

## **SEMIs Phase I Year 2010 Report**

### **Executive summary**

The project to establish a Seed Enterprise Management Institute (SEMIs), at the University of Nairobi (UON) College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) is an initiative funded by Association for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). It is a collaborative project led by UON. Collaborators include Iowa State University (ISU), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Kenya Seed Company (KSCo), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) and other private and public institutions in the seed delivery systems. The role of SEMIs is mainly geared to providing capacity to the seed industry in sub-Saharan Africa mainly through training on seed systems management for seed practitioners.

SEMIs officially began operations in February, 2010. A series of meetings were held between AGRA, UON, ISU and other collaborators for implementation of the project. The main focus for SEMIs in 2010 was to initiate and administer short courses, on seed in the seed value chain, for seed practitioners in sub-Saharan Africa that have special relevance to the seed industry in Africa, and to initiate construction of a seed processing unit and seed laboratory at CAVS. To this end, several meetings were held in order to come up with suitable curricula that would address the main challenges facing seed practitioners, especially the seed companies, in the production and provision of high quality seed to farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. Six course curricula were developed and passed by the university administration as SEMIs short courses on seed production and Management. These are: i) Seed production, II) Seed drying, processing and storage, III) Seed Marketing, IV) Seed Business Management, V) Seed Quality Assurance, and VI) Seed Legislation and Accreditation. In addition, trainers from the University of Nairobi attended a Training of Trainers (TOT) course at ISU in order to familiarize themselves with the operations of an internationally recognized seed institute. The details for the implementation and curriculum development meetings and, the ISU visit are included in this report.

Within this reporting period (February – July 2010), four courses on Seed Production, Seed Drying, Processing and Storage, Seed Business Management and Seed Marketing have been held with great success. Participants to these courses were drawn from 13 sub-Saharan African countries including from West Africa: Ghana, Nigeria, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, from Southern Africa: Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, and from Eastern Africa: Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Kenya. In total, 119 participants from over 30 seed companies have benefited from the trainings. The details of these four trainings are included in this report.

On the construction of SEMIs seed processing and laboratory facilities, Allan Gaul a seed science specialist from ISU made visits and took measurements of the existing facilities at CAVS

to facilitate the preparation of the construction plans for the institute.