Zambia Seed Traders Association

Seed Suppliers Experiences & Feedback on 2016/17 FISP Programme

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**Conventional FISP Feedback**

- Delays in Government’s paying for previous season’s FISP seed sales, contributed to late dispatch of seed in 2016/17 season. The industry feels the Govt needs to engage the Seed Suppliers association well in advance if they face any challenges in paying previous years supply fees so that a solution is agreed well in advance.

- Some transporters selected on the FISP conventional program didn’t have adequate/reliable transport hence delaying input distribution.

- Delays in contracting for seed supply of FISP seed led to delays in the execution of the contracts. The Seed suppliers members feel the Govt delays in finalizing FISP contracts and tenders, can the Govt look at starting the process earlier in the year so all parties involved can plan well and execute the mandate well in time.

- Old and obsolete varieties in the seed tender is not in tandem with what is being produced. SCCI and ZARI ought to be engaged and advise on which improved varieties are to be included in the tender to avoid the inclusion of old and obsolete varieties.

- Direct tender of rice seed tend to exclude other possible seed suppliers. Can the Ministry consider an open tender for Rice.

- Lack of basic seed from breeders (ZARI) continues to constrain seed production for varieties of groundnuts, pigeon pea, beans and soya bean in Zambia.
There were extra sales for early maturing varieties in December due to outbreak the army worms that made some farmers to replant.

There were general complaints on poor sales through FISP e-voucher in all districts due to delayed activation of e-voucher cards. The industry would like to ask the Ministry to re-look at these delays and put in place plan B to support the program should there be any activation or funds delays.

Delays in selection and finalization of approved Agro dealers. The industry feels two cardinal issues below on the agro dealers selection should be prioritized:

- There is limited financial and technical capacity for some agro dealers to participate in e-voucher FISP programme. Mapping for potential agro dealers with the financial and technical capacity for e-voucher programme needs to be prepared by government and shared with the input suppliers.
- Timely selection of these agro dealers is cardinal.

Locking of cards to agreed products. The industry feels the ministry should look at looking the e-voucher cards to agreed products, i.e. 10kg bag of maize seed, 50kg bag of fertilizer D compound, etc. currently cards are not locked to products and farmers can buy whatever they want including in shopping malls.
The maize seed exports were greatly affected by the control of maize exports and other export requirements. The seed industry exports considerably good volumes of seed in the region and Africa as a whole and the last year, most seed companies could not meet their contractual obligations due to delayed supply coming from new export procedures. Can the Ministry look at revising this process and support the seed industry in Zambia?

The Fall Army worm is likely to reduce seed production by about 15 to 20%.