A Quarterly Publication of the SADC Seed Security Network

Seed Update

DEZA
DDC
DSC
SDC
COSUDE

Issue No. 26 **Vol. I** **September 2007**

SADC Council of Ministers Endorse SADC Harmonised Seed Regulatory System

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat through Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate presented the SADC Harmonised Seed Regulatory System to SADC Council of Ministers at their meeting of 14–15 August 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia. Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat through Food, Agriculture and Natural Resoucres (FANR) Directorate presented the SADC Harmonnised Seed Regulatory System to SADC FANR Ministers at a meeting held on 29th June 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia.

At this meeting Council noted that the Secretariat, in conjunction with Member States and partners, had developed the SADC Harmonised Seed Regulatory System which would increase the number of varieties available to farmers, promote investment into the seed sector, and make it easier and cheaper for seed companies to introduce seed varieties in other SADC Member States.

At this meeting Council also noted that the system was presented to Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM) in Windhoek, Namibia, on 16th June 2007 and was referred to Ministers of Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) who approved it at their of 29th June 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia. The system comprises the following:

i) SADC Variety Release System – which provides for a shorter period of testing and releasing on new varieties instead of the current system of testing new varieties for 2-4 years in each Member State. A variety released in two Member states will be allowed to be marketed in the rest of the countries with similar agro-ecological conditions.

ii) SADC Seed Certification and Quality Assurance System – this component introduces the use of common terminologies, standards, procedures, seals, labels and a certification scheme in order to guarantee the production and sale of high quality seed throughout the region.

iii) SADC Phytosanitary Measures for Seed System – this component promotes the safe movement of seed with respect to pests and diseases.

At this meeting Council endorsed the SADC Harmonised Seed Regulatory System and urged Member States to amend their national legislation in line with the system.

IN THIS ISSUE

Angola · Botswana · Democratic Republic of Congo · Lesotho · Madagascar · Malawi · Mauritius · Mozambique · Namibia · South Africa · Swaziland · Tanzania · Zambia · Zimbabwe

The SADC Seed Security Network is financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

SADC Permanent Secretaries of Agriculture Finalise Memorandum of Understanding on SADC Harmonised Seed Regulatory System

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat through Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate presented draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the SADC Harmonised Seed Regulatory System to SADC Permanent Secretaries of Agriculture at a workshop held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 3–4 September 2007. The workshop was attended by Permanent Secretaries and legal experts from 14 Member States.

Participants to the Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat through Food, Agriculture and Natural Resoucres (FANR) Directorate presented the SADC Harmonnised Seed Regulatory System to SADC FANR Ministers at a meeting held on 29th June 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia.

The objective of the workshop was to review and finalise the draft MOU which will be presented to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources at their meeting scheduled for April 2008.

The purpose of this MOU is to provide Member States with a legal framework to coordinate their actions in the implementation of the SADC Harmonised Seed Regulatory System.

The objectives of this MOU are to:

(a) facilitate the availability of high quality seeds to farmers within the SADC region;

(b) make it easier and cheaper for new and existing varieties to gain access to SADC markets;

(c) stimulate the availability of more varieties of seed and encourage more investment in the seed sector;

(d) encourage faster and safer movement of seeds and reduce costs related to seed trade; and

(e) establish a sustainable funding mechanism for supporting the SADC Harmonised Seed Regulatory System.

Develop and Promote the Private Seed Sector in SADC Plant Breeders Challanged

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture Honourable David Chapfika (MP) of the Republic of Zimbabwe opened the New Seed Initiative for Maize in Southern Africa (NSIMA) Annual Collaborators' Meeting held from 8 to 9 August, 2007at Holiday Inn, Harare, Zimbabwe.

The meeting was attended by over 60 participants from 11 SADC countries. The Deputy Minister said that this type of unity of purpose was indeed how it should be in our quest to improve on crop productivity and production for enhanced Household, Farm Level, National and Regional Food Security. It was critical that we all sit down and contribute towards mapping out a framework for the extension of this very import project on seed production.

He reminded the meeting that it was no secret that agriculture plays a pivotal role in the economies of all SADC countries. The importance of seed in yield enhancement cannot be overemphasized. Seed contains the genetic potential of crop, and consequently the better the genetic makeup of the seed, the more potential there is for the farmers to be productive. Access to improved quality seed varieties is the beginning of the road towards massive production of all crops and this was a commendable initiative by NSIMA.

He was informed that the SADC Region requires in excess of 250,000 tonnes of maize Seed per annum and that the formal certified seed market accounts for less than half of this requirement. He noted with sadness that it was only in a few countries, including Zimbabwe that a significant proportion of farmers used improved seed varieties each season.

It is thus a tragedy that the majority of our farmers within our SADC Region use retained seed of

unimproved varieties. Therefore he said that the challenge was to develop and promote the formal seed sector in SADC.

Participants to the NSIMA Meeting, Harare, Zimbabwe

He said he was told that NSIMA's overall objective was to improve farmers' access to quality seed within the SADC and was to be achieved through the following:

- Developing and stimulating the use of improved maize seed varieties wit the following attributes
  - Improved yield potential,
  - Good nutritional value and
  - Acceptability under the stress-prone conditions of resource-poor farmers in Southern Africa.
- Strengthening stakeholders' cooperation in the maize seed sector to work towards a more diverse and more stable seed industry that is responsive to resource-poor farmers' needs.

He was convinced that indeed these were powerful tools for farmer empowerment.

He said he was told that NSIMA project had funded various activities in the ten SADC countries over the last three years. These had included support to National Agricultural Research Institutes for breeding, on-farm variety testing and foundation seed production.

He said he was reliably informed that through this initiative, there has been release of high yielding, drought tolerant, and disease resistant varieties of hybrid and open pollinated varieties of Maize including the ZM series used across the SADC region. Through the initiative many SADC countries are evaluating Quality Protein Maize (QPM), which is useful as a protein source for both humans and livestock. Some SADC countries, have released QPM verities for production in their respective countries. This alternative and cheap method to produce source of protein would go a long way in alleviating the problem of malnutrition among the SADC population.

He said that NSIMA had also extended support to various partners in the non-governmental and private sector to conduct research, training and promotional activities in seed sector development which was a commendable strategy.

It was his view that a vibrant and diverse formal seed sector is necessary for the widespread dissemination of quality seed. Whilst the formal seed sector is well developed in some SADC countries, a lot still needs to be done in the region as a whole.

The Deputy Minister pointed out three issues that were critical in promoting the development of the seed sector in SADC which included:

- Stimulating the emergence and growth of commercial seed enterprises through public-private partnerships,
- Harmonization of the SADC Seed Regulatory System and
- Sustaining and promotion of agricultural productivity in the SADC.

He informed the meeting that at the recent FANR Ministers Meeting in Lusaka on 29 June 2009, Member Sates were encouraged to increase investment in the seed sector and promote the use of quality seeds at subsidised prices. The Ministers also considered the importance of extending the SADC Seed Security Network activities for a second phase.

He said he understood that there were over 40 private seed companies in the region and a number of these operate in several countries. It was however sad to note that only four of these trade in excess of 10,000 tonnes each per annum. The majority of the companies sell less than 2,000 tonnes per annum. Thus, in order to achieve widespread use of improved seed in SADC, significant development has to take place in the private seed sector.

He said that the following interventions might therefore assist in the development of seed by private sector which included:

- Promotion of community based seed production.
- Implementation of subsidy programmes to assist the vulnerable households to access seed.

- Creation of new institutions such as Agricultural Agencies that strengthen the delivery of seed and other agricultural inputs.
- Promotion of small and medium seed businesses to service rural communities.
- Promotion of enabling seed legislation that promotes the participation of the private seed sector.
- Facilitate the use of public sector Germplasm by private sector seed enterprises.

He informed the meeting that in order to promote the harmonization of seed regulations the SADC Region, the recent FANR SADC Ministers Meeting approved the Harmonized SADC Seed Regulatory System that comprises of three components:

- SADC Variety Release System, that enables SADC-wide registration of crop varieties.
- SADC Seed Certification System that promotes the use of common terminologies, standards, procedures, seals and labels throughout the region.
- SADC Phytosanitary for Seed System that establishes common quarantine and phytosanitary measures to guide the safe movement of seed between Member States and also from outside SADC.

He was hopeful that the implementation of these measures would increase the number of varieties available to farmers, promote investment and trade in the seed sector, and make it easier and safer for introduction of new varieties across the SADC Region. Apart from good seed varieties there is need for concerted efforts to promote improved agricultural productivity within SAC.

He said it was disturbing to note that for the 2006/ 2007 season; only three SADC states had maize grain surpluses and that the total cereal deficit in SADC was estimated at 2.18 million tonnes. Yields of maize in SADC are generally low. He gave an example that national average maize yields across SADC range between 0.5 and 1.5 tonnes per hectare whilst the potential is between 4t/ha and 12t/ha depending on variety.

He said it was therefore of outmost importance that we work on those factors militating against farmer productivity. The use of improved varieties was the first step towards that. This needs to be combined with improved farm management practices plant population and fertiliser usage, if significantly higher productivity gains are to be achieved.

Thus, improved seed systems must be complimented with a multi-stakeholder approach in which farmers are provided excellent extension services, timely and appropriate input supplies, and access to viable grain markets.

He emphasized that seed alone will not transform the face of agriculture in SADC. Likewise, neither the public sector nor the private sector alone could stimulate productivity. A multi-stakeholder approach in which all components of the agricultural industry were involved was the only viable and sustainable way forward for SADC.

By taking the multi-stakeholder approach the NSIMA project could make a difference, not only to seed sector but also to farmer productivity in the region. To realise this potential, he called upon the members gathered to show zeal and commitment for achievement of the goals of this project, so that in years to come we would be satisfied that we had done our best towards the development of agriculture in our region.

He told challenges were many and so were the opportunities. It was his hope that as they deliberated and exchanged ideas seed production and quality production in agriculture would improve in the region thereby improving food security for the peoples of this region. On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Zimbabwe Government wished fruitful results out of the workshop on the NSIMA and hoped that they would enjoy discussions and wished those from outside boarders a pleasant stay in Zimbabwe and he asked them to create some room from their tight schedule to visit some of holiday resorts in the country.

Licensing System for Varieties Bred by Public Institutions in South Africa

by Eddie Goldschagg

Background

In South Africa, the newly formed Agricultural Research Council (ARC) had a problem to have their varieties, as developed by various institutes, marketed. As a parastatal organisation funded primarily through public resources, it would have been unethical to compete directly with the private sector in this area. Furthermore, the ARC institutes also did not have the capacity to produce and market the varieties they have bred by themselves.

In 1993 the ARC and the South African National Seed Organization (SANSOR) signed a Memorandum of Agreement, whereby the SANSOR Secretariat was appointed to act as an agent in matters regarding licensing of varieties. SANSOR was ideally suited for this role as it was not only the secretariat of the national seed organization, to which all seed companies of note in South Africa were members of, but also the delegated authority for seed certification in South Africa and thereby privy to seed production figures by companies of the varieties concerned.

Modus Operandi

As soon as an institute identifies and releases a new variety for commercialization and the variety has been taken up in the National Variety List and plant breeder's rights awarded to it, a head licence for that particular variety is issued to SANSOR. SANSOR then invites tenders from the seed industry and issues a sub-licence to the successful tenderer, as identified by a Licensing Committee. One of the conditions of such a licence is that the seed must be produced under the SA Seed Certification Scheme. Sub-licences can be exclusive, or open for all candidates that qualify.

SANSOR collects the royalties, due by the sub-licence holders to the various institutes, on an annual basis and invest it in special accounts until such time when it is requested by the institute concerned. For this service SANSOR is entitled to a commission, based on a percentage of the royalties collected.

The purpose of licensing of varieties by the ARC to SANSOR can be summarized as follows:

- The orderly, rapid commercial introduction of new varieties of seed crops, as developed by the relevant institutes of the ARC, in order to derive optimal benefits from the advantages of new varieties for the farmers and in the market.
- To create mechanisms for collection of royalties for the ARC.

Agreements

There are various agreements (contracts) that can be used, for example:

- **Schedule A:** This is the basic contract between the ARC and SANSOR and makes provision for collaboration between the ARC and SANSOR, contracting, conditions for release of varieties, and issuing of Head Licences to SANSOR. This is only applicable to South Africa and immediate neighbouring countries.
- **Schedule B:** This is the Head Licence, by variety, as allocated by the ARC to SANSOR.
- **Schedule C:** This is the Sub-Licence by variety, as allocated by SANSOR to one or more of its members.
- **Schedule D:** This agreement is used by members who wish to test the varieties/lines first and applies only to the use in trials, while the plant and the crop remains the property of ARC. Should the member then whish to commercialize hybrids containing such varieties/lines, a sub-licence (Schedule C) would then be issued.
- **Schedule E:** This agreement is used by members who will only use the variety/lines for research and further plant breeding purposes. Should the member then whish to commercialize hybrids containing such varieties/lines, a sub-licence (Schedule C) would then be issued.

Licensing Committees

Licensing Committees, under chairmanship of the ARC Institute concerned, comprise primarily two officials from the SANSOR office and three officials from the relevant ARC Institute that developed the variety, and usually also includes a plant breeder from that institute. The Licensing Committee evaluates the tenders received and decides to whom the variety should be allocated.

Options for Licensing

Sub-licences are usually awarded in one of the following ways:

- To all applicants who apply in writing and who have the necessary infrastructure, knowledge and experience with the relevant crop.
- Exclusive to one party on the basis of a successful tender bid.
- To a consortium.

Licences may be applicable for a specific geographic area only.

Royalties

Royalties can be paid in any one of the following manners:

- The variety can be purchased completely, i.e. a once-off amount is paid for the variety
- A basic amount plus annual royalties
- Only annual royalties
- Annual royalties or a minimum annual amount, whichever is the highest

- A sliding scale based on sales volumes

Royalties payable are based either on seed sales, or on volume of seed produced. Under exceptional circumstances, royalties can also be based on the commercial product.

In the case of open varieties the Licensing Committee will determine the percentage of royalties payable to them, generally between 3% and 5% of the selling price. In the case of a tender for an exclusive variety, the tenderer will propose the percentage of the royalties payable. Exclusive sub-licences usually command a higher royalty than open licences, and this may amount to as much as 12% on the selling price. The sub-licence is usually allocated to the highest bidder all things being equal; however, various other factors such as the company's infrastructure, knowledge and experience with the crop, past record, etc. are also taken in account.

Current status

During the year 2005/2006 SANSOR collected royalties on behalf of four institutes, involving 135 individual agreements for 98 varieties of 22 crops at 38 companies, of which two were based in foreign countries.

The royalties collected on behalf of the ARC and University of Stellenbosch during that period peaked at the record amount of 3.6 million Rand (see graph below).

ROYALTIES COLLECTED FROM 1997/98 TO 2005/06

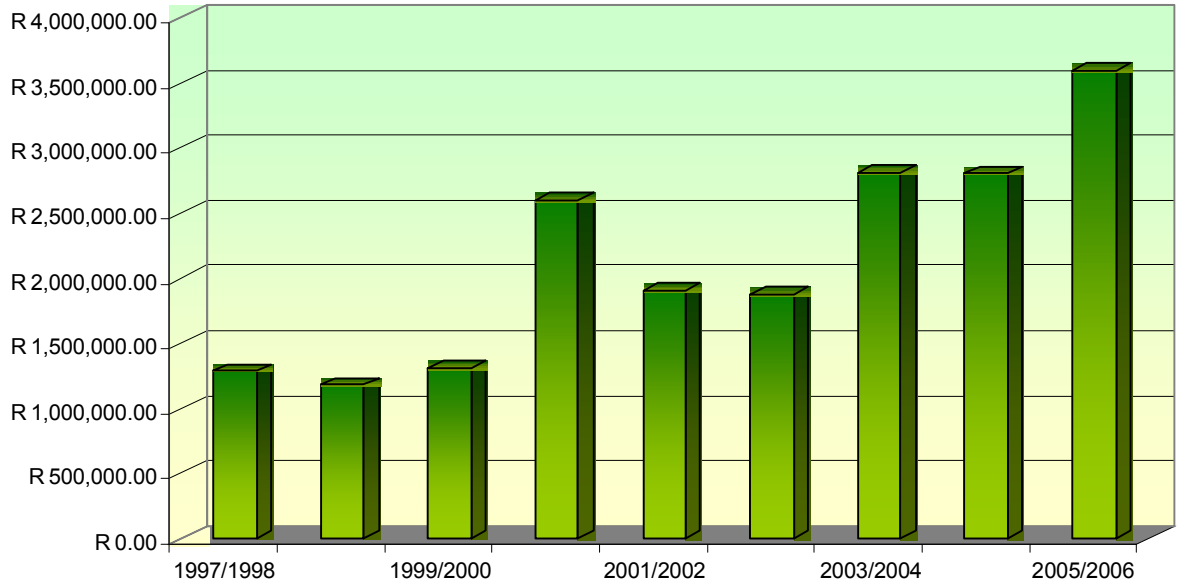

Figure1: The collection of plant breeders' rights royalties by SANSOR on behalf of the ARC and University of Stellenbosch over the last nine years

The ARC-Grain Crops Institute proudly displays Certificates for Plant Breeders' Rights on varieties for which royalties may be collected

Seed Situation in the SADC Region

All seed crops are in deficit for the just ended season except for sorghum. Drought that was experienced and reduction in hectarage planted to seed in the region has contributed to the situation. Deficits will be met from seed imports and sourcing from informal sources.

South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia have registered surplus maize seed. There has been 31% reduction in production and 1% increase in demand for maize in the region for the just ended season compared to the previous season.

Surplus in rice seed has only been realized in Zambia, while groundnuts are in excess only in South Africa. Sunflower seed surpluses have been reported in South Africa and Zambia. Member States recording surpluses in sorghum include Tanzania, South Africa and Zambia while Soyabean surpluses in South Africa and Zambia. Cowpea seed surpluses have only been recorded in Zambia while Millet surpluses in Zambia.

Although there are seed surpluses in these crops, the quantities are not enough to supply the whole region. An indication that most farmers are planting seed from informal seed sources and that they continue to face the challenges of seed shortages in those crops. There is very little organized seed production of most of these crops and as such there are very few seed out lets making offerings in this type of seed. Most farmers rely for these crops on recycled on farm or off-farm seed from networks of neighbours, relatives and open grain markets. The problem is that as much as farmers prefer their varieties and seed, the yields realized are very low and cannot meet their food needs.

Summarized details of the seed situation in the SADC region is contained in table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of Seed Situation in the SADC Region as at November 2005 (Certified/Quality Declared Seed)

Crop (Tons)		COUNTRY													
		Ang	Bot	DRC	Les	Mal	Mau	Moz	Nam	RSA	Swa	Tan	Zam	Zim	Grand Total
Maize	Production	N/A	N/A	383	2	17,036	1	5,145	N/A	30,833	86	11,933	25,306	53,528	**144,253**
	Demand	N/A	2,000	1,316	4,409	22,000	1	26,410	200	22,020	1,498	9,800	20,500	70,000	**180,154**
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	N/A	-933	N/A	-4,964	0	-21,265	N/A	8,813	-1,412	2,133	4,806	-16,472	**-35,901**
Groundnuts	Production	N/A	N/A	190	N/A	135	1	615	N/A	3,750	9	N/A	1,761	308	**6,769**
	Demand	N/A	40	1,525	N/A	5,000	44	8,792	28	2,813	N/A	N/A	2,414	28,000	**48,656**
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	N/A	-1,335	N/A	-4,865	-43	-8,177	N/A	937	N/A	N/A	-653	-27,692	**-41,887**
Beans	Production	N/A	N/A	15	N/A	22	8	84	N/A	2,000	65	514	432	637	**3,777**
	Demand	N/A	N/A	625	N/A	2,000	53	1,200	N/A	2,268	N/A	9,420	486	6,000	**22,052**
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	N/A	-610	N/A	-1,978	-45	-1,116	N/A	-268	N/A	-8,906	-54	-5,363	**-18,275**
Sorghum	Production	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	63	5	1,400	N/A	2,799	3,349	1,157	**8,783**
	Demand	N/A	2,000	N/A	N/A	200	N/A	152	150	420	N/A	1,680	126	4,000	**8,728**
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-190	N/A	-89	-146	980	N/A	1,119	3,223	-2,843	**55**
Millet	Production	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26	N/A	N/A	212	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	58	**302**
	Demand	N/A	50	N/A	N/A	30	N/A	15	900	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	1,400	**2,398**
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-4	N/A	N/A	-688	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	-1,342	**-2,096**
Cowpea	Production	N/A	N/A	238	N/A	31	1	249	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	505	998	**2,024**
	Demand	N/A	100	350	N/A	50	N/A	12,376	59	N/A	N/A	N/A	154	9,000	**22,089**
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	N/A	-112	N/A	-19	N/A	-12,127	-57	N/A	N/A	N/A	351	-8,002	**-20,065**
Rice	Production	N/A	N/A	1,129	N/A	30	N/A	1,147	N/A	N/A	N/A	220	299	N/A	**2,825**
	Demand	N/A	N/A	1,304	N/A	500	N/A	13,894	N/A	N/A	N/A	6,930	2	N/A	**22,630**
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	N/A	-175	N/A	-470	N/A	-12,747	N/A	N/A	N/A	-6,710	297	N/A	**-19,805**
Soyabean	Production	N/A	33	190	N/A	141	1	51	N/A	10,300	N/A	N/A	4,487	12,609	**27,812**
	Demand	N/A	N/A	300	N/A	200	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,650	N/A	N/A	2,218	32,000	**36,368**
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	N/A	-110	N/A	-59	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,650	N/A	N/A	2,269	-19,391	**-8,556**
Cassava	Production	N/A	N/A	8,370	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**8,370**
	Demand	N/A	N/A	53,900	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**53,900**
	Surplus /Deficit	N/A	N/A	-45,530	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**-45,530**

Malawi

All seed crops are in deficit in the country as shown in Table 2 below. There was overproduction of seed maize during the 2005/2006 season and this resulted into large quantities of carry over seed. There was a reduction in hectarage planted to seed by farmers for the 2006/2007 season especially for maize seed. Deficits are to be met through seed imports, carry over seed and seed from informal seed sources.

Table 2: Seed Status in Malawi

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2007		National seed Demand 2007 (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	5,806	17,036	22,000	Deficit Certified/QDS seed
Groundnuts	80	135	5,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Beans	55	22	2,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Soyabean	230	141	200	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Sorghum	1	10	200	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Cowpea	N/A	31	50	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Pigeon peas	N/A	20	200	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Millet	N/A	26	30	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Rice	4	30	500	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed

Source: Seed Technology Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

The deficit of foundation seed in Malawi made the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security through the Department of Agricultural Research Services to multiply foundation seed under up scaling program during 2006/2007 season. Details of seed available under the program are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Foundation seed available in Malawi

CROP	QUANTITY(KG)
Maize OPV	8,300
G/nuts	4420
Soya beans	3,250
Pearl Millet	1,400
Sorghum	3,682
Cowpeas	1,427
Cotton	2,237
Rice	3776
Pastures	143
Vegetables	153
Beans	984
Pigeon peas	200
Mushroom spawn	143L

Source: Seed Technology Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Lesotho

The country experienced drought for the just ended season which has affected seed production. The country has always depended on South Africa for seed. There is no organised seed production taking by private seed sector. Seed production shown in Table 4 below is produced by Seed Multiplication of Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

Table 4: Seed Status in Lesotho

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2007		National seed Demand 2007 (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	13	2	4,409	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Sweet potato	41	81	N/A	

Source: Seed Multiplication Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Mauritius

The Ministry of Agriculture is the sole official producer of seed in Mauritius. This production caters for 60% of the requirement of growers locally and 25 – 30% of the stock is kept for emergency cases. The rest of the island requirement is being mainly met by self-production by the growers and minimal imports. Vegetables are the major seeds produced in Mauritius.

Table 5: Seed Status in Mauritius

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2007		National seed Demand 2007 (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	N/A	1	1	Just enough seed
Groundnuts	N/A	1	44	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Beans	N/A	8	53	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Soyabean	N/A	0.2	N/A	
Cowpea	N/A	0.7	N/A	

Source: Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries

Mozambique

The country has experienced a bad season this year due to occurrence of natural disasters, namely drought in southern region, floods in central and northern regions and cyclones in southern and central regions of Mozambique. All seed crops are in deficit and local production will cover only up to 33% of the national needs. The current season maize seed production represents 21% reduction from last season. The deficit will be met through seed imports and the informal local seed sources are the most important.

Table 6: Seed Status in Mozambique

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2007		National seed Demand 2007 (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	1,388	5,145	26,410	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Groundnuts	501	615	8,792	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Beans	104	84	1,200	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Soyabean	51	51	N/A	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Sorghum	91	63	152	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Rice	116	1,147	13,894	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Cowpea	262	249	12,376	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed

Source: Seed Department, National Directorate of Agrarian Services

Namibia

The country experienced poor rainfall distribution this season. Maize seed is only produced by small-scale farmers and is mainly imported from South Africa and Zambia. All seed crops are in deficit. Seed deficits are through imports and from informal seed sources.

Table 7: Seed Status in Namibia

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2007		National seed Demand 2007 (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	N/A	N/A	200	
Groundnuts	N/A	N/A	28	
Millet	N/A	212	900	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Sorghum	N/A	5	150	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Cowpea	N/A	2	59	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

South Africa

Despite drought which was experienced in the country substantial amounts of surplus seed have been realised in all seed crops except in soyabean seed where a deficit is expected. There is an opportunity for exports to other countries in the region

Table 8: Seed Status in South Africa

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2007		National seed Demand 2007 (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize		30,833	22,020	Surplus Certified/QDS seed
Groundnuts		3,750	2,813	Surplus Certified/QDS seed
Beans		2,000	2,268	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Soyabean		10,300	1,650	Surplus Certified/QDS seed
Sorghum		1,400	420	Surplus Certified/QDS seed
Sunflower		6,000	5,200	Surplus Certified/QDS seed

Source: South African National Seed Organization (SANSOR)

Swaziland

The country experienced a very severe drought situation due to poor rainfall distribution which resulted in severe crop failure in most parts of the country. The draught situation in Swaziland had a minor effect on seed production as the seed crops are mainly produced under irrigation. However, this local production is not enough to meet the country needs as shown in Table 9 below. As a result, the bulk of seed in Swaziland is imported from neighbouring countries and the rest of SADC Countries.

The Swaziland Government in collaboration with Food Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) are presently conducting input trade fairs for all the vulnerable groups and household severely affected by the drought. 30,000 households would benefit from this programme. These input trade fairs provide an opportunity for small-scale seed producers under the Community-based seed system to sell quality declared seed of various open pollinated legume seed crops.

Table 9: Seed Status in Swaziland

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2007		National seed Demand 2007 (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	55	86	1,498	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Groundnuts	21	9	N/A	
Beans	42	65	N/A	
Jugo Bean	36	17	N/A	
Cotton	65	32	N/A	

Source: Seed Quality Control Services

Tanzania

Seed surpluses have been recorded in maize and sorghum while the rest of the seed crops are in deficit. The actual seed requirement in Tanzania is estimated at 30,000 MT per annum. However, the annual potential requirement is estimated to be 120,000 MT. In 2006/2007 seed availability reached 16,525.81 MT which is equivalent to 55 % of the actual seed requirement in the Country. Out of 16,525.80 MT of seed available, 5,775.79 MT was produced in the country, 6,344 MT imported and 4,406.01 was carrying over fro 2005/2006 season. For the past three seasons seed availability in Tanzania has been improving from 10,134.97 MT in 2004/05 season to 16,525 MT in 2006/2007 season.

Table 10: Seed Status in Tanzania

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2007		National seed Demand 2007 (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	N/A	11,933	9,800	Surplus Certified/QDS seed
Rice	N/A	220	6,930	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Beans	N/A	514	9,420	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Wheat	N/A	727	2,170	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Sorghum	N/A	2,799	1,680	Surplus Certified/QDS seed

Source: Seed Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Zambia

Seed surpluses have been recorded in all seed crops except for groundnut and bean seed which are in deficit as shown in Table 11 below. The current season maize seed production represents 23% reduction from last season. Although there is deficit in groundnuts and beans, the bulk of seed is from informal seed sources

Table 11: Seed Status in Zambia

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2006		National seed Demand 2006 (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	5,061	25,306	20,500	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Groundnuts	881	1,761	2,414	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Beans	216	432	486	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Cowpea	505	505	154	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Rice	100	299	2	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Soyabean	1,122	4,487	2,218	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Sorghum	670	3,349	126	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Millet	3	6	3	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed
Sunflower	206	412	82	Surplus Certified/QDS Seed

Source: Seed Control and Certification Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Zimbabwe

The country has experienced a bad season this year due to irregular rainfall received and continued shortages of inputs such as fertilizer resulting in some farmers not getting input on time. This has contributed to significant reduction of yield for all seed crops. All seed crops are in deficit as shown in Table 12 below. The current season maize seed production represents 51% reduction from last season. Most farmers rely on the informal seed sources on farm of off-farm.

Table 12: Seed Status in Zimbabwe

Crop	Seed Production Projections 2006		National seed Demand 2006 (Tons)	Remarks
	Hectarage (Ha) Planted	Certified/QDS Seed (Tons)		
Maize	13,382	53,528	70,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Groundnuts	204	308	28,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Beans	319	637	6,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Cowpea	665	998	9,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Soyabean	4,203	12,609	32,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Sorghum	973	1,557	4,000	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Millet	72	58	1,400	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed
Sunflower	54	70	600	Deficit Certified/QDS Seed

Source: Seed Services, Ministry of Agriculture

Conclusions

The situation depicted on the current seed situation in SADC is that the region has not sufficient seed stocks for maize and as such, there may be need to import seed from far sources.

The region must continue moving forward in creating enabling environment and incentives for the establishment of small scale seed enterprises that will service at low cost the niche of small farmer's seed crops which are currently neglected by seed companies.