée à la floraison</i>				
	1 = Absente ou Très Faible	3 = Faible	5 = Moyenne	7 = Forte	9 = Très Forte
21.	Hauteur totale de la Plante [cm] <i>Mesurée à maturité</i>				
23.	Longueur du limbe de la 3^{ème} feuille à partir du sommet [cm] <i>Mesurée à maturité</i>				
24.	Largeur du limbe de la 3^{ème} feuille à partir du sommet [mm] <i>Mesurée à maturité</i>				
25.	Longueur de la Panicule [mm] <i>Longueur sans le col, mesurée à maturité</i>				

N°	Caractères et Echelles de Notation				
29.	Longueur du col de la panicule <i>Observée à maturité, elle est visible au dessus de la gaine</i>				
	1 = Nulle ou Très Courte	3 = Courte	5 = Moyenne	7 = Longue	9 = Très Longue
30.	Couleur de la glume <i>Observée à maturité</i>				
	1 = blanche	2 = jaune clair	3 = jaune	4 = brun clair	5 = brun rougeâtre
		6 = brun foncé	7 = noire	8 = Autre	
31.	Longueur de la glume <i>Observée à maturité</i>				
					
	1 = Très Courte	3 = Courte	5 = Moyenne	7 = Longue	9 = Très Longue
32.	Couleur du caryopse après battage				
	1 = blanche	2 = Blanc-gris	3 = Blanc jaunâtre	4 = Jaune paille	5 = Orange
	6 = Rouge-orangé	7 = Brun clair	8 = Brun rouge	9 = Brun foncé	10 = Autre
33.	Poids de mille grains [g]				
37.	Surface du grain couverte par la testa				
	1 = nulle ou Très Faible	3 = Faible	5 = Moyenne	7 = Elevée	9 = Très élevée

3. Our past activities on policy / seed regulation in West Africa

In Senegal:

- Working with ISRA to develop protocols and implement multi-location trial network following ECOWAS variety registration protocols



4. Our current experience as an applicant

- SFSA funded sorghum breeding programme in Mali with National programme and CIRAD (2009-2015);
- Best varieties also tested in Senegal and performing well → potential for regional adoption
- Willingness to register this material in Mali and seek regional recognition + marketing consent

= Implementation of a real test case

Visit of the National Seed Committee inspecting sorghum DUS & VCU registration trials (following ECOWAS protocols) in Mali, October 2016



4. Our current experience as an applicant

Some questions on the process to follow:

- Necessity to have pre-registration trial data to support application?
- Up-to-date and clear process/manual missing for variety release process at National level
- Application process
- Work with National and Regional seed committees
- Entering National and Regional catalogues and markets
- Register a variety if the breeder is not based in the country
 - Working through an agent? Who can be an agent? What is the process?
- The whole cost of registration

4. Our current experience as an applicant

- **Some questions on the next steps:**
 - When will varieties, formally registered in one country, be accepted onto the Regional catalogue ?
 - How will these registered varieties enter the National & Regional catalogue ?
 - How will other countries see these new varieties which have been accepted onto the Regional Catalogue ?
 - When can the Regional trade start?
 - How a seed company multiplying seeds for regional market can ensure they will be allowed to sell their seeds in other countries?
 - How to differentiate « marketing consent » and « adaptation to the agroecology »

5. Other pending questions & topics

- Procedures manual exist for 11 crops. What about other crops ?

*PROCEDURE MANUAL FOR VARIETY REGISTRATION
IN THE NATIONAL CATALOGUE FOR CROP SPECIES
AND VARIETIES IN WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES*

PART II
ANNEX

NATIONAL/REGIONAL TESTING PROTOCOLS FOR DUS AND VCU
FOR

GROUNDNUT, SORGHUM, RICE, MAIZE, CASSAVA, PEARL

MILLET, IRISH POTATO, YAM, ONION, TOMATO, COWPEA

5. Other pending questions & topics

Uniformity of DUS & VCU protocols in the region:

How to ensure

- all countries are following same protocols for variety registration ?
- a registration enabling access to Regional catalogue and recognition by other member States ?

→Lack of consistency between francophone and anglophone manuals, as well as on the different UPOV criteria to observe (compulsory & optional) – (example of DUS protocols on sorghum)

5. Other pending questions & topics

- What about registration of vegetables ?

Current practice Vs Regional regulation

SECTION IV: SEED MARKETING

CHAPTER XXII: MARKETING BY PRODUCER-DISTRIBUTORS AND DISTRIBUTORS

Article 70: Variety of Seeds marketed on the Regional Market

Only seeds registered in the West African Catalogue of Plant Species and Varieties shall be marketed in the sub-region.

- What is the process to register hybrids, particularly regarding the presence and trial of parental lines?

Conclusion

- We are doing a test case with public material to identify issues and bottlenecks in order
 - to better understand the process
 - To be able to advise future applicants
- ➔ **Clear regulations and functional processes for variety release which result in regional marketing consent will:**
 - Facilitate dissemination of new varieties
 - Raise interest of local and international seed companies (and increase their investments)
 - Ensure a dynamic seed sector