

# MALAWI SEED INDUSTRY

Seed Trade Association

Bunda College of Agriculture

8<sup>th</sup> April 2014

# Introduction

- Agriculture continues to be a fundamental instrument for sustainable development , food security and poverty reduction in Malawi.
- Seed is the foundation of farming. – Certified planting material
- High quality seed is critical to increasing agricultural productivity.
- To guarantee seed availability to the farming community, the seed Industry has to be supported by policies that allows such with ease.

# Plant Breeding Programs and Govt Seed Support

- Agriculture – Colonial masters- Department of agriculture
- Government of Malawi breeding - Important variety traits
  - ✓ Yield, disease resistance,
  - ✓ Oil extraction,
  - ✓ drought tolerance etc

Important seed Institutions

- DARS
- Bunda College

# Seed Support

- Breeding programs resulted into the birth of **National Seed Company - first supplier of seed**
- Following liberalization, more companies came in.
- The government of Malawi implemented the following food/seed support programs
  1. Agricultural Productivity Investment Programme 1995
  2. Starter pack 1998
  3. Target Input Programme 2000
  4. Input Subsidy Programme 2004
- In the same year STAM was established.

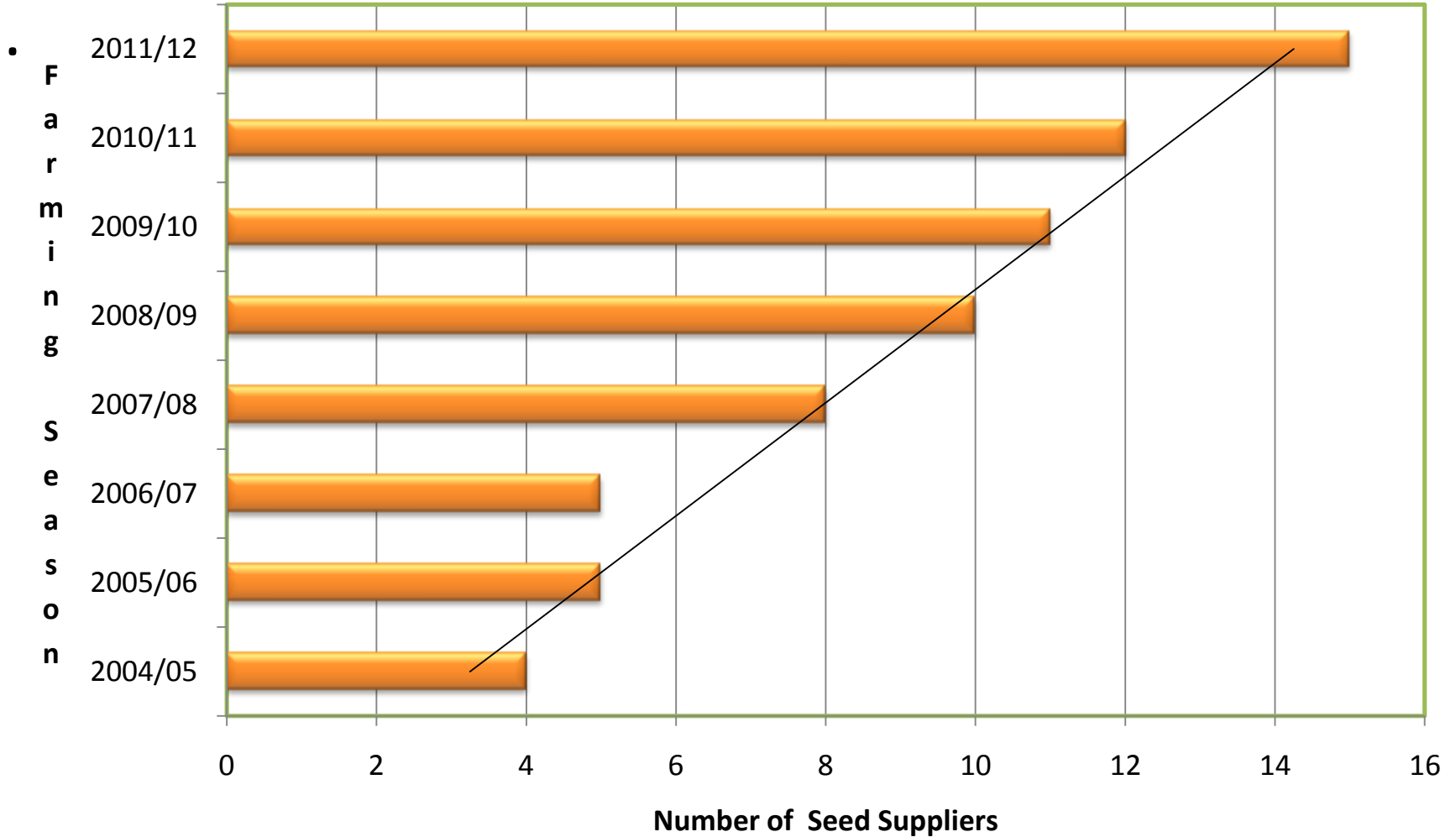
# STAM COMPOSITION

- STAM is an association of seed
  - ✓ producers,
  - ✓ processors,
  - ✓ transporters and distributors.
- It was established on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2004

# Objectives

- Promote use of improved certified seed to achieve high productivity for food and cash,
- Ensure consistency and reliability in the supply of quality seed to farmers and support government of Malawi in achieving food security, self sufficiency and export drive among others
- To combat fake (counterfeit) seed and illegal or substandard seed multiplication,

# Certified Seed Suppliers 2004-13



# Seed Supply Status

Mainly companies in Malawi produce 8 seed crops- that have foundation seed system ticking.

1. Maize

6. G/nuts

2. Beans

7. Soya

3. Cowpeas

8. Rice

4. Cassava and Potato Vines

5. P/peas

6. Cotton

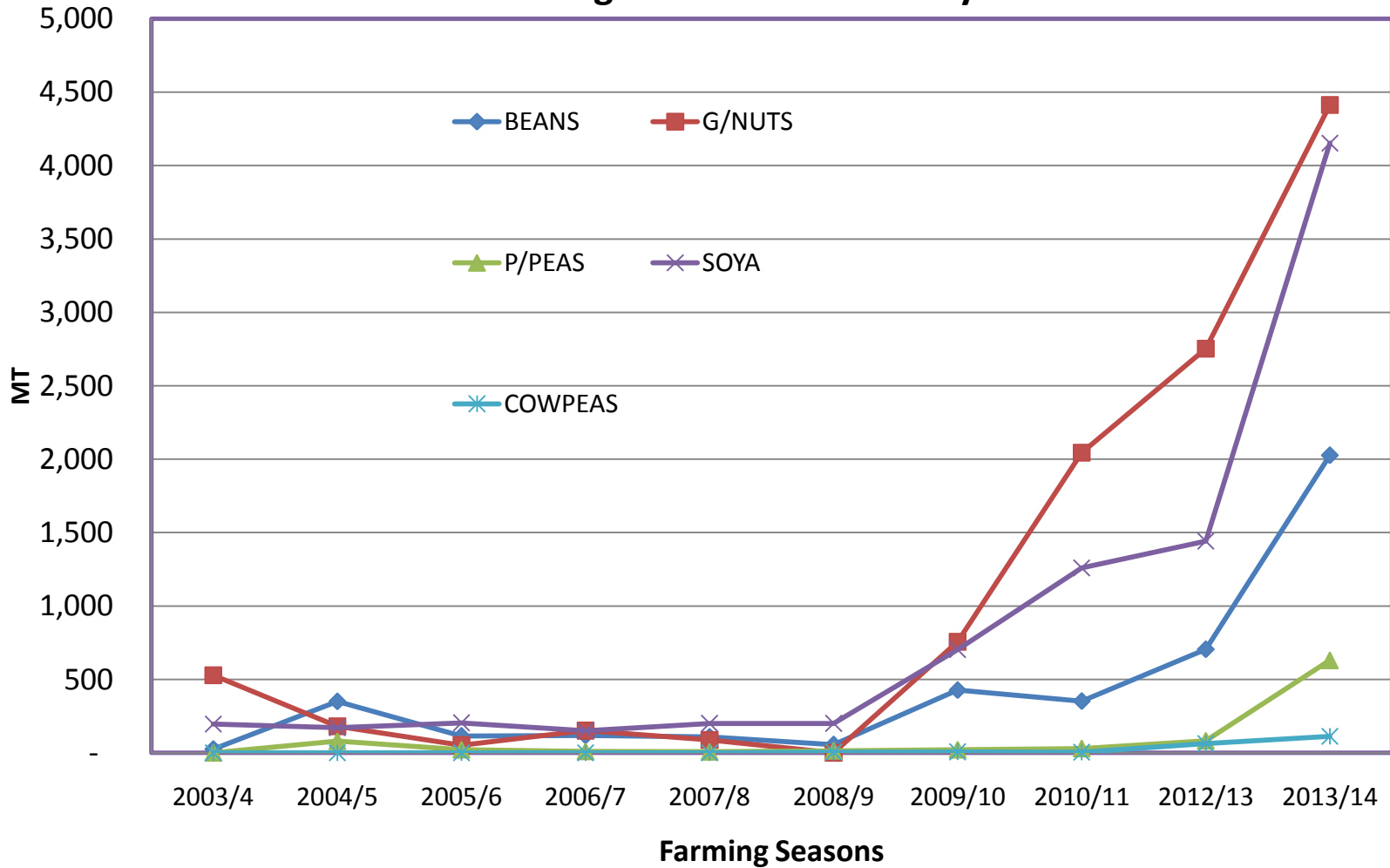
Main market being Subsidy, PI, NGOs and Commercial

Growing demand for Sunflower, Sesame, millet and Sorghum



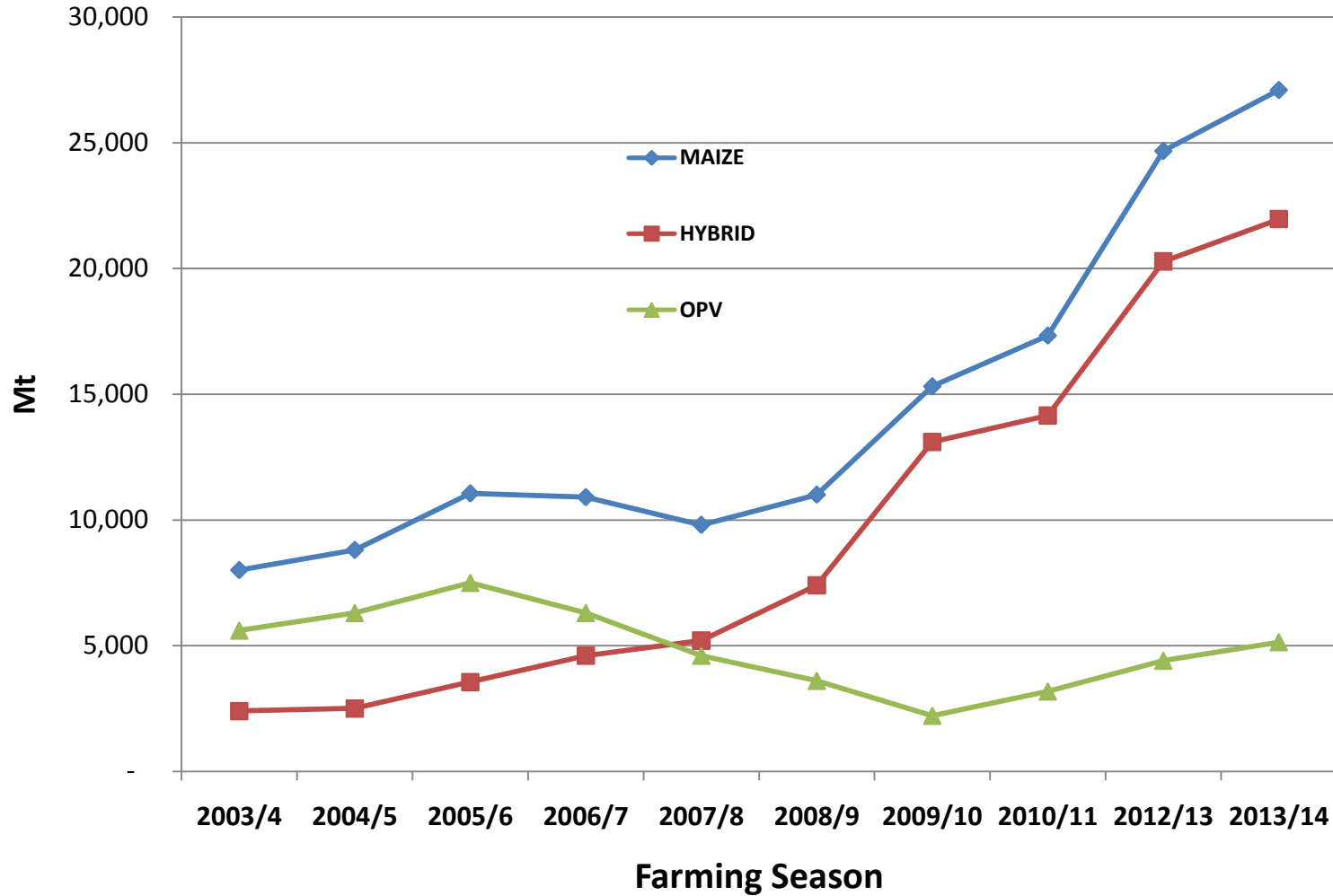
# Seed Availability

## Legume Seed Availability



# Seed Availability

Maize Seed Availability

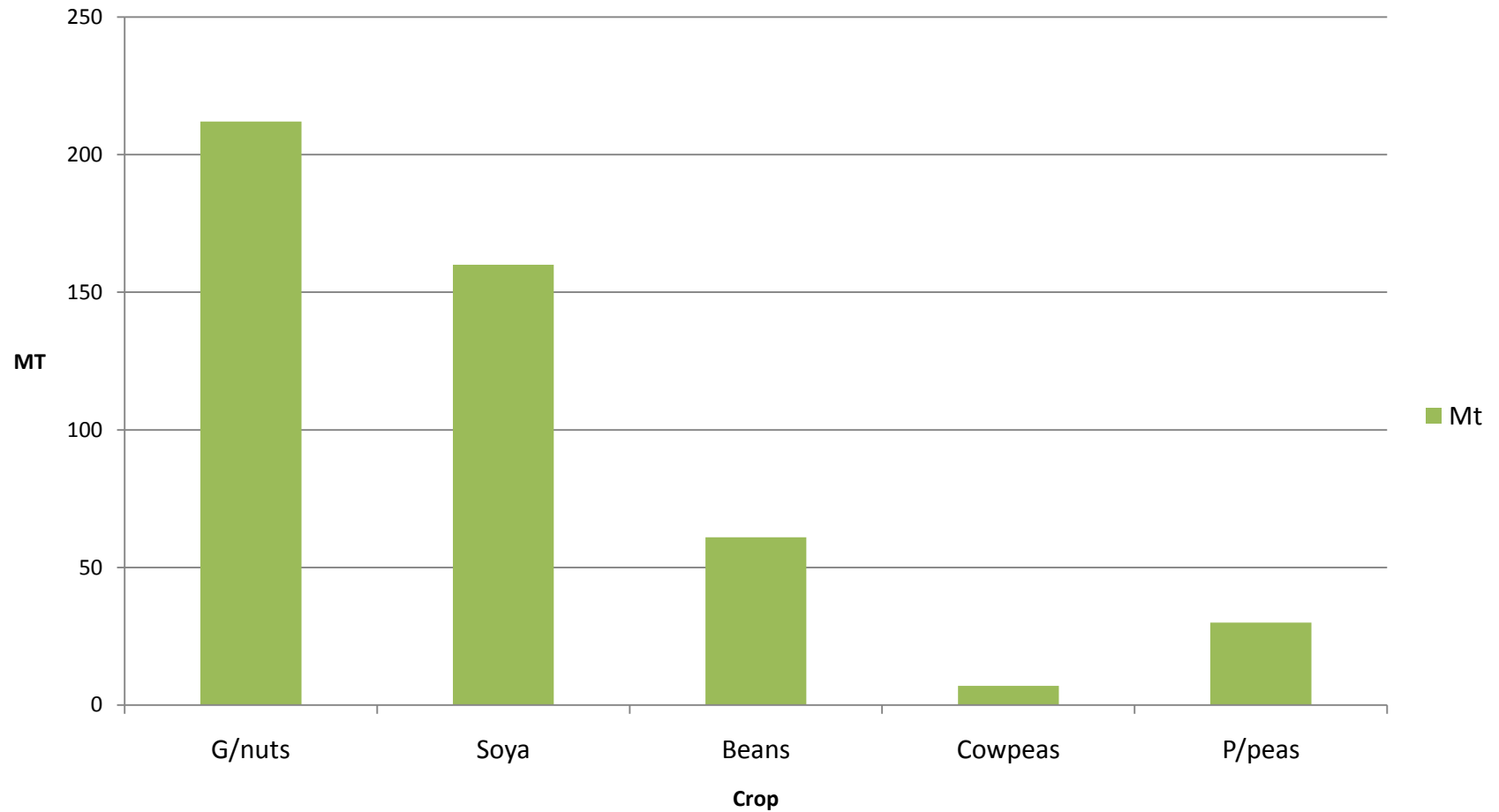


# Challenges faced by the Industry

- Limited availability of foundation Seed with emphasis on legume.
- Perforation of fake seed perpetuated by weak penalties
  - Low seed uptake- Farmers recycle
  - Limited Financial support from financial lending institutions
  - Poor road networks affects distribution-beyond the project

# Legume Basic Seed.

Estimated Basic Seed Availability





# Challenges faced by the Industry

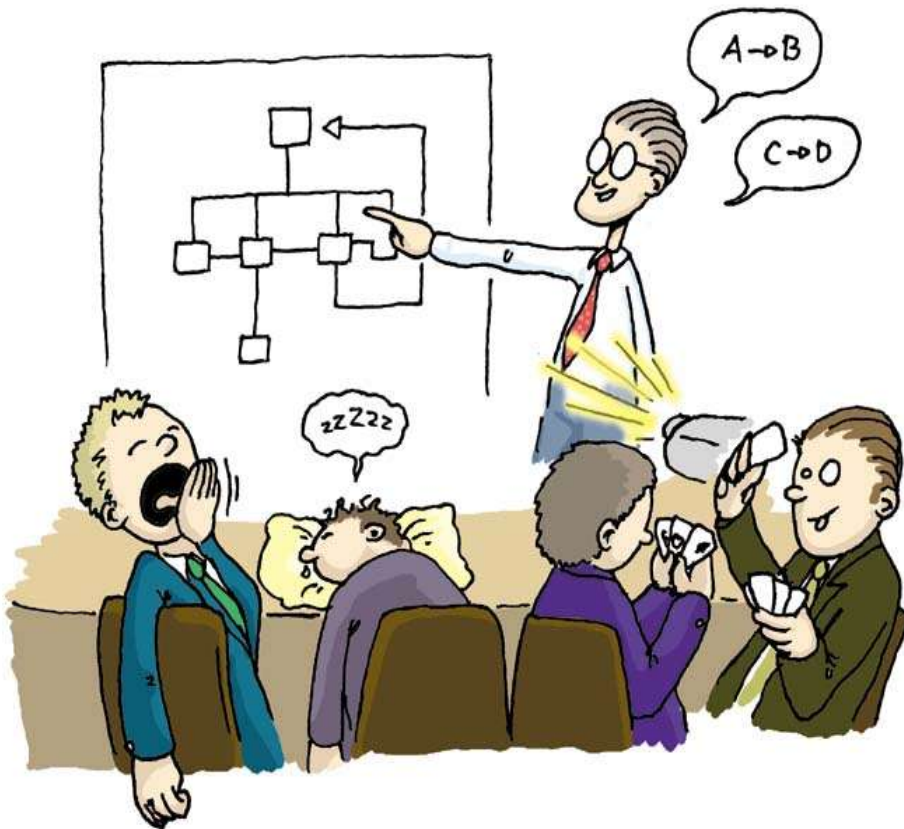
- Inadequate services from certification agency
- Buying back of contracted seed.
- Capacity challenges especially emerging seed companies.
- Delays in payments by some institutions
- Few seed experts- Seed technology graduates
- Seed Imports and Export challenges
- ➡ documentation and Time
- Local currency fluctuations- exchange losses
- Agrodealer defaults

# Way Forward



- Improvement in service delivery and basic seed availability
- ▶ Establishment of Seed Authority
- ▶ Supported by Increase Staff levels

# Way Forward



- Coordinated foundation seed production through
  - STAM and Seed Authority
  - Part payments on orders and final payment upon delivery.



# Way Forward



Capacity Building in value chain

- ✓ Short course
- ✓ Diploma
- ✓ Bsc
- ✓ Msc

Production, quality and Marketing

# Way Forward

- Financial Support to seed suppliers and understanding of seed business by institutions
- Short period of inflows and long period of outflows

# Way Forward

- Review of seed Laws to reflect current situation- work in progress
- Alignment and Domestication of Seed Variety Release and Certification ,Phytosanitary Issues to COMESA
- Promote use of Certified Seed for development with emphasis on legumes
- Development of grain market- Seed demand pull

# For Your Attention



Certified Seed Use: Key  
to Development

*Thank You*