

Scaling up proven wheat technologies and innovations for achieving a wheat self-sufficiency in Africa

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Abstract: Today, Africa as a whole produces less than half of the wheat it consumed, and the chasm between demand and domestic production is widening because of increased population, income and change in food preferences. Compared to the global average wheat productivity 3.3 tonsha, the average wheat productivity in SSA very low, about 1.7 tonsha due to several biophysical and socio-economic constraints. The development of high yielding, heat tolerant and widely adaptable wheat varieties with integrated management packages has proved a breakthrough that opened up new opportunities to produce wheat competitively in the vast heat stressed agro-ecologies of Africa. The TAAT wheat initiative 2018-2020 aims to scale up proven wheat technologies involving over 2 million farmers to enhance food and nutritional security, job creation, economic growth and contributing to poverty alleviation across Africa. The Innovation platform is an effective approach for transferring proven technologies at scale by fostering a paradigm shift through facilitating interaction, buy-in, negotiation and collective action amongst beneficiaries and policy makers. Youth and women groups actively engage in various wheat agri-businesses along the value chain. Within the IP framework, all stakeholders operate in a commercial mode and economically benefit from the platform, which ensures their continued interest and sustainability.