



COMESA SEED SYSTEM / COMSHIP STATUS

25th AFSTA
CONGRESS, 2025
6th MARCH, 2025.

21 COMESA MEMBER STATES

- Burundi 
- Comoros 
- D R Congo 
- Djibouti 
- Egypt 
- Eritrea 
- Eswatini 
- Ethiopia 
- Kenya 
- Libya 
- Madagascar 
- Malawi 
- Mauritius 
- Rwanda 
- Seychelles 
- Somalia 
- Sudan 
- Tunisia 
- Uganda 
- Zambia 
- Zimbabwe 

THE PROBLEM



COMSHIP OVERALL OBJECTIVES

Improve regional seed trade in staple food crops in COMESA region as well as catalyse, sustain an inclusive agricultural transformation leading increased seed production, reliability, trade and enhance quality, improved seed availability to small-holder farmers in a sustained, affordable, timely and reliable manner.



Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa

ACTESA



BENEFITS OF A COMESA SEED SYSTEM

- Scaling up access to quality seeds that are high nutritious, climate smart and high yielding;
- Small and medium scale enterprises could access and benefit from Harmonised COMESA Seed Regulations;
- Enhancement of seed traded between borders resulting in saving time and resources in seed movement in the region;
- Enhancement of more efficient movement of quality seed in the COMESA region;
- Increased volumes and value of traded improved quality seed in COMESA Member States;
- Increase COMESA regional food and nutritional security and enhance economic regional integration;
- Making COMESA seed companies transform into global seed companies.



Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa

ACTESA



STATUS COMESA VARIETY RELEASE SYSTEM

Official letter to COMESA Secretariat on letterhead of your company, signed by a legal representative, and attesting that the person is authorized to apply for COMESA varieties registration and that your company is found in the COMESA member States or has representation in the COMESA member States. This shall enable us to validate your account as well.

Create an account on-line before you make application (the one appointed personnel on behalf of your company shall do it) on the COMESA Variety catalogue: <https://varietycatalogue.comesa.int/>

An application from you / company should be done on-line.



Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa

ACTESA



STATUS COMESA VARIETY RELEASE SYSTEM

Submission of clear results of DUS and VCU to COMESA Secretariat is vital as this is same information when a seed company is registering a variety in a country to the Variety Release Committee.



It is advised that seed companies also obtain official confirmation of release of their varieties from two COMESA Member States National Seed Authorities or National Variety Release Committees or Boards and submit them to the COMESA Seed Office or Secretariat as this will be used as a necessary requirement before a variety is cleared for official release on the COMESA Variety catalogue



Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa

ACTESA



COMESA VARIETY CATALOGUE IS OPERATIONAL

- Details: <https://varietycatalogue.comesa.int/web/login>



www.comesa.int



Welcome to the COMESA Plant Variety Catalogue

The objective of the COMESA Variety Release System is to encourage investment in seed business in the COMESA Member States, to enhance access to new and existing varieties in the COMESA Member States, and to stimulate the breeding and availability of seed varieties resulting in increased variety choices for all farmers.

This website allows plant breeders/ seed developers to register varieties in the COMESA Catalogue and seed users to find varieties which can be legally commercialized among the 20 COMESA countries.

Seed users can select varieties adapted to their Agro-Ecological Zones, with short technical descriptions. For more detailed descriptions or orders, they will find commercial contact references associated to each variety.

Plant breeders who want to apply for regional registration of a variety fulfilling the COMESA Variety Release System requirements have to create a breeder's account in the restricted access area.

National Seed authorities will also have access to the varieties database through the restricted area.

So far **119** varieties registered from 20 seed companies / CGIAR centres in the COMESA Region in line with COMESA Seed Harmonisation Implementation Plan (COMSHIP). Seed companies are now able to commercialize their seed without 2-3 years required before commercialization.

COMSHIP STATUS PHASED DOMESTICATION

LEVEL	COMESA MEMBER STATE	STATUS OF DOMESTICATION OF COMESA SEED TRADE HARMONISATION REGULATIONS
A	BURUNDI	GAZETTED
	KENYA	GAZETTED
	MALAWI	GAZETTED
	RWANDA	GAZETTED
	ZAMBIA	GAZETTED
	ZIMBABWE	GAZETTED
	UGANDA	GAZETTED
	EGYPT	GAZETTED
	ETHIOPIA	GAZETTED
	ESWATINI	GAZETTED
B	DJIBOUTI	NATIONAL SEED REGULATIONS BEING DEVELOPED WITH SUPPORT OF FAO
	DR CONGO	DRAFT ALIGNED REGULATIONS AWAITING PARLIAMENT ENDORSEMENT
	MAURITIUS	NATIONAL SEED REGULATIONS BEING DEVELOPED WITH SUPPORT OF FAO
	ERITREA	DRAFT COMESA ALIGNED SEED REGULATIONS, WITH SUPPORT OF FAO
	SEYCHELLES	COMSHIP LAUNCHED IN JULY, 2017
C	MADAGASCAR	COMSHIP LAUNCHED IN DECEMBER, 2014
	SUDAN	COMSHIP LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER, 2014
	COMOROS	COMSHIP LAUNCHED IN JULY, 2017
	TUNISIA	ROAD-MAP FOR COMESA ALIGNED NATIONAL SEED LAWS IN PLACE
D	SOMALIA	COMSHIP NOT YET LAUNCHED
	LIBYA	COMSHIP NOT YET LAUNCHED

COMSHIP MOVING FORWARD

- **AWARENESS CREATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE COMESA SEED TRADE HARMONISATION REGULATIONS AND DOMESTICATION OF THE COMESA SEED TRADE HARMONISATION REGULATIONS;**
- **WORK WITH CGIAR CENTRES IN MAKING SURE VARIETIES REGISTERED IN TWO COMESA MEMBER STATES ARE REGISTERED ON THE COMESA VARIETY CATALOGUE IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH NSAs AND SEED COMPANIES;**
- **PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF COMSHIP STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPs) TO NSAs / SEED COMPANIES AND FINALISE TEST PILOTING OF COMESA SEED LABELS;**
- **IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH AATF, HOLD HIGH COMSHIP DIALOGUE, SUPPORT PRIVATE SECTOR EXPORT OF REGIONAL SEED / UTILISATION OF COMESA SEED LABELING SYSTEM AND SUPPORT REGIONAL RELEASE OF HIGH YIELDING CLIMATE SMART / RESILIENT MAIZE, BEAN AND WHEAT VARIETIES ON THE COMESA VARIETY CATALOGUE.**



Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa

ACTESA



**THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR
ATTENTION**

