



REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS FOR SEED AND BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AFRICA

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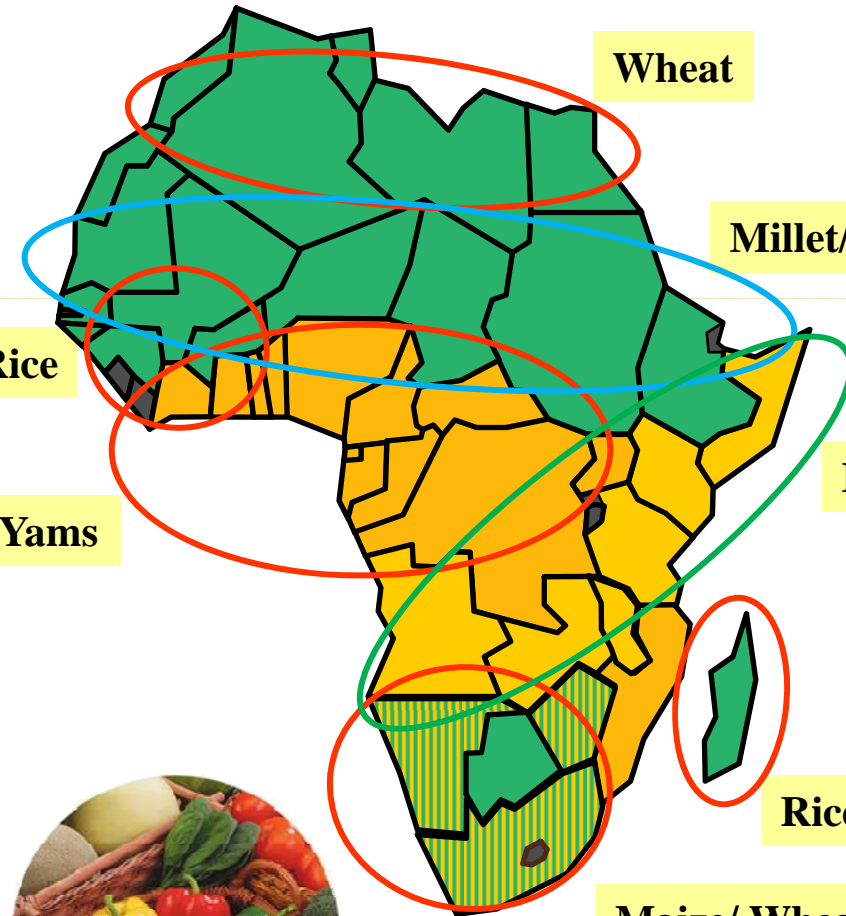


OUTLINES

- Multiple staple crops in Africa
- Diversity of seed regulatory framework
- ISTA and OECD member countries in Africa
- Harmonization of seed regulations and policies
- Biotechnology framework in Africa
- Way Forward to promote Biotech
- African based biotech service providers



MULTIPLE STAPLE CROPS



Wheat

Millet/ Sorghum





Rice

Cassava/ Yams

Maize

Rice

Maize/ Wheat

Staple Crops	
No record	
Tubers	
Maize	
Cereals	

Source: WFP 2007



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DIVERSITY OF SEED REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

	Ang	Bot	DRC	Les	Mal	Moz	Nam	Swaz	Tan	RSA	Zam	ZW
Seeds Act	Y		Y		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Plant Breeders' Rights	N								Y	Y	Y	Y
Variety Registration	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

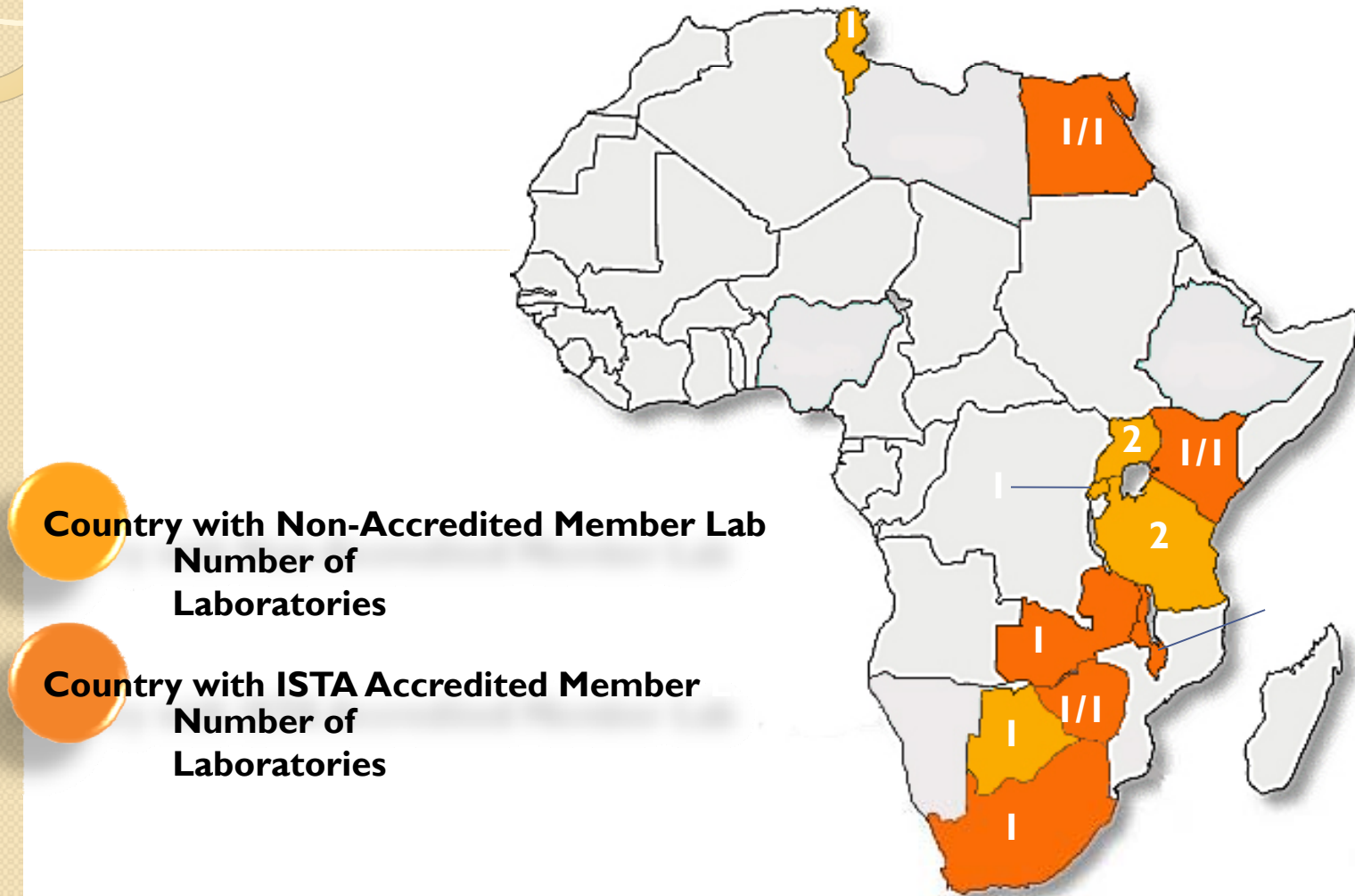
No

Yes

Source: Cimmyt, 2007



ISTA MEMBER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA



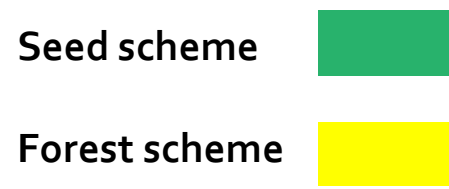
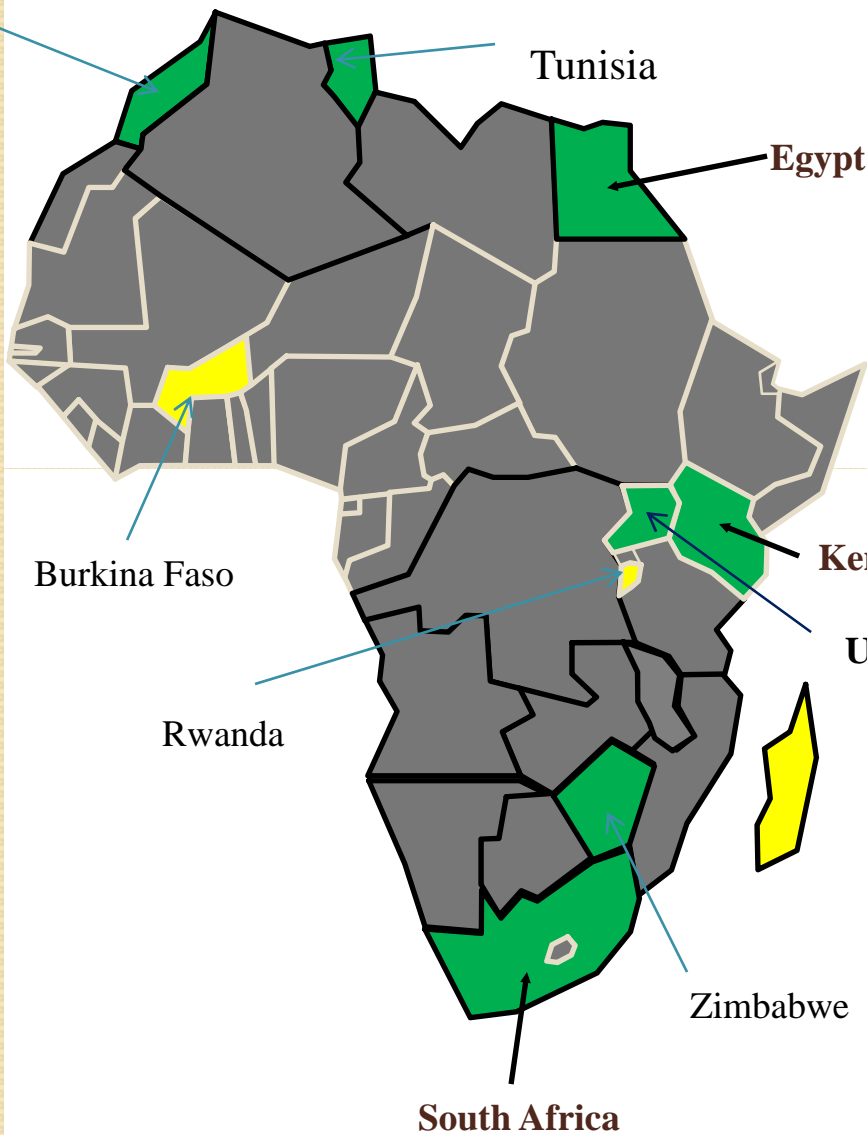
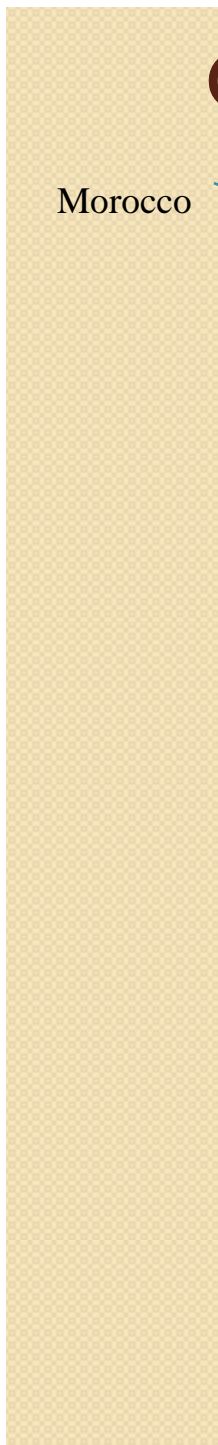
**Country with Non-Accredited Member Lab
Number of
Laboratories**

**Country with ISTA Accredited Member
Number of
Laboratories**

Source: ISTA Secretariat



OECD MEMBERS COUNTRIES IN AFRICA



HARMONIZATION OF SEED REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

- Promotion of seed trade with a view to facilitating trans-boundary seed trade in EAC, SADC, ECOWAS and COMESA will start soon:
 - Facilitated Variety Release;
 - Facilitated seed certification;
 - Facilitated seed import and export.
- Implementation and enforcement of harmonized seed regulations and policies are another challenge and require accompanying measures such as capacity building in some countries;
- Coordination of the efforts in developing seed sector in Africa is necessary to avoid possible overlapping of activities;



GENERAL INFORMATION ON BIOTECH IN AFRICA

- Biotechnology research and applications in Africa moving forward;
- Use of biotechnology products hampered by inability to evaluate the environmental and food safety risks;
- Many projects focused on building Biosafety capacity in African countries – time bound, country focused and targeted to specific crops and technology;
- Buy-in from the policy makers and relevant stakeholders into the new technology is weak in Africa.

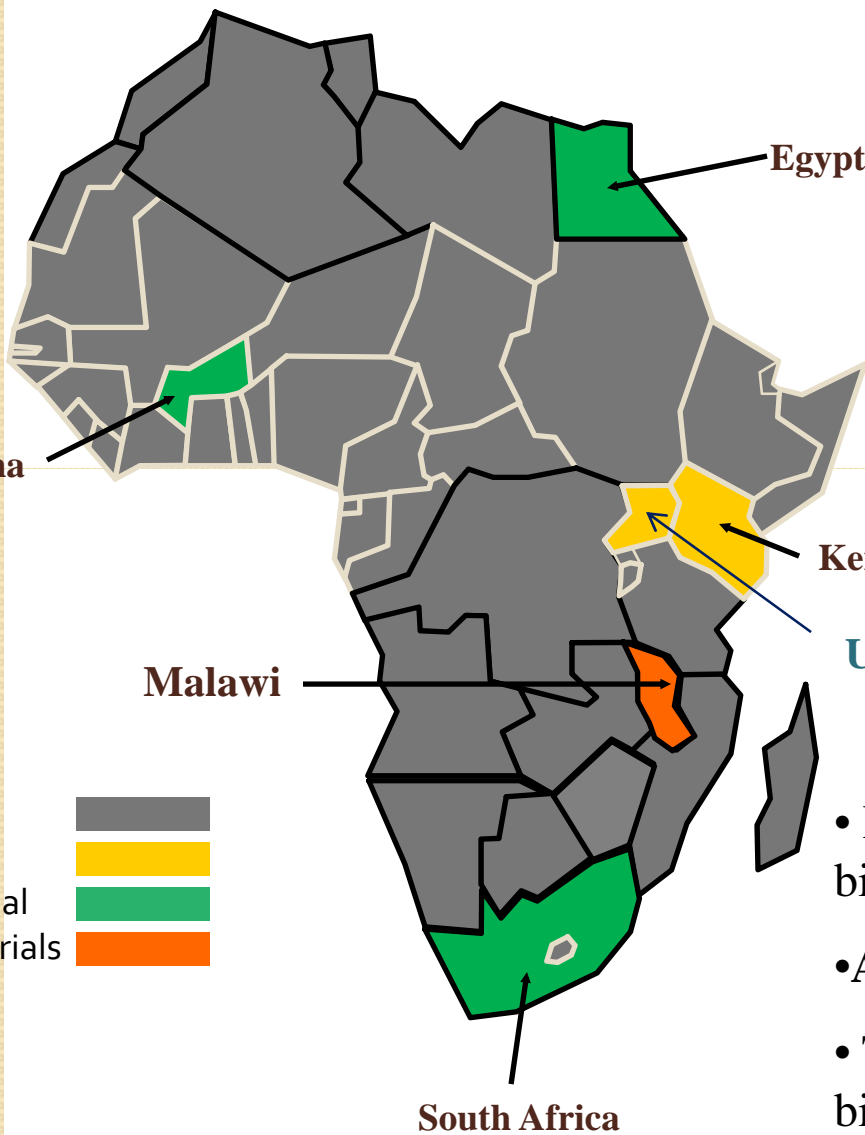


BIOSAFETY REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN AFRICA

- Countries with developed National Biosafety Frameworks (NBFs): **12**
- Countries with interim NBFs: **12**
- Countries with no Biosafety frameworks or in the process of developing NBFs: **30**
- Countries conducting Confined Field Trial (CFT): **6** (South Africa, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe)
- Countries with commercial approvals: **3** (*South Africa, Egypt and Burkina Faso*)

• Source: African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE)





Biotech commercial

South Africa

- maize, cotton, and soybean

Egypt

- maize

Burkina Faso

- cotton

Biotech on trial

Kenya – cotton and maize

Egypt – cotton

Uganda – cotton, banana

- Lack of **Biosafety regulations** is the biggest limitation to biotech growth

- **Accurate information is critical**

- There is **increasing support** to test biotech in several countries

WHY FORWARD TO PROMOTE BIOTECH

- Biosafety capacity building targeting members of National Biosafety Councils (NBCs) and other relevant governmental institutions;
- Empower African regulators and Policy Makers so that they can make informed decisions;
- Establish comprehensive Biosafety information resource base for African regulators;
- Involve the seed industry at early stage of the development of the Biosafety regulations



WHY FORWARD TO PROMOTE BIOTECH

- Train African seed companies on biotechnology and prepare them to obtain licenses from technology developers;
- Adopt a regional approach to speed up the process of safe use of Biotechnology products i.e. harmonization of Biosafety within the trading blocks:
 - CILSS/ECOWAS, SADC, and COMESA have initiated this harmonization process.
- Improve socio-economic environment to be conducive for the use of biotech products (awareness on biotech, road infrastructure, equipment, etc.)



AFRICAN BASED BIOTECH SERVICE PROVIDERS

- International Service for Acquisition of Agri-biotech Application (ISAAA)
- AfricaBio
- African Biotechnology Stakeholders' Forum (ABSF)
- African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)
- Africa–Harvest (AH)
- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
- Biosafety Clearing House country projects (BCH)
- African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE)
- Other organizations and programs

