

SEMIs Phase II Year 2014 Report

Executive Summary

Seed Enterprise Management Institute (SEMIs) project is supported by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) with a total funding of USD 4,495,432 during the three-year phase I (2010-2013) and received a further funding extension of USD 1,842,192 in Phase II (2014-2016). The project management team has Prof. A.W. Mwang'ombe (Principal Investigator), Prof. F. Olubayo and Dr. Kiarie Njoroge. The main partners in SEMIs are the University of Nairobi as the implementing institution, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Iowa State University (ISU), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Institute (KEPHIS), Private and Public Seed companies and international Consultants

This report presents activities conducted by Seed Enterprise Management Institute (SEMIs) in the year 2014. SEMIs held seven courses in 2014 attracting 143 participants from Eastern, Western and southern African countries. These participants represented 73 different seed companies in Sub-Saharan Africa. The courses included seed production (23 participants), seed drying processing and storage (23 participants), seed business management (19 participants), seed marketing (20 participants), seed quality assurance and enterprise quality management (19 participants), National Plant Protection Organizations and seed quality regulators (21 participants), and field production field diagnostics (18 participants).

The participants were also engaged in laboratory practicals and field excursions. They visited KEPHIS seed quality assurance centre in Nakuru County and a seed grower in the same region. Besides that, they travelled to Machakos to learn processing activities from Dryland Seed Company and Kenya Seed Company in Nairobi. All practical sessions were held within CAVS.

SEMIs seed processing facility is complete and seed processing units comprising air-screen cleaner, gravity separator, seed coating machine and packaging machine are housed in the facility. Discussion on installation of the equipments is ongoing and SEMIs has identified a local consultant company with expertise cum experience on installation. The established Seed Processing and Seed Quality Testing facility and the University Seed Unit (UNISEED) will work closely with commercial seed companies in an effort to inculcate good practical and hands-on real life experiences to trainees. UNISEED is registered under KEPHIS and its role is to maintain the seed varieties produced by breeders and licensed varieties, and to produce and promote the non-licensed released varieties. Second phase of SEMIs construction is ongoing for which contractors are doing final finishes and fittings for laboratories and offices. It is anticipated that by end May 2015 the building will be officially handed over to the Institute.

Foundation seed for six varieties of beans are also produced by SEMIs at Kibwezi and Kabete field stations. The bean varieties are Kenya Wonder, Kenya Sugar Bean, Kenya Red Kidney, Super Roscoco, Miezi Mbili, and Kabete Super. In Kabete, single lines and single plots of the bean varieties are maintained while bulking of the varieties is done at Kibwezi Field Station. Foundation seeds of the bean varieties produced in 2014 was 4.30 tonnes.