PPP Workshop May 31, 2011

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Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA)

The Partners

- African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) is leading the project
- National Ag. Research System (NARS) conduct testing and provide expertise for sub-Saharan African farmers
- CIMMYT and Monsanto with BASF provide global and adapted maize germplasm, testing and breeding methods, and biotechnology

The Technology

- Global germplasm to combine new sources of drought tolerance and African adaptation
- More rapid gains in conventional drought tolerance through molecular breeding
- Additional drought tolerance obtained through state-of-the-art biotechnology





WEMA Objective

To increase yield stability and reduce risk under drought conditions



- Increase yields 20 to 35% in ten years
- Enable use of hybrids and fertilizer
- Enable crop diversification
- Estimated to enable an additional 2M tons of food in the WEMA countries during moderate drought.

Capacity Building Benefits

Focused on the farmer

Designed to benefit African seed companies including SMEs

- IP licensed royalty-free to AATF for deployment
- Training in QC, transgenic seed production, etc.
- Extensive scientific capacity building in partner countries
 - Scientist training across continents
- Breeding and transgenic testing networks
- Regulatory capacity building



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WEMA Challenges and Opportunities

Establishment of regulatory frameworks

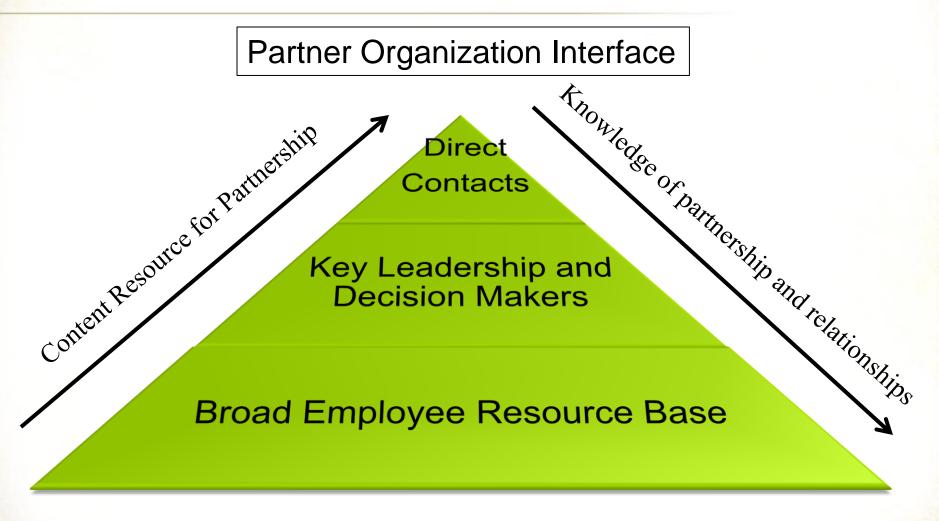
- Timely field trials and collection of data.
- Deployment of biotechnology products.

Designing and equipping seed distribution plans

- Seed company QC and production capacity
- Improving smallholder access to credit, infrastructure, etc.
- Funding second phase of the project



Challenges Tapping Organizational Expertise for PPPs





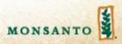
Some observations...

- Everything about PPPs is essentially "Outside the Box."
 - -Especially true for those seeking to align closely with business activities.
 - -Incorporating PPP into internal processes is challenging.
 - Incorporating PPP processes into internal operations is much more challenging.
 - -Private sector generally not agile and experienced in grant writing and implementation.



Some observations...

- IP protection is difficult, but can often be overcome.
 - -On paper easier than within human resources.
 - -Critical to understand as clearly as possible the fine line between competitive and pre-competitive space, between what can and should be shared and what can not.
 - -Confidentiality and stewardship are often larger concerns.
 - Availability of experts as resources often a larger concern.



Some Observations...

- There is as much diversity between institutions as between regions—and this needs to be respected.
 - -Difficult to do when organizations do not fully understand each other.
 - Difficult to do when organizations do not fully understand themselves - their own capabilities and limitations.
 - -Communication—within partnership and with external stakeholders—is essential.



Some Key Elements of Successful PPPs

- PPPs require TRUST and relationships.
 - -We need to grow this pool as a resource.
- Understand and respect each other's motivations and limitations.
- Understand and respect your own motivations and limitations.
- Keep your eye on the end goal, don't get lost in the details.



Partnership: Many people. One common vision.



"A single bracelet does not jingle." - Congo proverb

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