

The DTMA Project Platform

October–December 2009
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Recent Publications

Makumbi, D. 2009. Results of the 2008 Regional Maize Trials Coordinated by CIMMYT-Kenya. Nairobi: CIMMYT.
More information: [Dan Makumbi \(d.makumbi@cgiar.org\)](mailto:d.makumbi@cgiar.org)

Badu-Apraku, B., Abebe Menkir, J. Onyibe, S. Buah, Y. Chabi, N. Coulibaly, and J. Crossa (eds.) 2009. Results of the 2008 Regional and On-farm Maize Trials in West Africa. Ibadan: IITA.
More information: [Baffour Badu-Apraku \(b.badu-apraku@cgiar.org\)](mailto:b.badu-apraku@cgiar.org)

Key Events

- **General Meeting of Collaborators of AGRA's Program for Africa's Seed Systems – PASS**
(05–08 October 2009)
Bamako International Conference Center, Bamako
- **Tanzania Maize Working Group Meeting**
(09–10 November 2009)
Northern Zone Agricultural Research & Training Institute (NZARTI), Arusha
- **Uganda Maize Working Group Meeting**
(12–13 November 2009)
National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), Kampala
- **Kenya Maize Working Group Meeting**
(17–18 November 2009)
Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), Nairobi
- **Ethiopia Maize Working Group Meeting**
(18–20 November 2009)
Ethiopia Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Addis Ababa
- **Maize Technician Training Workshop**
(23–27 November 2009)
Nazaret, Ethiopia

Forthcoming

Dryland Seeds Ltd, launch of KDV 4 planned for February 2010

DTMA Policy Briefs

The current issues of the policy briefs focus on the improvement of the maize seed sector, in terms of production, marketing and policy reforms. These are intended to popularize information on policy issues, providing them in a user-friendly format, easily digestible to those without deep technical knowledge.

Policy Brief 1: *Reforming seed sector policies for livelihood improvement in eastern and southern Africa*

Policy Brief 2: *Improving efficiency of maize seed production in eastern and southern Africa*

Policy Brief 3: *Improving maize seed marketing in eastern and southern Africa*

The briefs are accessible on <http://dtma.cimmyt.org/index.php/publications>



Staff changes

In October 2009, Marianne Bänziger became CIMMYT's new Deputy Director General for research and partnerships, while Wilfred Mwangi became Associate Director of CIMMYT's Global Maize Program (GMP), Africa. Previously, Bänziger was the GMP Director. Both will continue to provide leadership to the DTMA Project, and the project congratulates them on the promotions.

Collaboration increases

At the General Meeting of AGRA's Program for African Seed Systems (PASS) in Bamako, Mali from 5–8 October, DTMA Project Leader Wilfred Mwangi gave a presentation on the progress and achievements of the DTMA project.

In a partnership between CIMMYT, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), Monsanto and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (B&MGF), Thomas Lumpkin, Marianne Bänziger and Wilfred Mwangi participated in a meeting on 16 October, chaired by Bill Gates on drought stress work supported by the Foundation in Africa.

In pursuit of better communication

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (B&MGF) sponsored the Global Development Communications Training, which was held between 21–23 October 2009, in New York,

USA. The DTMA Project Leader Wilfred Mwangi and Anne Wangalachi, Corporate Communications Officer attended this training. Some aspects covered include 'crafting the elevator speech', 'story telling', working with the media, opposition messaging and engaging policymakers. With the skills and knowledge acquired on unique and powerful communications tools, the DTMA project is bound to witness positive changes in its outreach efforts.

Reforming seed policies in West Africa

Thirty-four participants from six countries—Benin Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, and Nigeria—met in Abuja, Nigeria in October 2009 to discuss the findings and policy recommendations of a joint IITA-CIMMYT study on bottlenecks in the West African seed sector, and to identify the best strategies for increasing access to improved maize seed by the region's farmers. The participants comprised seed entrepreneurs from the private sector, policy makers, donors, and officials from research and development institutions and representatives of sub-regional political, economic and research organizations.

Key among the findings was that only 33% of seed demanded by the region's farmers was supplied in 2007, and in Nigeria for example, this was mainly through government subsidy programs. Blamed for this was poor access by farmers, high cost of improved seed, few

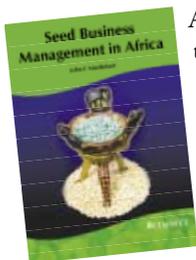
effective seed companies, high seed production and marketing costs, and lack of awareness by farmers on new maize varieties.

“A functional, effective, vibrant, and streamlined seed sector is critical for the DTMA project and the region to achieve increased incomes for farmers, reduced food prices for consumers and improved profitability and sustainability of the seed industry,” said Wilfred Mwangi, DTMA Project Leader.

“Private seed producers including the community-based schemes play a vital role in seed sectors, and governments can support them to reach more farmers, even those in marginal areas through improving the policy environment; increasing their access to production credit and market infrastructure; and providing targeted subsidies that will not distort the market,” said Tahirou Abdoulaye, IITA economist who led the study.

To improve farmers’ awareness on the yield and profit benefits of using seed of the new DT maize varieties, and to encourage them to buy this seed, incentive schemes and better extension services support were proposed. Also enhancing the distribution channels and ensuring that only high quality seed is sold to farmers, whether certified, or truthfully labeled, would also complement these efforts.

Seed business is in!



After the uploading of the publication *Seed business management in Africa* (<http://www.cimmyt.org/english/docs/manual/SeedBusinessAfrica.pdf>), it is evident that there

is great interest in the seed business in Africa. This handy resource is bound to be invaluable to seed producers, stockists, and generally anyone interested in the business aspect of seed production and marketing. It contains a broad-range of information ranging from research and development to production and processing, as well as aspects of finance and human resource. Written in clear jargon-free language, the book makes for good reading to a wide audience.

To receive a hard copy of the book, contact: j.macrobart@cgiar.org.

A meeting of minds



The Maize Working Groups in the countries of eastern Africa held their annual meetings in November. Concept notes were presented for discussion, vetted for suitability to the DTMA project and approved for full proposal development. The proposals will be evaluated in January 2010 and a meeting of the Regional Steering Committee will be held in February 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for final approval of the proposals and allocation of funds.

Ethiopian maize technicians trained

A training course for maize technicians was held between 23 and 27 November in Nazaret, Ethiopia. A total of 36 technicians, drawn from various agricultural research institutes across the country, were trained.

Bill Gates meets with DTMA and WEMA leaders in Nairobi



In December 2009, Bill Gates, Co-Chair and Trustee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (B&MGF), a major donor of two CIMMYT projects—the DTMA and Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA), met with CIMMYT’s Marianne Bänziger, Wilfred Mwangi, Dan Makumbi, and Stephen Mugo. Both projects are collaboratively developing maize varieties with significantly increased drought tolerance and yields through complementary technologies, approaches and

expertise. Mugo is the CIMMYT WEMA lead. Dr. Daniel Mataruka, Executive Director of the African Agricultural Technology Fund (AATF), which coordinates the WEMA project, hosted the group. During the meeting, the progress made in developing DT maize varieties through both projects was reviewed, and CIMMYT demonstrated ears of some of the most promising hybrids developed so far under the DTMA project, explaining their potential for improving small-scale resource-poor farmers’ food security and livelihoods in sub-Saharan Africa, which this year experienced one of the worst droughts in years.

New DT maize varieties released in Zimbabwe and Nigeria

As a result of various variety release support efforts, new DT maize varieties were released for production and marketing by national authorities in Zimbabwe and Nigeria, in November and December, respectively. The Nigerian varieties are SAMMAZ20, SAMMAZ26 and SAMMAZ27 (OPVs) and SAMMAZ22, SAMMAZ23, SAMMAZ24, and SAMMAZ25 (hybrids); and we developed by IITA in partnership with the Institute for Agricultural Research of Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria. In Zimbabwe, Agriseeds, a local seed company, will produce ZM 309 and ZM 401 (both OPVs).

DTMA in the news

African policymakers urged to speed seed to farmers

Lexy Abutu, 23 November 2009. Source: SciDev.Net

http://www.scidev.net/en/news/african-policymakers-urged-to-speed-seed-to-farmers.html?utm_source=link&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=en_news

The Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa (DTMA) Project is being implemented jointly by CIMMYT and the IITA, and is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. The project is part of a broad partnership also involving national agricultural research and extension systems, seed companies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and advanced research institutes, known as the Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa (DTMA) Initiative. Its activities build on longer-term support by other donors, including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Eiselen Foundation. The project aims to develop and disseminate drought tolerant, high-yielding, locally-adapted maize varieties and to reach 30-40 million people in sub-Saharan Africa with these varieties in 10 years.

The Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa (DTMA) Project

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