

# GENERATION CHALLENGE PROGRAM

The Annual Research Meeting  
At Kopanong Hotel Conf Center,  
Benoni, South Africa

Stakeholders' Perspective (Needs and  
Bottlenecks)

Seed – Tech Company (Malawi)

*Presented by*

**Frank Samidu (MD)**



# SEED - TECH

*Seed Producers and Processors*

HEAD OFFICE: MC 227 CHIRIMBA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

PO BOX 30484,  
CHICHIRI  
BLANTYRE 3.

TEL: 01 683 744/480  
FAX: 01 683 447  
CELL: 08 868 479

An SME in seed business formed  
in March, 2004

## **Mission**

To produce, distribute, market, and promote potential certified maize seed and other seeds varieties (*technologies developed*) and released by the *public research institutions* to the farming communities (*providing linkage*) in a sustainable way, and at *affordable price* thus complementing efforts to check food security and poverty reduction at household level with emphasis *to the smallholder farmers.*

## **Vision**

To meet the challenges of ever increasing demand for potential certified seeds with *high disease and drought tolerance, and improved agronomic characteristics* without compromising the *cultural habits and tastes* of the smallholder farmers on demand driven basis.

The first seed to be handled was  
the maize hybrid seed, variety

MH18

- Maize staple food
- Being hybrid, high yield
- Semi-flint, poundable (food preparation process easy)
- Germplasm was accessible

# Short-Comings of MH18 variety

- As a winter crop (irrigation) MH18 is not tolerant to MSV disease
- Moderate yielder (5-7mt/ha)

There is need to venture into new high tech varieties (CZR series, and others).

# Plant Breeding Efforts (Needs)

- Yield potentials (7-10mt/ha)
- Adaptation to low fertile soils / low levels of fertilizer rates
- Drought tolerant
- Disease tolerant
- Maturity period (early) 90-100 days
- Flintiness (food preparation and storage)

# Bottlenecks (Stakeholders' perspective)

- Price of seed affordability (low prices increases adoption level of new techs)
- Proximity of seed (short distance, agrodealership, logistics, dissemination)
- Accessibility to germplasm (IP, PBR, Royalty, Exclusivity)
- Funding of SMEs (to bridge the gap betwn research/consumers the resource-poor farmers):
  - increase output production
  - increase product range
  - support operating activities

# Collaborators

- Research Institutions (Chitedze);
  - source of germplasms
  - certification inspections and quality assurance
- Seed Traders Association of Malawi (STAM); for seed issues (marketing/regulations etc)
- Seeds of Development Program (SODP) coordinated by Dr Ed Mabaya of Cornell Univ. NY, USA (Emerging Markets/Market Matters Inc.); capacity building, seed traders forums, networking, field visits, and research.

# Acknowledgements

Seed – Tech Co expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the GCP and ACGT for their invitations to partake the AR Meeting.

Thank you for your attention!

*Zikomo*

*Dankei*

*Ansante sana*