RESISTING CORPORATE TAKEOVER OF AFRICAN SEED SYSTEMS AND BUILDING FARMER MANAGED SEED SYSTEMS FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA
Resisting corporate takeover of African seed systems and building farmer managed seed systems for food sovereignty in Africa

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The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa brings together small-scale food producers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, farmers’ networks, faith groups, consumer associations, youth associations, civil societies and activists from across the continent of Africa to create a united and louder voice for food sovereignty.

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Introduction

Seed is an important entry point for development - opening up possibilities for the delivery of multiple benefits for smallholder farmers, including improved nutrition, productivity and resilience in the face of climate change. Seed also plays an important role in the social fabric and cultural or spiritual life of many African communities. How seed is conceived of through policy, funding and project implementation has a profound impact on our agricultural production, our agro-food systems and our nutrition, social justice and environment.

Two major seed systems are generally recognised – the formal and so-called informal seed systems, the former being a highly regulated and privatised seed production and distribution system and the latter being the bedrock of African agriculture, based on farm-saved seed and exchange.

Despite the narrative painting African agriculture as backward and inefficient, African smallholders produce 80% of the food in Africa on just 14.7% of the agricultural land, and control 80% of the seeds produced and exchanged. The majority of these smallholders are women. This seed and the cultural systems and knowledge that underpin them are under threat as vested interests are successfully reshaping seed-related law and policy at regional and national levels that are designed to privilege seed bred to perform in industrial agricultural systems, while criminalising and vilifying Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS). AFSA has agreed upon a two-pronged strategy to advocate against the implementation of seed-related law and policy that undermine Food sovereignty, and to support and strengthen farmer managed seed systems so that they become a cornerstone of food sovereignty and well-being on the continent.

This paper summarises the shifting seed policy on the continent, against international obligations to protect farmers’ rights and conserve and maintain agricultural biological diversity. It gives a status quo on how these policies are advancing and how AFSA membership has been resisting. Finally, it suggests potential avenues for advocacy and movement building for the AFSA network.

The Food Sovereignty Movement rejects the use of the term “informal sector”, as it may imply a sector that is somewhat disorganised and inferior to the formal sector. Farmer managed seed systems (FMSS) better describe the agency with which farmers and their social groups manage their seed and the value these systems hold in their own right.
Background and trends
Ongoing efforts to replace farmers’ varieties with improved varieties

The first projects aimed at modernising African agriculture and replacing farmers’ varieties with so-called "improved varieties" began as early as the 1960’s and ’70s, when simultaneous “Green Revolution” processes were happening in Asia and Latin America. During this period many African countries developed national seed systems through their colonial agricultural research foundations with backing from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Bank. Elements of these programmes included breeding, multiplication programmes, state seed companies, seed regulations and subsidies and loans to tempt farmers into the system. The next phase of the plan was to privatise the breeding programmes and seed companies with accompanying legal frameworks to remove trade barriers and attract foreign investment, ultimately shifting control of seed from farmers to the private sector. However, the plan stalled partly because farmers steadfastly preferred their own seed as the seeds produced through these programmes did not correspond with their diverse needs. Nonetheless, as a result, the majority of African countries today have laws regulating seed certification and marketing, many of which limit the use of farmers’ varieties in the market to some extent.

The process to introduce improved varieties was given new impetus in the late 1990’s following structural adjustment processes, trade liberalisation and consolidation in the global seed industry. Various initiatives to harmonise seed – related law and policy began in earnest, backed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and some European governments, CGIAR and the largely USAID founded organisation Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA). In 1999 the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) set up the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) to advance the harmonisation agenda to facilitate easy trade in large markets. An explicit market was set to secure a 5% increase in US seed exports to the region within its first five years.

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There has been in recent years a renewed interest in “modernising” African agriculture and funds to create an enabling environment for this project are being invested by the agricultural input industry, governments, philanthropic capitalists such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Alliance for a Green Revolution for Africa (AGRA) and through multilateral agreements such as the G8 New Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition (NAFSN).

Over the past year, we have also witnessed the most unprecedented consolidation in the global seed and agrochemical sector. The “Big Six” (Monsanto, Syngenta, Du Pont, Dow, Bayer and BASF) will potentially become the Big Three as plans go ahead for mergers between Monsanto/Bayer (already approved with conditions in South Africa), Dow/ DuPont and ChemChina’s acquisition of Syngenta. (ACB 2017) These ever-growing behemoths must find new markets as they grow in a context where industrialised markets of the global north are fairly stagnant and for them to find those markets in Africa, they require an enabling policy environment and large harmonised markets to operate in.

To support the expansion of the private seed industry on the continent, a raft of new policy and legal changes are on the table. The explicit rationale for these policies is to replace farmers’ varieties, which have been identified as the primary cause of hunger on the continent. with “improved varieties”. The following quote from the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) is typical and widely accepted amongst policy makers:

“AFSTA recognizes the importance of using high quality seed to improve yield in agriculture. However, most African farmers sow seeds from informal seed sector whose quality is not known since seeds do not undergo any formal quality control whether in the field or in laboratory. This is one of the main causes of poor agricultural productivity and contributes to the chronic food insecurity in Africa”.

Along with this narrative, the seed industry uses narrow measures of success for their interventions, related primarily to yield and profit, while ignoring the multifaceted functions of agriculture, including impact on nutrition, environment and socio economic justice. AfricaSeeds, the African Union (AU) body tasked with seed-related work in order to meet the aims set out by the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) have adopted this stance. Their 2015-26 strategy documents shows a clear shift from previous commitment Farmers’ Rights and acknowledgement of the value of FMSS, to aggressive support for the expansion of the formal system at the expense of FMSS.
Development programmes and seed aid transform seed systems

In many instances, seed aid and development interventions destroy the natural resilience of farmer managed seed systems, leaving them worse off than before. According to Sperling and McGuire, “poorly designed seed aid can actually undermine resilience by: providing mal-adapted or untested new varieties; narrowing the diversity of crops/varieties in key supply channels; ‘crowding out’ local seed enterprises; or weakening farmers’ adaptive behaviors through dependency on repeated aid”. Seed aid is a pillar of the seed system in a number of countries, including Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo, Kenya, South Sudan and Zimbabwe.

AFSA member, the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), has also produced a number of research briefs regarding the similarly negative impacts of Farmer Input Subsidy Programmes (FISPs) in sub-Saharan Africa. They characterise the FISPs not as farmer subsidies, but as corporate subsidies, noting that the FISPs channel large portions of national agricultural budgets into the purchase and distribution of particularly hybrid maize seed and fertilizer instead of spending on more systemic and farmer driven issues.

Growing recognition for agroecology

At the same time that African governments are adopting mechanisms for the “modernisation” of African agriculture to combat hunger and climate change, there is growing support for agroecology and smallholder systems, particularly at the international level. Important, although not exhaustive, examples include the 2008 study published by the FAO and World Bank - International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology (IAASTD), strenuous support from the previous UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food for agroecology as well as his 2009 recommendations regarding seed policies and the right to food, and the FAO International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition in 2014 and subsequent regional African meetings in which AFSA played an important role. In line with more holistic thinking about agriculture is a shift in how we measure success, create tools to assess seed systems, and to more effectively attend to challenges from the ground.

Linking nutrition with agriculture

Agricultural policy and nutrition policy are not currently linked, although there is a growing recognition for this need. Nutrition programmes often work with women, kitchen gardens and indigenous varieties, in recognition
of the nutritional value of indigenous crops. The link to farmers’ rights, nutrition, seed and seed policy is yet to be made and to develop instruments to critically assess FMSS challenges and catalyse innovation for improvement. A potential opportunity to engage and shape this discourse is through the AU’s Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS) and the Africa Renewed Initiative on Stunting Elimination (ARISE), aiming to mainstream nutrition into strategic programmes and policy frameworks. They work in close alliance with the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) movement, of which at least 44 African countries are members. These programmes have initiated the Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS), declared in July 2010.

**Policies impacting on FMSS**

AFSA, through its membership, has been engaging in and resisting against two major policy processes that are designed to lock Africa into industrial agriculture and create perennial dependence on the private sector for agricultural inputs. These are intellectual property laws, which grant state-sanctioned monopolies to plant breeders (at the expense of farmers’ rights), and seed marketing laws, which regulate trade in seeds (often making it illegal to exchange or market farmers’ seeds). These are in direct contravention to obligations set out by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGFRA), which enshrine farmers’ rights to use and exchange seed and ensure the protection of agricultural diversity. 43 African Governments are Party to the ITPGFRA.

**Plant variety protection (PVP) or Plant Breeders’ Rights (PBR’s)** are an offshoot of the patent system that creates intellectual property rules to establish and protect monopoly rights over newly developed plant varieties. All members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are obliged to adopt some form of PVP law, according to Article 27.3.b of the WTO’s Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). While TRIPs gives member States the freedom to craft any PVP system to suit their needs (a sui generis system), the global seed industry has used TRIPs as a catalyst to impose their preferred PVP system – UPOV 1991 - on African governments and through regional bodies such as the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) and its francophone sister, OAPI.

UPOV 1991 is widely criticized as inappropriate for African agricultural systems and posing a threat to human rights, farmers’ rights and the right to food. Least Developed Countries, (LDC’s) are under no obligation to implement PVP systems until 2021 and may still apply for further extensions beyond that time.
Seed laws governing the certification and trade of seed are being tightened and harmonised through the RECs and revised at national level. These laws limit farmers’ rights to exchange and trade their own seed, while limiting the role of the public sector in seed development and creating space for the entrance of the private sector. However, revisiting national seed laws for the sake of harmonisation also opens a window of opportunity to advocate for acknowledgement and support of FMSS where there is strong and informed civil society action.

Farmers’ Rights and plant genetic resource access and benefit sharing. The above mentioned laws are in direct contradiction to Farmers’ Rights, which are enshrined under Article 9 of the ITPGRFA. This Treaty also facilitates access to a global pool of genetic resources in the Multilateral System, which is vital for regenerating, evolving and improving FMSS, especially with regard to climate change. The implementing programme, the Second Global Plan of Action, provides an international framework for conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). These aims are achieved through a wide range of activities, including work on in-situ and ex-situ conservation, support for plant breeding and diversification of crop varieties for sustainable agriculture and support for seed production and distribution, and building human and institutional capacity. These activities are deployed at national level.

Member States have a clear obligation to take steps to domesticate measures on Farmers’ Rights and to develop policies that promote the sustainable use of plant genetic resources. This explicitly includes revising existing policies, e.g. relating to seed diffusion and PVP. However there is little political appetite for implementation as well as a strong corporate lobby against national domestication and implementation. Currently, 43 African countries are contracting parties to the Seed Treaty while a further two have signed but not yet acceded (Cape Verde and Nigeria). Only 8 African countries have not signed to date - Botswana, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Mozambique, Somalia, South Africa and South Sudan. (FAO 2017) The South African government has signalled their intention to sign.
## SELECTED INSTRUMENTS WITH A BEARING ON SEED AND INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

### INTERNATIONAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WTO TRIPS Art 27.3.b</strong></td>
<td>This article obliges member states to provide protection for plant varieties, either by patents or by an “effective sui generis system” or by any combination thereof.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and agriculture (ITPGFRA)</strong></td>
<td>Protects farmers’ rights to exchange seed, to participate in decision making and conservation of PGRFA, access &amp; benefit sharing. 43 African governments are Party. National governments to domesticate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Nagoya Protocol</strong></td>
<td>Access and benefit sharing, sustainable use of plant genetic resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Draft UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas</strong></td>
<td>La Via Campesina, including La Via Campesina Africa is participating strongly in this process</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, International instruments against discrimination and giving protection to indigenous peoples, their knowledges and cultures.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, |
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. |
| **PAN-AFRICAN** | **CAADP** is heavily biased toward the promotion of industrial agriculture. The body tasked with overseeing seed issues to implement CAADP objectives, AfricaSeeds, has radically shifted support away from FMSS to promote the formal sector |
| **Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and AfricaSeeds** | CAADP is heavily biased toward the promotion of industrial agriculture. The body tasked with overseeing seed issues to implement CAADP objectives, AfricaSeeds, has radically shifted support away from FMSS to promote the formal sector |
| **African Model Law for the Protection of the Rights of the Local Communities, Farmers and Breeders and for the Regulation of Access to Biological Resources** | African Union guideline. Protects breeders' rights and balances with farmers' rights. Guidance document, not legally binding |

| **REGIONAL** | **ARIPO PVP Protocol based on UPOV 91. Will come in force when 4 countries ratify** |
| **Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants** | ARIPO PVP Protocol based on UPOV 91. Will come in force when 4 countries ratify |
| **Revised Bangui Agreement Annex X (2006)** | OAPI Regional PVP Protocol based on UPOV 91 |
| **SADC Protocol for the Protection of New Plant Varieties** | SADC regional PVP Protocol based on UPOV 91 |
| **COMESA Seed Trade Harmonisation Regulations** | Binding, domestication required. Additional national legislation is allowed. |
| **Technical agreements on harmonization of seed regulations in the SADC region** | MoU. Regulation is in harmony with national legislation; national authorities remain in full control. |
| **Regulation C/REG.4/05/2008 on Harmonization of the Rules Governing Quality Control, Certification and Marketing of Plant Seeds and Seedlings in ECOWAS Region** | Not legally binding. Additional national legislation is allowed. |

**Status of Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Laws**

There is scant government experience with PVP in Africa, only a handful of countries have implemented any kind of PVP regime to date (these include South Africa, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Mauritius). Even fewer countries are members
of the Union for Protection of New Varieties (UPOV). They are South Africa, Kenya, Tunisia and Morocco. In 2015 Tanzania became the first LCD to join UPOV. OAPI has been a UPOV member since 2006.

Three regional bodies have drafted harmonised PVP laws, which taken together, represent 42 African countries.

- SADC finalised the Protocol on Plant Variety Protection in March 2014, which was based on UPOV 91. However, due to civil society insistence, key amendments were made regarding farmers’ rights to use protected varieties as well as a clause regarding disclosure of origin of breeding material used for development of protected varieties. These amendments rendered the Protocol not compliant with UPOV 91.
- ARIPO adopted the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants in 2016, which is based on UPOV 91. This Protocol will come into force when 4 countries have ratified. Urgent work is now required at national level to stop member states from ratifying.

Seed Law Harmonisation

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have all adopted harmonised seed trade regimes. The East African Community (EAC) also intends to harmonise seed legislation, as is required under the EAC Treaty, but has not yet done so. These harmonised seed regulations might be further integrated in the future through the tripartite agreement that SADC, EAC and COMESA launched in June 2015.

Registration of Farmer Varieties is provided for and is permissible under the SADC Variety Database upon making available the description of the variety in terms of performance, farmer experiences during cultivation, name and merits of the variety. However, it is unclear what benefits arise from the resultant database, which seems to be mainly for collection of information for the seed authorities. However, the SADC Seed Centre has reached out to civil society and seed experts to develop a registration process for regional trade of farmers’ varieties. While there is no clear agreement on the pros and cons of engaging the Seed Centre, and there is a fair amount of caution and scepticism, some feel it could be an opportunity to implement Article 9 of the ITPGFRA and to establish farmer seed multiplication centres.
to satisfy national and regional seed demand taking into account farmer preferences. These multiplication centres could serve as pilot projects to generate data and experience to be scaled up or learnt from in different regions.

**National seed law overview**

Co-ordinating regional harmonisation is no easy task and according to the Syngenta Foundation, “the most significant factor affecting implementation is domestication; changes in national level legislation or regulation are required in order for harmonization to take full effect”. A great deal of vigilance and advocacy is therefore necessary at national level.

The table below gives an overview of national seed law legislation across 35 African countries. It is adapted from a study by Integrated Seed Systems Development (ISSD), in which they concluded that 13 African countries do not have a seed law: (Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Congo, Chad, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Libya, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia). Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone were not included in the analysis despite having relevant laws as they were not obtainable.

| Forbids sale of uncertified seed | Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, DRC, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sudan, Togo and Tunisia |
| Allows for local sale and exchange within farmer-led seed systems | Senegal, Niger, South Africa, Tanzania (full certification is not obligatory, yet seeds do need to have their quality declared), Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Ethiopia and South Sudan. |
| Exchange of farm-saved seed is allowed* | Uganda and Nigeria; |
| Exempt registration or have fewer criteria to enlist as a seed producer within a farmers’ community. | Mozambique, Malawi, Nigeria and Zimbabwe |
Express support for smallholder seed producers

Policy commitment to provide for the supply of breeder seed to farmer-led seed systems.

Mention quality declared seed (QDS) in their acts or policies**

Active list of registered farmer varieties

Policy commitment to alternative list (no criteria developed as yet)

South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia

Zambia and Ghana

Ethiopia, Ghana, South Sudan (draft policy), Tanzania, Uganda (draft policy), Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia.

Benin

Niger, Malawi and Uganda will register landraces using looser criteria; Burkina Faso, Mali and Kenya have provisions that protect ownership over and/or strive to preserve local varieties; Ghana does not aim to register farmers’ varieties, but will support farmers in releasing their varieties officially.

* The law of Swaziland is silent on the matter of exchange.
** Contrary to its current law, the new 2013 Draft Seed Act of Malawi does not include QDS, thereby removing one potential form of accommodation for the farmer-led seed systems.


**Recommendations**

**International**

1. Engagement with the ITPGFRA:
   1.1. Ensure strong civil society representation at the ITPGFRA. Current issues include: suggestions to catalyse national compliance, improvement of farmer participation, a review of crops considered in Annex 1, improving benefit fund mechanisms, asserting that the Treaty should engage at national level with regard to seed legislation, attention to agribusiness mega mergers and resistance against new technologies that open the multi-lateral system to biopiracy.
1.2. Engage with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Agriculture to unlock opportunities for strengthening FMSS at national level. Such opportunities may include in-situ and ex-situ conservation, support for plant breeding and diversification of crop varieties for sustainable agriculture, support for seed production and distribution, and building human and institutional capacity.

1.3. Monitor and encourage pan-African bodies, regional bodies and national governments to implement their obligations, and expose non-compliance where appropriate.

2. Support civil society organizations that are already engaging with the Draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, strengthening consultation, debate and awareness raising to deepen discourse and solidarity.

Pan-African

3. Elaborate a shared vision of FMSS and potential policy frameworks. This is the most glaring policy gap and needs a long-term plan for consultation from grassroots through all levels to critically discuss FMSS and how to support it – underpinning values and vision, strengths and weaknesses, new measurements for success, required institutional, legal and infrastructural support. Elements of such a process may include: national workshops and case studies, cross-country farmer to farmer exchanges including seed fairs, farmer caravans, Pan-African meetings with farmers, NGOs and experts to share experiences and propose policy. Additionally, bring in a wider range of social movements and stakeholders to converge around a common theme and place seed on their agenda’s, e.g. land, nutrition, labour, indigenous rights, African jurisprudence groups, etc.

4. Create platforms for actors resisting seed harmonization laws to share their research, to debate and clarify positions, build solidarity and prepare joint plans and proposals. It is crucial for farmers to be involved and well capacitated on these issues.
5. Engage with Africa-Seeds to counter the strong industry element that is defining the African policy and programme agenda on seed. Also engage with AU’s Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS) and the Africa Renewed Initiative on Stunting Elimination (ARISE), and the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) initiatives to put FMSS on the nutrition agenda and vice versa.

Regional

6. Encourage ARIPO member governments to reject ratification of the Arusha Protocol and continue to pressure ARIPO through media and other means. Strengthen solidarity among activist groups to define how best to support emerging plans, e.g. publishing media statements and open letters, making submissions, running media campaigns, producing and distributing relevant campaign materials and briefings, and bringing stakeholders together for sharing and planning.

7. Monitor activities in the RECs on seed harmonization. SADC, COMESA and ECOWAS are all underway; EAC is about to initiate activities.

8. Engage with the SADC Seed Centre’s initiative around registration of Farmers’ Varieties to enable regional trade and potential for implementation of Farmers Rights at SADC level, along with national pilot projects.

National

9. Monitor the revision of national seed and PVP laws to meet harmonization efforts. Raise awareness on these processes, and raise the alarm when draconian policy is being drafted.

10. Research FMSS and compile case studies of best practice and challenges, with a view to raise awareness and strengthen FMSS practice.
Who is AFSA?

AFSA is a broad alliance of civil society actors who are part of the struggle for food sovereignty and agroecology in Africa. It is a network of networks, currently with 30 active members in more than 50 African countries. These include African food producer networks, African NGO networks, indigenous people’s organizations, faith based organizations, women and youth groups, consumer movements, and international organizations that support the stance of AFSA.

What Is AFSA’s Mission?

The core purpose of AFSA is to influence policies and to promote African solutions for food sovereignty. AFSA serves as a continental platform for consolidation of issues pertaining to food sovereignty and together marshal a single and louder voice on issues that matter to Africa, tabling clear and workable solutions.

What Does AFSA Do?

We are galvanizing the food sovereignty movement and building momentum to influence the transition to agroecology across Africa, specifically by:

- Amplifying agroecology
- Enhancing Farmer-Managed Seed Systems
- Strengthening land tenure governance
- Strengthening communications

Strategic Priorities for 2017-18-19

Agroecology: to galvanize the agroecology movement in Africa, and influence decision makers to recognize agroecology as the sustainable future of African farming.

Land: to provide rural communities in Africa a strong voice on land rights.

Seed: to support farmer-managed seed systems, influencing seed policy, recognizing women’s central role, changing the narrative to recognize FMSS as the essential and fundamental base of Africa’s food system.

Communications: to inform and influence policy outcomes on seed and food sovereignty, land rights, and the transition to agroecology.
AFSA’s Theory of Change

Building the Movement

• To build the advocacy capacity of our members to influence regional policies towards seed sovereignty, agroecological practice and fair land use.

• To strengthen our institutional capacity to deliver the strategy.

• To improve network communications, within and outside the alliance.

• Secure resources to deliver the strategy and strengthen AFSA’s governance, operational systems, policies and procedures.

Policy Advocacy

• To provide opportunities for our members voices to be heard at the highest levels.

• Participate and advocate at high-level regional and global meetings.

• Organize annual regional forums on agroecology.

• Develop advocacy materials e.g. policy briefs on Seed, Agroecology, Land.

• Produce a documentary on Agroecology in Africa.

Raising Consumer Awareness

• Recruit consumers as agents of change, strengthening the links between consumer choice, food safety, nutrition and health, and food sovereignty.

Evidence

• Undertake research to support the advocacy evidence base with compelling data and analysis.

• Develop and share accessible publications to bring the evidence to light.

Learn more at www.afsafrica.org
AFSA’S THEORY OF CHANGE

BUILDING THE MOVEMENT
(Networking & capacity development)

POLICY ADVOCACY
(Policy briefs, multi-stakeholder platforms)

TRANSITION TO AGROECOLOGY

RAISING CONSUMER AWARENESS
(Communications)

EVIDENCE
(Research & Publications)
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