



In Brief:

# The National Seed Road Map (NSRM)

What is the NSRM?

The National Seed Road Map (NSRM) is a collaboratively developed strategic plan aimed at transforming Nigeria's seed sector. The NSRM guides the decisions and actions of Nigerian and international seed sector partners towards sustainably increasing in farmers' access to and use of quality seed of improved varieties.

The NSRM is the output of a multistakeholder process of consultation, sharing and learning. Culminating in an interactive stakeholder workshop, the process to develop the NSRM saw a comprehensive seed sector assessment, the identification of experienced challenges and the definition of shared ambitions for the seed sector.

The resulting vision for the sector - and the pathways to achieve this vision - are elaborated in the full Road Map document. This brief gives a quick overview of the NSRM and its pathways.

Why is the NSRM needed?

Enhancing the availability, access to and use of quality seed is complex. Seed needs to be: (i) physically available in sufficient quantity at the right

place and time; (ii) accessible at an affordable price; and (iii) to be of a variety well suited to the local agro-ecological conditions, as well as farmer and market demands.

Multiple initiatives involving national and international partners have sought to increase the availability and use of quality seed. However, despite these efforts, many sector-wide challenges persist, and there remains a substantial gap between the demand and supply of quality seed for key crops, fruits and vegetables.

Critical seed sector challenges:

- ❖ Over-dependence on limited government investment capacity to support seed systems of crucial crops;
- ❖ Limited capacity among seed companies to connect with and satisfy farmers' demand;
- ❖ Lack of capacity for seed service providers to deliver efficient quality assurance, extension and other sector services;
- ❖ Market instability, trust and transparency issues hampering confidence for seed sector investments;
- ❖ Lack of sector-wide governance and structured coordination across national and international interventions.

Guiding seed sector transformation in Nigeria

Seed sector transformation is an approach that moves away from linear thinking, realising that seed systems for different crops face different challenges.

It looks beyond individual crop value chains and applies systems thinking; a holistic approach with complementary strategies for the development of the seed sector as a whole. The framework uses the future vision as the point of departure, and not today's problems.

Seed Sector Performance: Performance of the sector to become more competitive, resilient, profitable, innovative and adaptive, sustainable and transparent		
<b>Service Provision:</b> The capacity of the sector to provide high quality, inclusive and differentiated services to seed producers and value chain actors	<b>Seed Production Systems:</b> The viability and sustainability of seed production systems	<b>Seed Market Development:</b> The efficiency, fairness and transparency of seed value chains and markets
<b>Revenue Generation &amp; Reinvestment:</b> The capacity of the sector to generate revenues and make strategic reinvestments	<b>Coordination &amp; Governance:</b> The degree of coordination, alignment and accountability among diverse seed sector stakeholders	<b>Regulation &amp; Management:</b> Rules and systems that govern seed markets, production systems, service delivery and coordination

## Vision for the Future:

### Strategic Innovation Pathways

As a guide for transforming Nigeria's seed sector, the NSRM envisions a **competitive, resilient, innovative, inclusive, and sustainable seed sector**. The goal is to enhance overall seed sector performance, building a transparent system capable of adapting to, and supporting evolving needs. To achieve this vision, the NSRM outlines **Strategic Innovation Pathways (SIPs)** focusing on key areas:

**Service Provision:** Enhancing the capacity to deliver high-quality services across the seed value chain:

- ❖ **Decentralize Quality Assurance:** Develop seed quality standards for specific crops and decentralize quality control.
- ❖ **Enhance Variety Development:** Strengthen the development of new crop varieties through collaboration between research institutions, farmers, and markets.

**Production Systems:** Developing sustainable production systems for all crops:

- ❖ **Early Generation Seed Supply:** Establish sustainable structures for supplying early generation seeds, including forecasting systems.
- ❖ **Improve Infrastructure:** Upgrade processing and storage facilities to maintain seed quality.
- ❖ **Company Specialization:** Encourage seed companies to specialize in specific crop groups.
- ❖ **Community-Based Production:** Support local seed production to increase availability for cereals, legumes, and root and tuber crops.

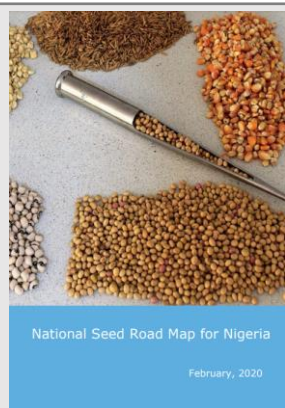
**Market Development:** Establishing efficient, transparent, and competitive seed markets:

- ❖ **Strengthen Extension Services:** Promote the use of quality seeds and better farming practices.
- ❖ **Combat Counterfeiting:** Enforce quality control measures to reduce counterfeit seeds.
- ❖ **Marketing and Promotion:** Encourage seed companies to invest in marketing to raise awareness.
- ❖ **Align Policies:** Synchronize food security policies with seed sector goals to enhance farmer profitability.
- ❖ **Develop Distribution Networks:** Build efficient agro-dealer networks for seed distribution.

### Get the full NSRM document

The full NSRM document is available for download at:

[www.seedcouncil.gov.ng](http://www.seedcouncil.gov.ng)



**Create Institutional Markets:** Establish a sustainable, demand-driven seed market with minimal external subsidies.

**Revenue Generation and Reinvestment:** Enabling revenue generation and reinvestment in the sector:

- ❖ **Sustainable Funding Models:** Generate revenue to support seed quality assurance sustainably.
- ❖ **Financial Products for Seed Companies:** Offer tailored financial services to facilitate growth.

**Coordination and Governance:** Fostering alignment among stakeholders for better governance:

- ❖ **Improve Governance:** Enhance sector governance through better coordination among institutions.
- ❖ **Enhance Data Availability:** Improve access to seed sector data for stakeholders.
- ❖ **Seed information:** Increased availability and reliability of information on seed and seed business for all stakeholders.
- ❖ **Strengthen Trade Associations:** Empower the Seed Entrepreneurs Association of Nigeria (SEEDAN) to represent the sector effectively.
- ❖ **Align Donor Interventions:** Coordinate donor efforts to align with national strategies.

**Regulation and Management:** Strengthening the rules and systems governing seed production and markets:

- ❖ **Promote Innovation:** Adopt the Plant Variety Protection Bill to encourage seed development.
- ❖ **Streamline Procedures:** Simplify variety release and seed import/export processes.
- ❖ **International Integration:** Integrate NASC into international seed organizations to promote exports.

## Partnership: The way forward

The Nigerian Seed Road Map offers a comprehensive strategy to transform the seed sector into a more competitive and sustainable industry.

By focusing on strategic innovation, enhancing collaboration among stakeholders, and strengthening regulatory and market systems, Nigeria is poised to increase agricultural productivity and contribute to overall economic growth.

