



Day 2: Tuesday 24 March | TRADING SEEDS, GROWING ECONOMIES

15 Years after harmonization protocols – what should come next?

Journey of seeds regulation in West Africa

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LEADING AGRICULTURAL
INNOVATION IN WEST
AND CENTRAL AFRICA

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

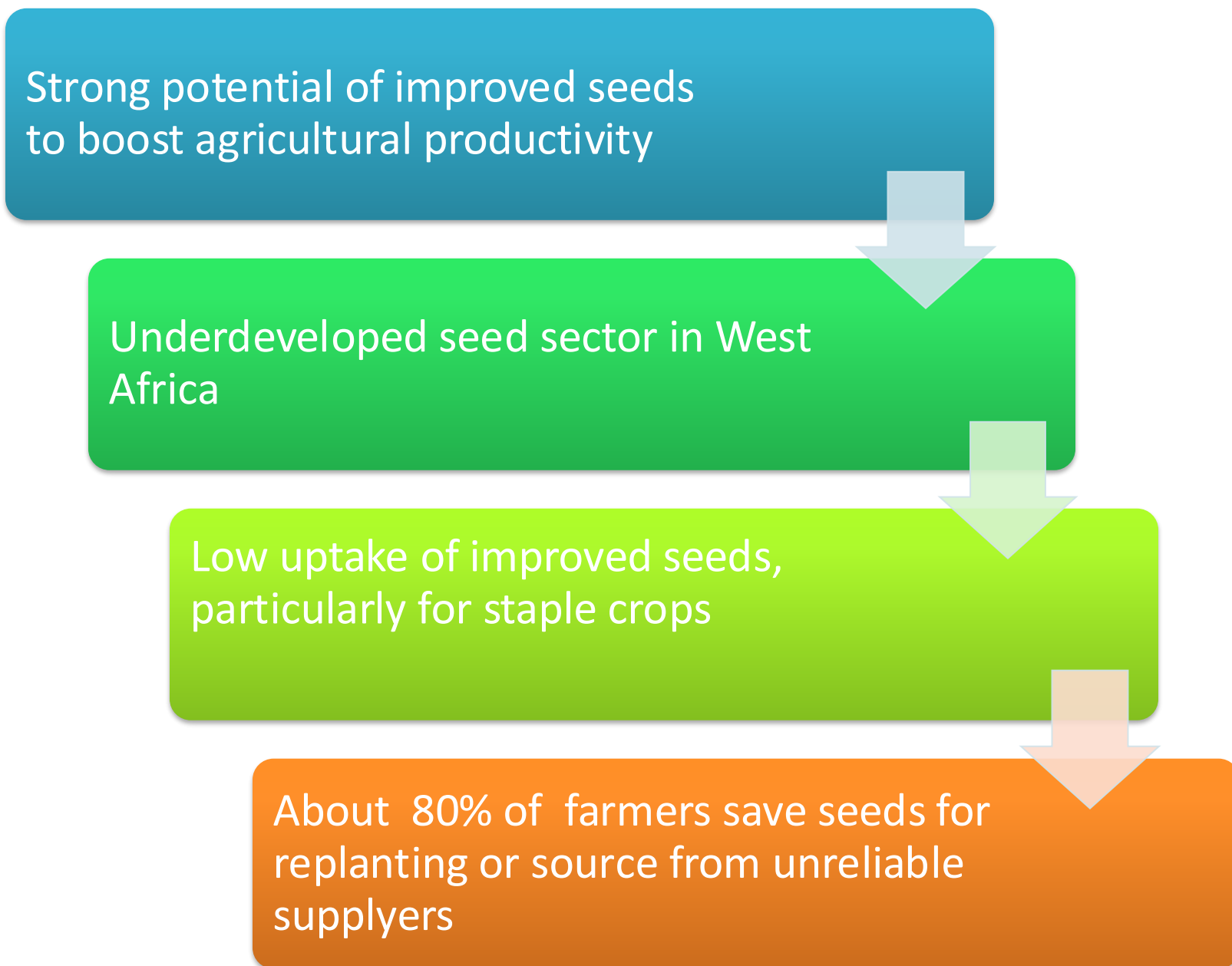
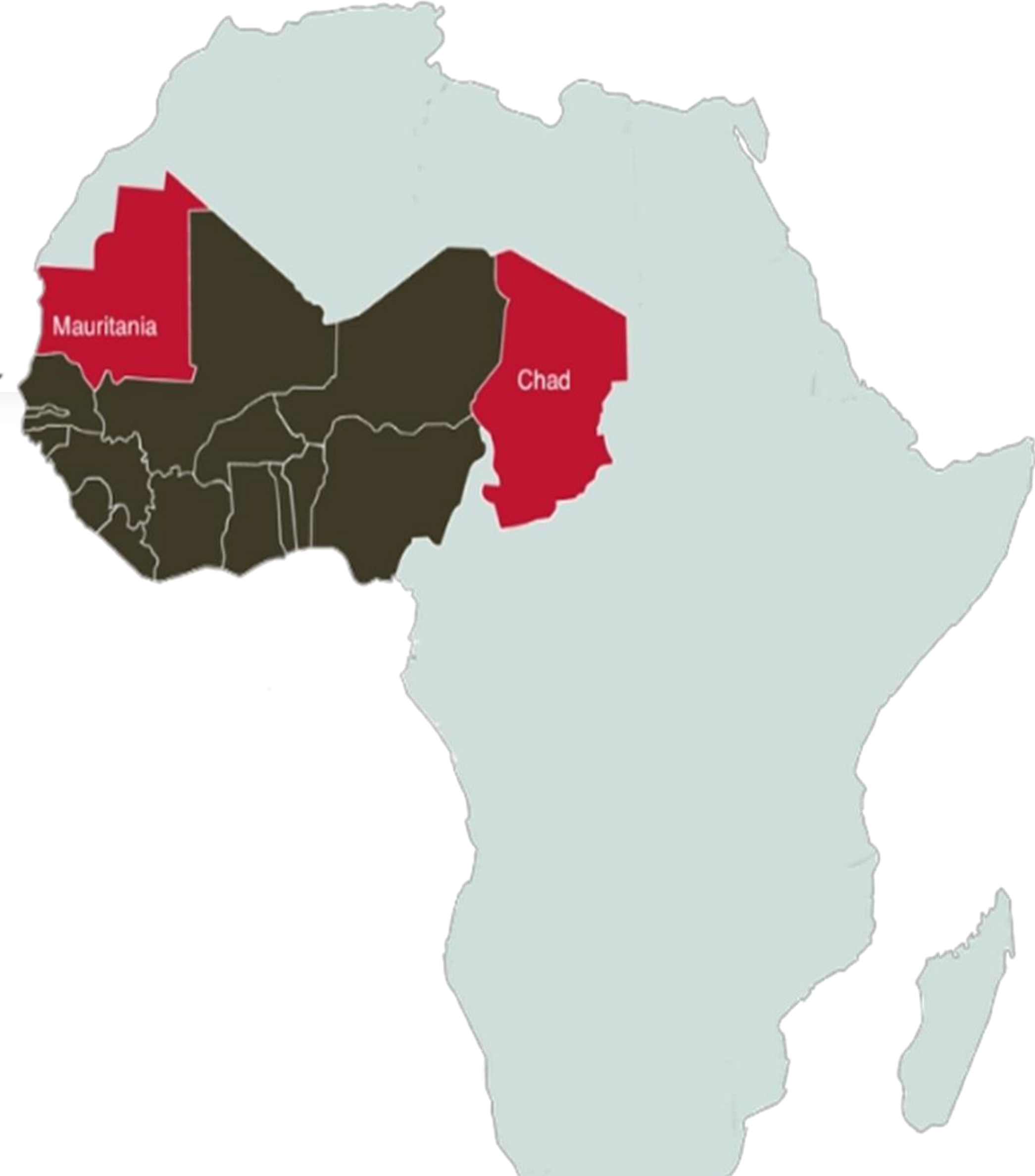
Regulatory framework and Implementation

Key Achievements

Institutional lessons and challenges



The paradox of the seeds situation in West Africa





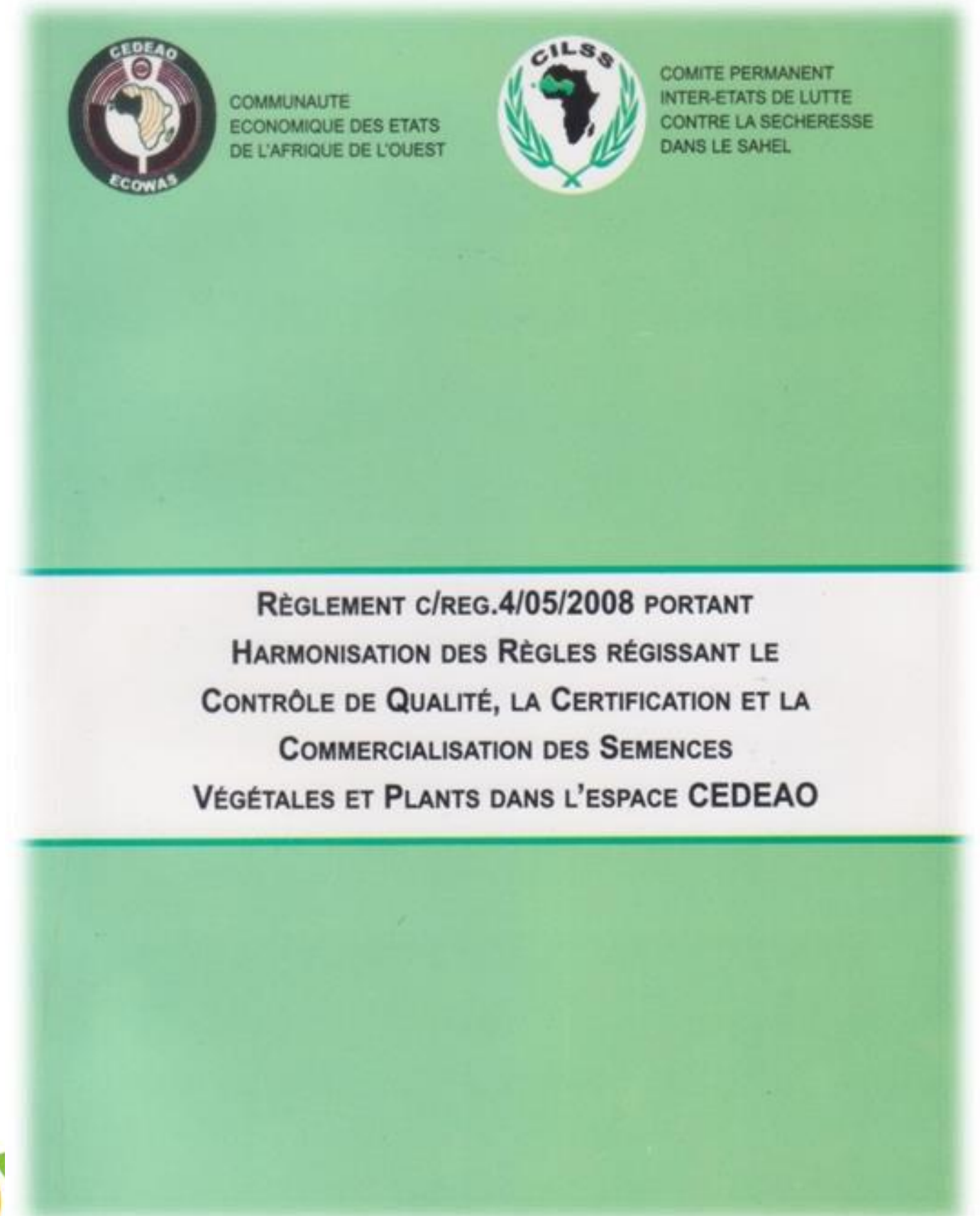
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ECOWAS-UEMAO-CILSS Harmonised seeds regulation

In light of this paradox, regional authorities have jointly embarked on a lengthy process of consultation

- ✓ in 2006 for CILSS (Framework Convention on Seeds)
- ✓ in 2008, for ECOWAS
- ✓ in 2009, for UEMOA
- ✓ ECOWAS, UEMOA & CILSS Tripartite Agreement, June 2018,

This process culminated in the adoption of a **Regulation on the Harmonisation of Rules, Governing, Quality Control, Certification and Marketing of Plant Seeds and Seedlings**



ECOWAS-UEMAO-CILSS Harmonised seeds regulation

Meaning

- "Harmonisation" in the context of seed regulation means **same standards, rules and regulations**
- Regionally agreed principles and rules include:
 - ✓ builds **trust between Member States**
 - ✓ promotes **mutual recognition and acceptance**, and facilitates **regional trade**

Scope of Regional seed regulatory framework

- **Applies to all** seed-related activities
- Sets out the rules and standards for:
 1. **Variety certification**
 2. **Quality control and certification of seeds and plants**
 3. **Phytosanitary certification**

The regulatory framework key requirements:



Establishment of the Regional Seed Committee (**with CORAF responsible for the Secretariat**)



Establishment of National Seed Committees



For varieties approval, Establishment of the regional and national catalogues of species and varieties (**NB: only varieties registered in the catalogues may be propagated, and only certified seeds may be marketed within the region**)



Development of technical procedural manuals to ensure quality seeds production



Key achievements

Regional and national seed committees established and functional through the holding of annual sessions

Regional and national catalogues of species and varieties produced and regularly updated

Regional list of seed-borne quarantine pests
Procedural manual for import and export of seeds in West Africa and the Sahel

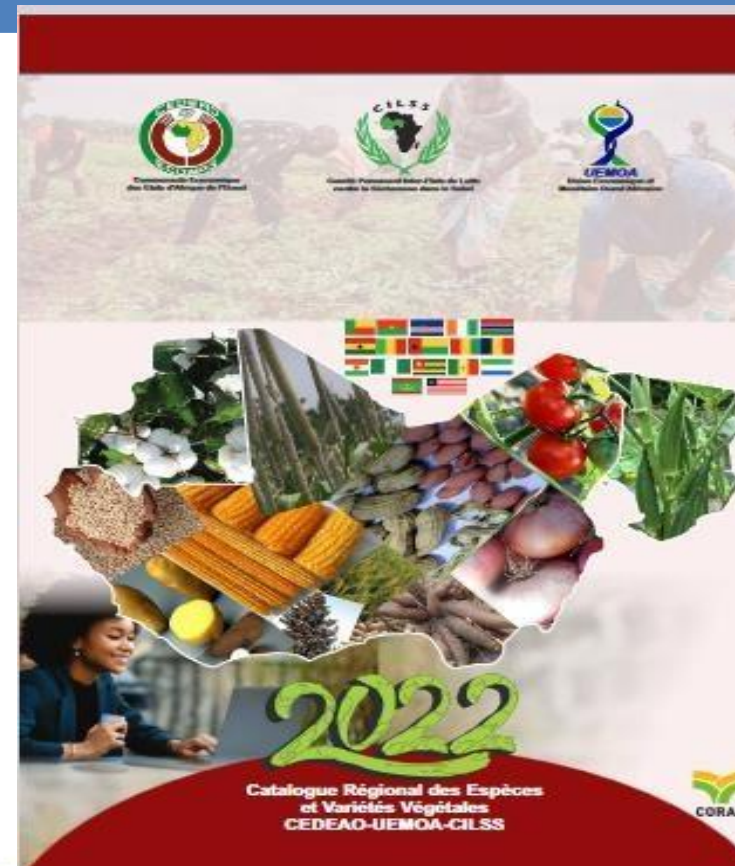
Existence of seed companies (NAFASO, FASO KABA, etc.) using the facilities provided by the harmonized regulation for their business



Ninth ordinary session of the
Regional Seed and Seedling Committee for West Africa and the Sahel
(WARSS/CRSPAOS)

Implementation of the Harmonized Regional Seed Regulation
(C/REG.4/05/2008/CEDEAO & N° 03/2009/CM/UEMOA)

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, September 18-20, 2024



Lists of Priority crops established for the regional catalogue

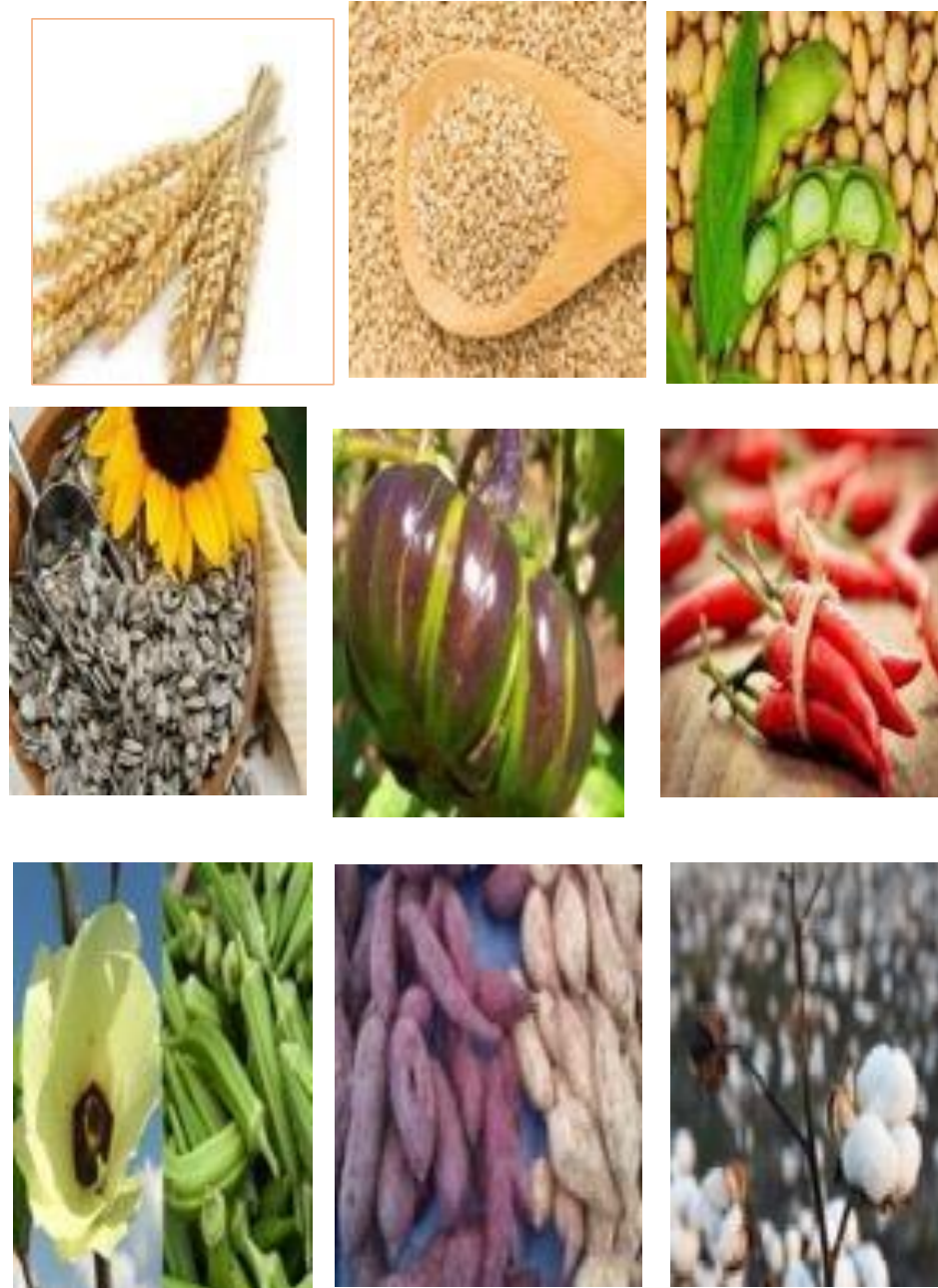
Regional

Initial priority crops

1. Rice
2. Maize
3. Sorghum
4. Millet
5. Cowpea
6. Peanuts
7. Cassava
8. Sweet potato
9. Yam
10. Tomato
11. Onion

Additional priority crops

1. Wheat
2. Sesame
3. Soya,
4. Sunflower;
5. African
aubergine
6. Pepper
7. Okra
8. Sweet potato
9. Cotton.




Guidelines for DUS (Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability) and VCU (Value for Cultivation and Use) trials developed for 14 crops

ÉTATS MEMBRES DE LA CEDEAO, DE L'UEMOA OU DU CILSS

Protocole d'Expérimentation Multilocale

Sorgho
(Sorghum bicolor (L.) Moench)

Essais de Valeur Agronomique, Technologique et Environnementale (VATE)



Source : [glomy](#)


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Protocole d'expérimentation multilocale

Riz
Oryza sativa L.

Essais de Valeur Agronomique, Technologique et Environnementale (VATE)



Source : [Fratmat.info](#)


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Protocole d'Expérimentation Multilocale

Blé
Triticum sp.

Essais de Valeur Agronomique, Technologique et Environnementale (VATE)



Source : [Gera/CPIS](#)


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Protocole d'expérimentation multilocale

Sésame
(Sesamum indicum L.)

Valeur Agronomique, Technologique et Environnementale (VATE)



Source : [Shakya in West Africa](#)


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Protocole d'expérimentation multilocale

Soja
(Glycine max (L.) Merrill)

Valeur Agronomique, Technologique et Environnementale (VATE)



Source : [Journal Paysan breton](#)

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Protocole d'expérimentation multilocale

Arachide
(Arachis hypogaea L.)

Valeur Agronomique, Technologique et Environnementale (VATE)




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Protocole d'expérimentation multilocale

Pomme de terre
Solanum tuberosum L.

Essais de Valeur Agronomique, Technologique et Environnementale (VATE)



Source : [ICS AGR, août 2021](#)


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Protocole d'expérimentation multilocale

Manioc
Manihot esculenta Cranz.

Essais de Valeur Agronomique, Technologique et Environnementale (VATE)



Source : [INERA](#)


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Protocole d'expérimentation multilocale

Patate douce
Ipomoea batatas (L.) Lam.

Essais de Valeur Agronomique, Technologique et Environnementale (VATE)



Source : [Diotte Jardin, août 2021](#)


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Protocole d'expérimentation multilocale

Niébé
(Vigna unguiculata (L.) Walpers)

Valeur Agronomique, Technologique et Environnementale (VATE)



Source : [F. Siombou, Ecolabo.com \(SociQuest, Brésil\)](#)

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Protocole d'expérimentation multilocale

Tournesol
(Helianthus annuus L.)

Valeur Agronomique, Technologique et Environnementale (VATE)



source : [Sincoris-France](#)


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Protocole d'Expérimentation Multilocale

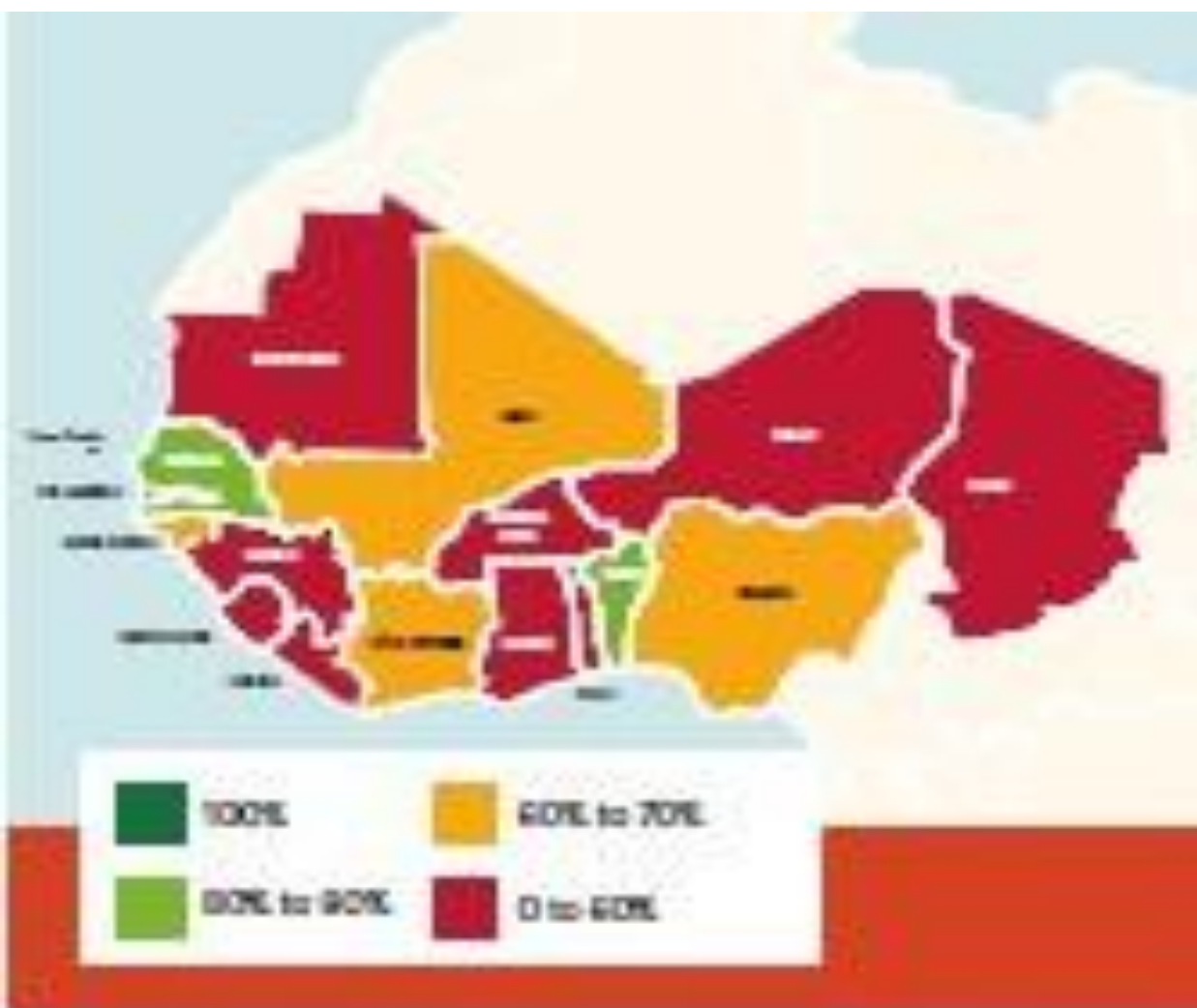
Cotonnier
(Gossypium hirsutum L.)

Essais de Valeur Agronomique, Technologique et Environnementale (VATE)

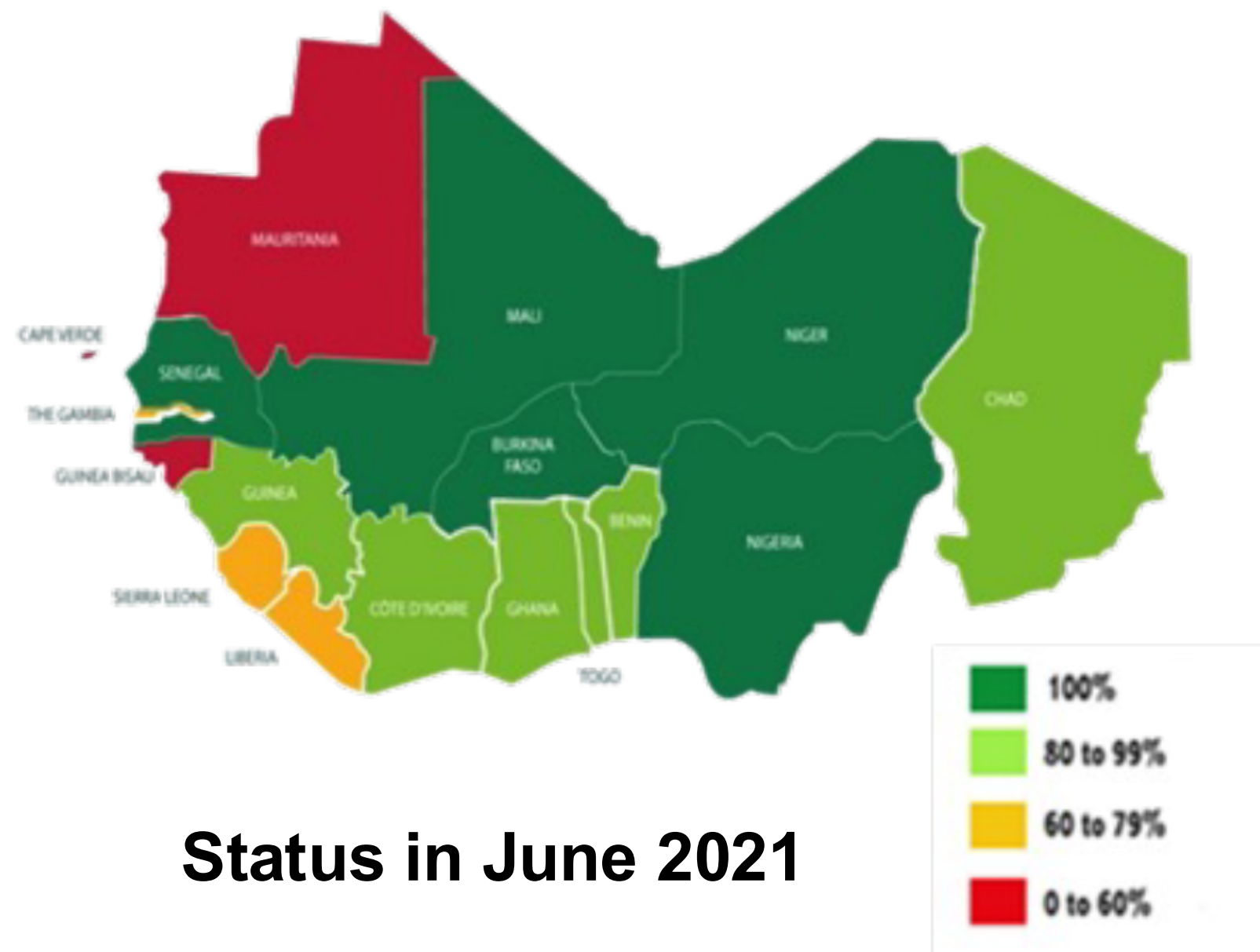


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Country performances in the implementation of the harmonized regulation (MS)



Seed regulation (APRIL 2013)



Status in June 2021

Group 1 : Excellent	Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, le Niger
Group 2 : Good	Benin, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Guinea Conakry
Groupe 3 : Fair	The Gambia, Liberia et Sierra Leone,
Groupe 4 : Poor	Cap Verde, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau



Institutional lessons

Good

- **Effective implementation** of the harmonised seed regulations by Member States
- Regional **market expansion and facilitation of cross-border** seed trade
- **Enable environment created** for private sector investment
- **Increase availability and access** to improved seeds

Bad

- A.** The **financing** of a significant number of seed regulation **implementation actions** remains **dependent on donors**
- B.** Political decisions **prohibiting the export of agricultural products** to neighbouring countries often taken by certain member states
- C.** **Customs services** are **not friends** of the implementation of seed regulations



Key challenges

Insufficient knowledge of regional regulations among some civil servants

Lengthy variety release process

Poor seed quality and the persistence of counterfeit seeds

Inadequate quality and quantity of seed-related infrastructure (laboratories, warehouses, processing centres, data collection tools)

Poor supply of first-generation seeds

Persistent difficulties in transporting seeds within the region

Actions to be taken

- A. Continue advocacy and awareness-raising efforts to encourage the engagement of policy makers
- B. Training and strengthening of technical capacity and access to information for members.
- C. Reforms of national policies for effective implementation of harmonized regulations



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West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development

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