



AVRDC
The World Vegetable Center

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AAHC Colloquium on Seed Industry Development in Africa

Theme: Food Security and Food Safety

Side Event Theme: Strategies to sustain vegetable seed supply in sub - Saharan Africa

Chairperson and Moderator: Dr Jackie Hughes; Deputy Director General Research

Date: 1st September 2009 Time 14:00hrs – 17:00hrs

The colloquium will be organized in the following format

- brief overview by the moderator
- lead presentations on key topics
- panel discussion on each topic

The expected outcome is a concrete set of take home action points and recommendations for unleashing and sustaining the potential of the vegetable seed sector thus contributing to food security in sub-Saharan Africa

Panellists: Panel of Seed Industry Experts and Policy Makers

Topics:

1. Harnessing the potential of vegetable seed industry in Africa – locally developed varieties vs. imported ones.
2. Vegetable seed regulatory systems in Africa: What can be done to expedite commercialization of improved varieties?
3. The role of agro-dealers/businesses in vegetable seed commercialization in sub-Saharan Africa and the critical linkages in sustainable seed supply

What is AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center?

AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center is the world’s leading international nonprofit research and development institute committed to alleviating poverty and malnutrition in developing countries through vegetable crop research and development.

In the early 1990s, operations were expanded to sub-Saharan Africa, and a regional base was established in Arusha Tanzania. The Regional Center for Africa currently has offices in Cameroon, Madagascar, Mali, Niger and Tanzania.

Over the past 35 years scientists at AVRDC -The World Vegetable Center have successfully bred cultivars and designed technologies to increase yields and incomes in developing countries. Millions of farmers today grow vegetable crops using seed or technologies that have been developed at the Center. The Center addresses constraints throughout the vegetable value chain, from germplasm, through breeding, production, postharvest and marketing, to consumption of vegetables.

The Center builds capacity and forms alliances with partners from both the public and private sectors to promote the production and consumption of safe vegetables in the developing world.

