AFSTA CONGRESS 2023 PROGRAM
6th to 8th March 2023 – Dakar, Senegal

Sunday 5th March 2023

14:00 – 17:30  THE FIRST AFSTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETING

Monday 6th March 2023 (Day one)

08:00 – 17:30  Registration and information desk open
13:00 – 17:30  Trading rooms and exhibition booths open

08:30 – 12:30  SEED TREATMENT WORKSHOP

- Protection of seed varieties and fight against “fake” seeds – by Guoqun Hu, Head of Legal Department – Syngenta Group China
- Discussion on the topic “Soil and root health” between Prof. Richard Sikora (Professor Emeritus, Nematologist) and Dr Brigitte Slaats (Technical Manager for seed treatments Europe Africa Middle East)
- Sustainable development – The example of the creation of the plastic recycling sector in Zambia – by Andrew McNaught, consultant in sustainable development, Tandem Consulting

12:30 – 13:30  Lunch break

13:30 – 18:00  MEETING OF SEED ASSOCIATIONS
Chairman: Justin J. Rakotoarisaona
Place: “Room BC12”

13:30 – 13:40  Opening remarks and presentation of the program
13:40 – 13:50  Updates from ARIPO
13:50 – 14:00  Updates from OAPI
14:00 – 14:10  Updates from UPOV
14:10 – 14:20  Updates from ISTA
14:20 – 14:30  Updates from OECD
14:30 – 14:40  Update from FAO/ITPGRFA

14:40 – 15:00  Coffee/Tea break

15:00 – 17:15  Challenges and opportunities from the Seed Trade Associations – 5 minutes per association.

17:15 – 18:00  Questions and answers and closing remarks

19:00 – 22:00  RECEPTION COCKTAIL  – Sponsored by Syngenta SeedCare

Tuesday 7th March 2023 (Day two)

08h00 – 12:00  Registration and information desk open
08h00 – 12:00  Trading rooms and Exhibition booths open
13h30 – 16:00 Opening Ceremony
(Registration and information desk, trading rooms, and Exhibition booths remain closed during the opening ceremony. They will be reopened at 16:30 hours after the opening ceremony)

08:00 – 12:00 MEETING OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS AND COMMITTEE REPORT

Co-Chairs/moderators: Dr. Karim Traore and Dr. Takemore Chagomoka

08:00 – 08:10 Opening remarks and presentation of the program by the Chairs

08:10 – 08:30 Role of Center of Excellence of Seed Systems in Africa (CESSA) in the development of the Seed Sector in Africa by Dr George Bigirwa, Deputy Vice President, Program Innovation and Delivery – Technical, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Nairobi – Kenya

08:30 – 09:00 African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by the Secretariat of AfCFTA, Accra – Ghana.
  • Organization and role
  • Status of implementation

09:00 – 09:30 Status and implementation of the e-Phyto solution in Africa: Challenges and opportunities by Dr Sandrine Loudit Bayendi, Acting Director General of the Inter African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC), Yaoundé – Cameroon.

09:30 – 09:45 Update on the statistics on the formal seed sector in Africa by Mr. Mainza Mugoya, The African Seed Access Index (TASAI)

09:45 – 10:00 Tea/Coffee break

10:00 – 10:30 Questions and answer session

10:30 – 11:00 Restructuring of the Special Interest Groups (SIG) and way forward

11:00 – 12:00 Report of the AFSTA committees on their activities

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break

13:00 – 15:30 OPENING CEREMONY
  • Welcome Speech and Overview of the seed sector in Senegal
    o Mr. Modou Thiam, Chairman of the Seed Trade Association of Senegal (UNIS)
  • Activities of AFSTA for 2022
    o Mr. Justin J. Rakotoarisaona, Secretary General of AFSTA
  • AFSTA President’s address
    o Dr. Kulani Machaba, President of AFSTA
  • Opening speech
    o Representative from the Government of Senegal, Guest of honor
  • Invitation and projection of promotional video on the AFSTA congress 2024
    o Mr. Fred Oloibe, Chairman of Seed Trade Association of Kenya (STAK)

15:30 – 16:00 Booth viewing and refreshment break
Wednesday 8th March 2023 (Day three)

08:00 – 14:00       Registration and information desk open
08:00 – 14:00       Trading rooms and Exhibition booths open

08:00 – 12:30       PLENARY SESSIONS

Session 1: 08:30 – 09:30

• **Topic:** Challenges and proposed solutions for improvement of seed trade in Africa
  What are regulatory aspects that pose constraints?
  o Phytosanitary
  o Adventitious Presence/Low Level Presence
  o Variety release
  o Tariffs

• **Speaker:** Mrs. Mamati Tembe Head of Public Affairs and Sustainability, Bayer Crop Sciences with the contribution of the West Africa sub-committee on “Variety Release”

• **Moderator:** Ms. Betty Kiplagat, Government and Industry Affairs Leader AME, Corteva

Session 2: 09:30 – 10:30

• **Topic:** Innovation and new technologies
  o Gene editing: benefits, opportunities and constraints
  o Intellectual Property and Innovation in the seed industry

• **Speakers/Panel discussion:**
  o Mr. Johan Janse van Rensburg, AME Seed Applied Technology Manager of Corteva, South Africa
  o Mr. Madiana Cissé, Scientific Director of the Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute (ISRA), Dakar Senegal
  o Mr. Ousmane Ndiaye, Director General of the Senegalese Association for the Promotion of Grassroots Development (ASPRODEB), Dakar Senegal

• **Moderator:** Mr. Godwin Lemgo, Regulatory Scientific Affairs Manager- Africa of Bayer Crops Sciences

10:30 – 11:00       Tea/Coffee break

Session 3: 11:00 – 12:00

• **Topic:** Communication/Industry Trends (each 15-minute presentation followed by 15 minutes Question and Answer session)
  o What does the Seed Industry need to do to thrive in Africa?
  o New communication/marketing initiatives in the modern era: What does the future hold?
  o Role of environment, social and economic sustainability considerations?

• **Speaker/Panelists:**
  o Mrs. Miyanda Matanga, Digital Marketing Specialist, Seed Co. International
  o Mr. Hugo Despretz, Head of Products at TECHNISEM and Mrs. Fatou Dieye, Responsible for communication at TROPICASEM
  o Dr. Edward Mabaya, Professor in Global Development at Cornell University & Chief Scientific Advisor for The African Seed Access Index (TASAI)
• **Moderator:** Mr. Narcis R. Tumushabe, AFSTA Board member from Uganda

**Session 4: 12:00 – 13:00**

• **Topic:** Progress on the implementation of the harmonized seed regulations at the Regional Economic Communities (EAC, ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC) and the African Union
  - Status of harmonization: highlight of successes and challenges

• **Speakers**
  - Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities and the African Union (10-minute presentation each followed by Question and Answer session)

• **Moderator:** Mr. Raman Sehgal, AFSTA Board member from Egypt
  - 13:00 – 14:00  Lunch break

14:00 – 16:00  **AFSTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

16:00 – 17:30  **THE SECOND AFSTA BOARD MEETING**

19:00 – 23:00  **GALA DINNER**

Dress code: Formal

If speakers or services indicated on the program become unavailable, the Organizing Committee will make every effort to provide alternatives of equal standard and value, but cannot be held responsible for failure if such alternatives cannot be obtained.