

# **THE VEGETABLE SEED BUSINESS IN GHANA FROM A PRIVATE SEED COMPANY**

**BY**

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- Major bottlenecks for the take-off of Ghana's vegetable **PRODUCTION** sector is
  - The non-availability of well-adapted seeds and seedlings;
  - Specialized horticultural fertilizers and pesticides
  - Irrigation equipment and greenhouse equipment.

- All available evidence including our small survey suggests that seed varieties can influence yields.
- Yet growers in Ghana are constrained by the absence of national seed strategy that provides farmers with a reliable source of appropriate seeds and technical support.
- Farmers have a dichotomous choice between costly hybrids sold by private seed companies and inexpensive local varieties that have emerged out of uncontrolled crossing.

- The seed sector is currently overdependent on a relatively low number of older open pollinated varieties (e.g. for tomato, peppers and onions) while few new domestic and international varieties enter the market.
- In the last few years some progress has been made thanks to the market entry of companies like Technisem, East-West Seeds, Dizengoff among others
- Locally, smaller distribution outlets like Aglow, Agrimat, Zero Two Ent,

- Knowledge and skills of vegetable production (seed and fruit) are still relatively rudimentary in Ghana.

No	ACTIVITY	Q'NTY	PACK	UNIT PX	COST(GHc)
2	<b>PLANTING</b>				
	Seed (OPV)	100	g	0.35	35
	Seed (Hybrid) TYPE 1	100	g	5	500
	Seed (Hybrid) TYPE 2	1000	Seeds	0.7	700

- This is demonstrated by the low yields per hectare; e.g. tomato yields have remained flat over the last decade at 6 t/ha, while Kenyan farmers produce 22 t/ha and neighboring Burkinabe farmers 9 t/ha (FaoStat, 2011).

- The Vegetable seed sector in Ghana has failed to reach its potential, in terms of attaining yields comparable to other countries, in terms of the ability to sustain processing plants, and in terms of improving livelihoods

Year	Trade Value	Weight (kg)	Quantity
2005	\$328,958	11,886	11,886
2006	\$443,366	39,228	39,228
2007	\$814,318	31,298	31,298
2008	\$1,378,621	44,267	44,267
2009	\$1,634,230	49,756	49,756
2010	\$1,087,587	32,111	32,111
2011	\$2,189,332	60,789	60,789

Import Figures, FAOSTATS

	Average yields (and number choosing variety in parenthesis)			
	Greater Accra (Rainfed)	Greater Accra (Irrigated)	Brong Ahafo (Rainfed)	Upper East (Irrigated)
Power Rano			16.0 (17)	
Pectomech		8.8 (4)	10.1 (13)	13.8 (14)
Ada Lorry Tyre	4.8 (8)			
Burkina	14.6 (2)			
"No Name"				15.7 (18)
Meenagiant	2.0 (1)			
Nimagent F1	2.8 (4)	3.1 (5)		
Techiman	4.2 (2)			11.1 (1)
Wosowoso	1.1 (2)			
Other	1.8 (2)	1.8 (1)		8.9 (1)
Average yields	4.5 (21)	5.2 (10)	13.7 (30)	14.6 (34)

- The **LAW** is very lenient on the importation of vegetable seeds due to the fact that most varieties are not available in the Country.
- The law allows a small sample of the variety to be brought in for testing by the PPRSD after which a permit is issued by the Minister for the Import
- Perhaps the convenience of the law with respect to vegetables makes importation more attractive to the private investor



- The Station Variety Trials (SVTs) are the standard performance trials in the breeding programme.
- The major objective of these trials is to compare the performance of introduced and local varieties on-station in the various agro-ecological zones to determine varieties which could be recommended for on-farm testing, and for eventual release for commercial production in Ghana.
- These trials are time consuming and expensive.

## Wienco

Commodities trading

Poultry / Animal Feed

SHF initiatives

Logistic

## RMG GH

Importation

Sales

Marketing

TD & Registration

Irrigation

## Yendiseed

Multiplication

Production

## Wienco Industries

Wienco Cotton

GCCL

Incinerator

Flour mill

## Gadco

Farm & Rice Mill

## Copa Connect

Rice SCF

- **THE RMG group** is one of Africa's leading research-intensive companies in the agricultural industry, offering a broad range of innovative chemical products for improving plant health, along with high-value seeds.
- It also provides extensive customer service to support modern, sustainable agriculture.
- RMG Ghana aims to generate profitable and sustainable growth for the company by helping to shape the future of agriculture and making it more productive and sustainable.



# RMG GHANA PORTFOLIO

<b>SEEDS</b> Cereals and legumes Vegetables	<b>CROP PROTECTION</b> Insecticides Fungicides Herbicides Growth Hormones Foliar Feeds	<b>EQUIPMENT</b> Irrigation Sprayers	<b>FERTILIZERS</b>	<b>POST HARVEST PRODUCTS</b> Fumigants Baits and Traps
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- Wienco/RMG last year began a Vegetable Seed project that sought to produce locally 5MT of both Pepper and Onion Varieties while importing over 35MT of assorted improved varieties unavailable locally.
- It is partly sponsored by **GHANAVEG** at a total cost of over 500,000 Euros
- Strategic alliances to commercialise with major breeding institutes some varieties are underway with the CRI on pepper, SARI on Onion, UG on egg plant, all OPV's.
- **HYBRIDS ARE THE WAY FORWARD FOR US**
- Various Trials are underway to evaluate prominent varieties with higher yields. (Syngenta, Rijk Zwaan, Bayer, Starkyes)
- Development of **TOPNOTCH** Crop Protection protocol



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**LIST OF PRODUCTS AND THEIR DOSAGES**

NAME OF PRODUCT	AI	DOSAGE/15 L KNAPSACK	PACKAGE	TYPE
RIVAL	Glyphosate	200MLS	1L	HERBICIDE
TOPSTAR	OXADIARGYL	40ML	200ML	PRE EMMERGENT
EFORIA	LAMDA & THIOMETHOXAM	50 MLS	1L	INSECTICIDE
KARATE	LAMDA	10MLS	250ML	INSECTICIDE
DECIS	DELTAMETHRIN	4MLS	4MLS	INSECTICIDE
AMISTAR TOP	AZOXYSTROBIN & DIFENOCONAZOLE	30 MLS	1L	FUNGICIDE
NATIVO	TERBUCONAZOLE & TRIFLOXYSTROBIN	40MLS	1L	FUNGICIDE
CROPMAX		20 MLS	250ML	FOLIAR FEED