

Scale up of climate smart maize technology package for transformation of the maize value chain and livelihoods in Africa

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Abstract: The technology-package being promoted consists of climate-smart maize hybrids and customized proven farming practices. Piecemeal attempts on the maize value chain don't work. The game-changer to drive adoption is ensuring a vibrant maize value chain. The current initiative intervenes to enable both, push for quality seed and pull mechanisms for grain generated by the target 2 million farm households across 12 nations in Africa. The tech-packages have been proven over the last decade indeed 5 tons of grain is a modest average compared to the barely single ton mean harvested by farmers. Knowledge and availability of elite hybrids has increased harmonized regulations offer wider geography for seed marketing public sector - national and international institutions of excellence - and private sector, including the African Development Bank AfDB have joined hands to ensure an enabling policy environment for technology dissemination. Indeed, the last mile is a completely functional maize value chain. Transformation indicators must be evidenced by a commercially driven quality maize seed production, utilization and marketing of grain harvests, linking with off-takers and processors. The AfDB's TAAT Maize Initiative sparks and nurtures the emergence of profitable business oriented farming system for target communities. Indeed, the time for transformation is now.