

How To Implement The African Union's Strategy Framework On Farmer-Managed Seed Systems?

A side event hosted by the International Community of Practice for Farmer-Managed Seed Systems

How can policies support breeding for diversity? What experiences have different countries had in the marketing of farmers' varieties, and how can participatory and decentralised quality assurance mechanisms facilitate high-quality and diverse seed?

Featuring experts from civil society, research, and government, this side event will present evidence of successful approaches and cases of best practices for the implementation of the new African Union Policy and Strategy on Farmer-Managed Seed Systems, drawn from grounded experiences across Africa.

Examples and lessons will be shared on participatory plant breeding for diversity and innovation, policies that strengthen and support Farmers' Rights, and the potential of community seed banks in enhancing food and nutrition security, climate resilience, improving gendered economic livelihoods, and social outcomes. A focus case study on the recent Plant Variety Protection Bill court case in Kenya will shed light on the experience and the participatory process of designing harmonized regional regulation.

Lively panel discussions will feature, with government stakeholders, civil society, and farmers' organisations discussing their practical experiences. Audience members will have the opportunity to pose questions to the speakers.



INAUGURAL AFRICA SEED SUMMIT

5 – 7 OCTOBER 2026
MBABANE, KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

FEATURING GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS

- Dr. Modester Kachapila, Head of the Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre, Department of Agriculture Research Services (DARS), Malawi
- Dr. Lloyd Mbulwe, Acting Chief Agriculture Research Officer for Crop Improvement and Agronomy, Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI), Zambia

DATE
TUE 6 OCTOBER 2026

TIME
14.00

LOCATION
ROOM 4

PROGRAMME

PART I FARMERS AS BREEDERS AND INNOVATORS

Presenting evidence from community seed saving, participatory plant breeding, and achievements in variety and climate adaptation, diversification, social cohesion, livelihoods and nutritional security. Featuring Fredrick Sanga (BCI Malawi), Joseph Ngenda (CTDT Zambia), Joyce Mumba (SKI), and Jude Ssebuliba (PELUM Uganda).

PART II POLICY APPROACHES AND BEST PRACTICES

A lively panel featuring government stakeholders from Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Zambia will see thematic experts sharing their experiences and the challenges encountered in formulating and implementing participatory inclusive policy measures.

PART III SEED LAWS & REGIONAL REGULATIONS

The recent court case in Kenya over the Plant Variety and Protection Bill will be presented by Daniel Wanjama, Director of Seed Savers Network Kenya, and insights will be shared into the participatory process for designing an alternative regional harmonization regulatory framework by Joan Kembabazi (CEFROHT) and Hon. Gideon Gatpan Thoar (EAC Chairperson Committee on Agriculture Tourism and Natural Resources).

PART IV CONCLUSION

How can the decades of experience from these organisations, experts, and government officials serve as guidance to countries in the implementation of the new AU Policy and Strategy on Farmer-Managed Seed Systems?

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We look forward to seeing you there

For more information on farmer-managed seed systems and resources on how to support them in the context of the new African Union Strategy Framework, [click here](#) or scan the QR code.



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