



AGRA Annual **Progress Report** 2007 - 2016

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AGRA Annual **Progress Report** 2007 - 2016



Introduction

AGRA is catalyzing and sustaining an inclusive agricultural transformation in Africa by increasing incomes and improving food security for 30 million farming households in 11 focus countries. Since 2006, AGRA and its partners have worked across Africa to deliver a set of proven solutions to smallholder farmers and thousands of indigenous African agriculture enterprises. The alliance has built the systems and tools for Africa's agriculture: high quality seeds, better soil health, access to markets and credit, and coupled by stronger farmer organizations and agriculture policies.

AGRA is an African-led alliance focused on putting smallholder farmers at the center of the continent's growing economy by transforming agriculture from a solitary struggle to survive into farming as a business that thrives. It was established to catalyze the transformation of smallholder agriculture into a highly productive, efficient, sustainable and competitive system, while also protecting the natural resource base on which agriculture depends. As the sector that employs the majority of Africa's people, nearly all of them small-scale farmers, AGRA recognizes that developing smallholder agriculture into a productive, efficient, and sustainable system is essential to ensuring food security, lifting millions out of poverty, and driving equitable growth across the continent.

AGRA is catalyzing Africa's agricultural transformation

AGRA is a partner of choice, the go-to-partner for agricultural transformation for sustainable development in Africa. We are sought after for our technical and innovative approaches

AGRA is African-led

AGRA is an African led alliance delivering uniquely African solutions that help farmers sustainably boost production and connect to rapidly growing agriculture markets.

AGRA is farmer centred

AGRA invests in Africa's family farmers - Millions of hardworking men and women typically farming on less than a hectare of land. They are the backbone of Africa's agriculture, economies and future.

AGRA is partnership driven

All of AGRA's work is delivered through partnerships with governments, regional and continental bodies, farmers, community leaders, businesses, civil society groups, researchers, philanthropists and donors

AGRA is leading a knowledge culture

AGRA is a thought leader influencing and inspiring the trust of leaders, donors and partners to model better ways to implement, deliver and account for sustainable development in Africa.



AGRA's Package of Interventions



Input Systems - Strengthening agricultural input systems, technology & adoption

AGRA is supporting and partnering with both the public and private sectors to develop the systems that ensure availability, delivery and adoption of improved seed and fertilizers, with a particular focus on getting these inputs into the hands of women farmers. AGRA believes that once a farmer can profitably invest in seeds, fertilizers and associated good agronomic practices, the market becomes the real driver of agricultural transformation.

Through our work in seeds and soil health, AGRA is building on its experience, expertise and partnerships to take innovative crop varieties and soil and crop management techniques to scale, to help farmers confront local constraints to production and emerging threats such as climate change.



Resilience Building - Growth for structured markets for quality produce & operational capacity of output systems

AGRA is promoting interventions that enhance the resiliency of the production system to climate change and climate variability. This includes developing more efficient marketing systems, introducing post-harvest technologies to close yield gaps and ensure farmers can sustainably sell quality product to consumer markets.



Agribusiness Development & Innovation Finance - Strengthening business growth and finance & risk management

AGRA is working to develop the capacity of local agri-businesses to access markets, support local and national financial institutions. This includes providing affordable financing to smallholder farmers and local SMEs in a bid to transform farms and businesses into sustainable and profitable enterprises. In its interventions, AGRA catalyzes public investments impact in supporting agribusinesses and leveraging private sector investment in agriculture to build sustainability and contribute to overall economic development.

Critical to this is the participation of both providing solutions of Public Private Partnerships in the agricultural sector. AGRA has a clear role in catalyzing and facilitating the realization of public and private investments in specific value chains where the private sector has shown interest by helping to get these value chains functioning efficiently.



Policy & Country Support - Strengthening national and regional level systems and reducing impact of agricultural volatility

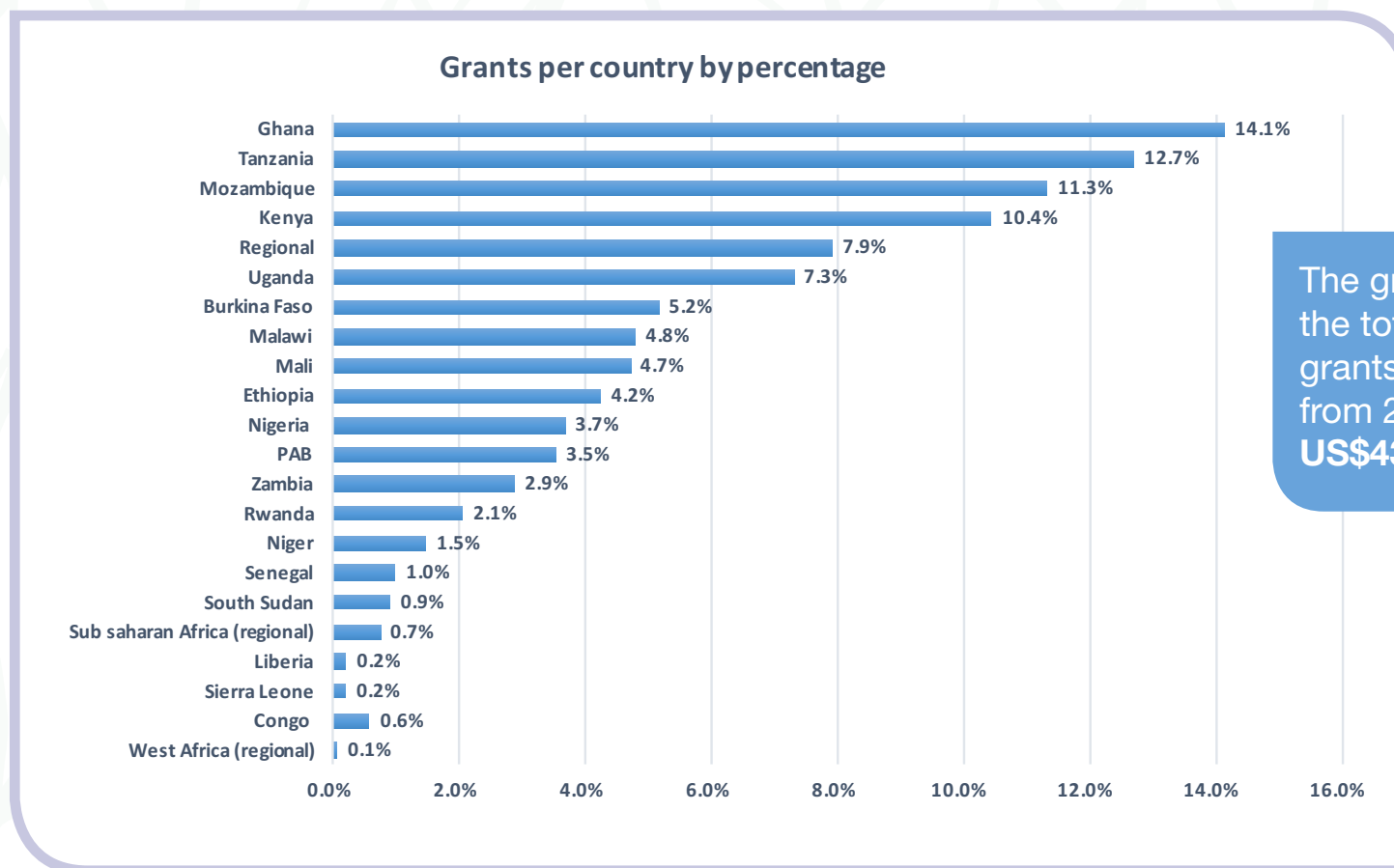
AGRA has been and will continue to shape the context for CAADP implementation through support to the African Union Commission for country National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) as well as playing a critical role in supporting the biannual review process through technical assistance. We are building government capacity to strategize, fund and deliver on agricultural strategies while supporting sectoral coordination and accountability.

As agricultural development is significantly influenced by national level policies, investments, and institutional arrangements, AGRA has developed custom-tailored business plans of individual countries and within each agroecology. By analyzing and advocating for critical policy reforms, AGRA is working with governments to strengthen national capacities to deepen and sustain the gains made through policy decisions and encourage significant investments of public resources into the agricultural sector.

Grants Summary



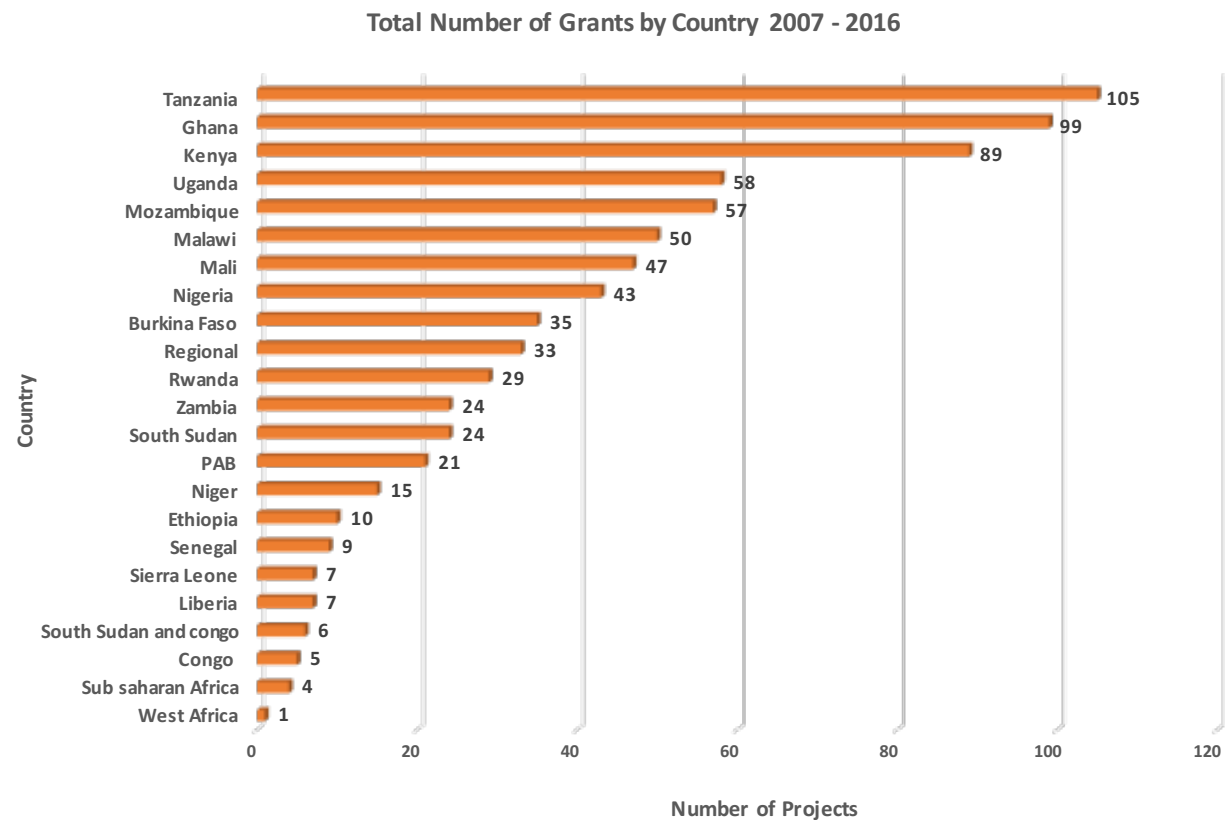
Percentage Value of Grants per Country: 2007-2016



The graph represents the total amount of grants per country from 2007- 2016: **US\$430 Million**



Total Number of Grants by Country: 2007-2016

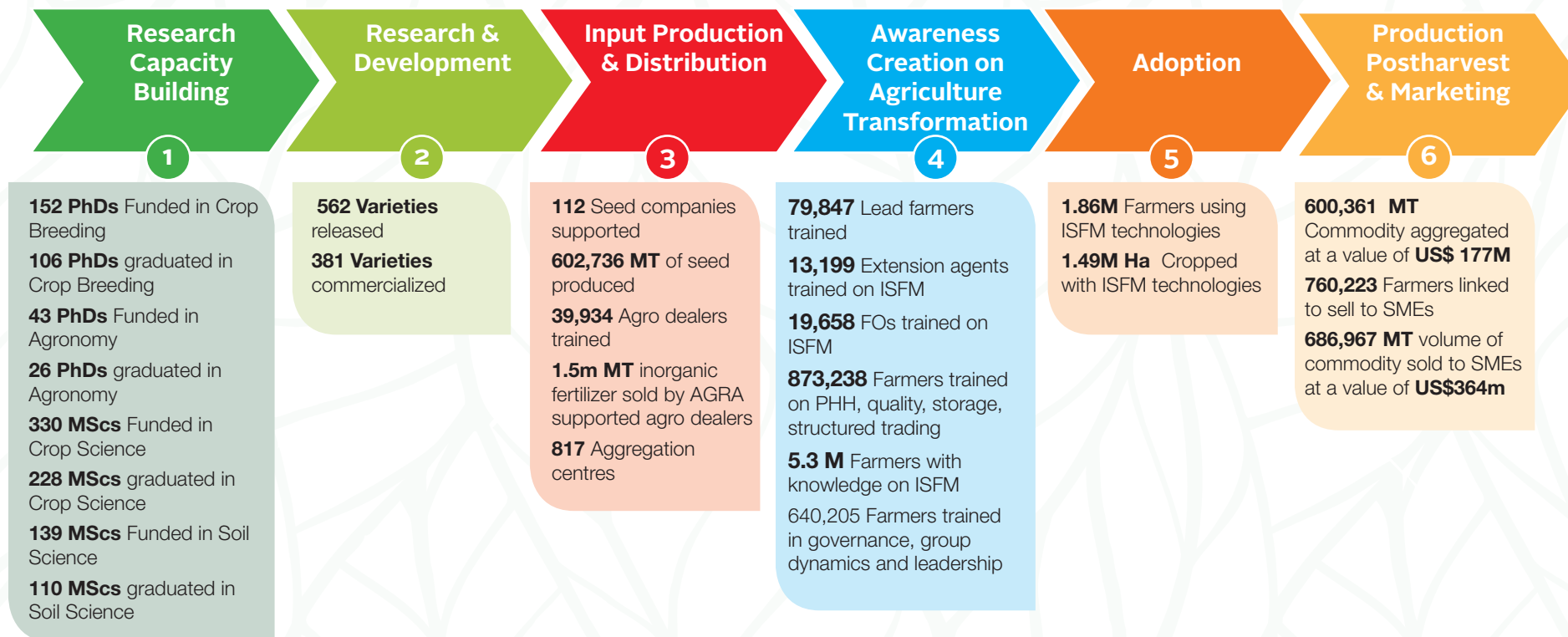


Total cumulative
number of grants by
country: **778**



Achievements

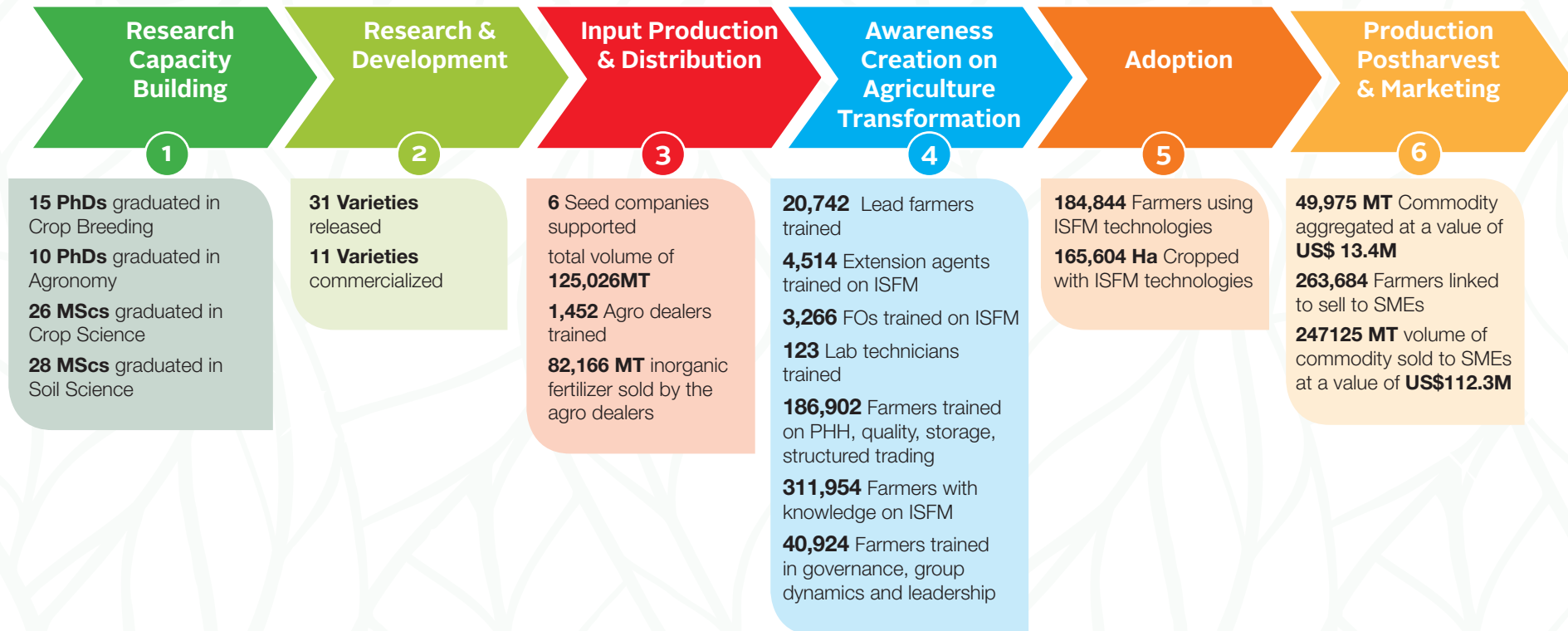
Cumulative 2007 – 2016





Achievements

2016 Achievements

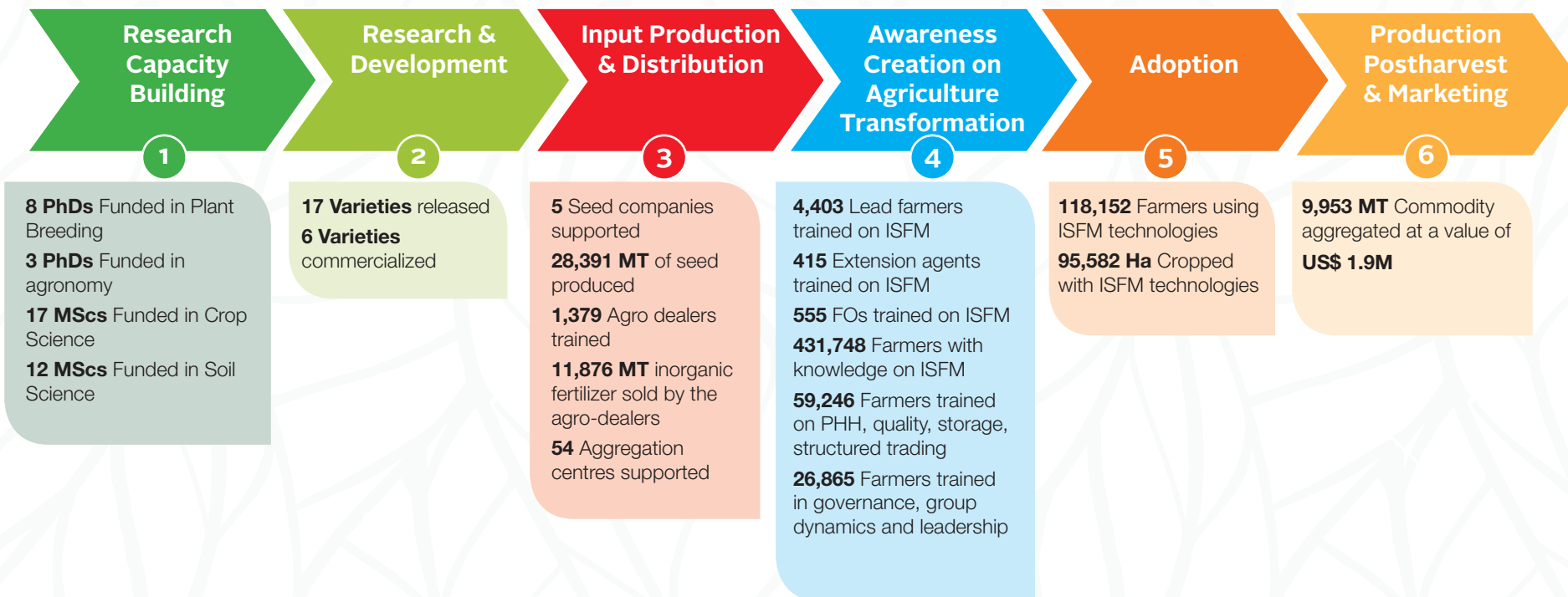




Burkina Faso

Grants: US\$22.2 million
Projects: 35

Cumulative 2007 – 2016

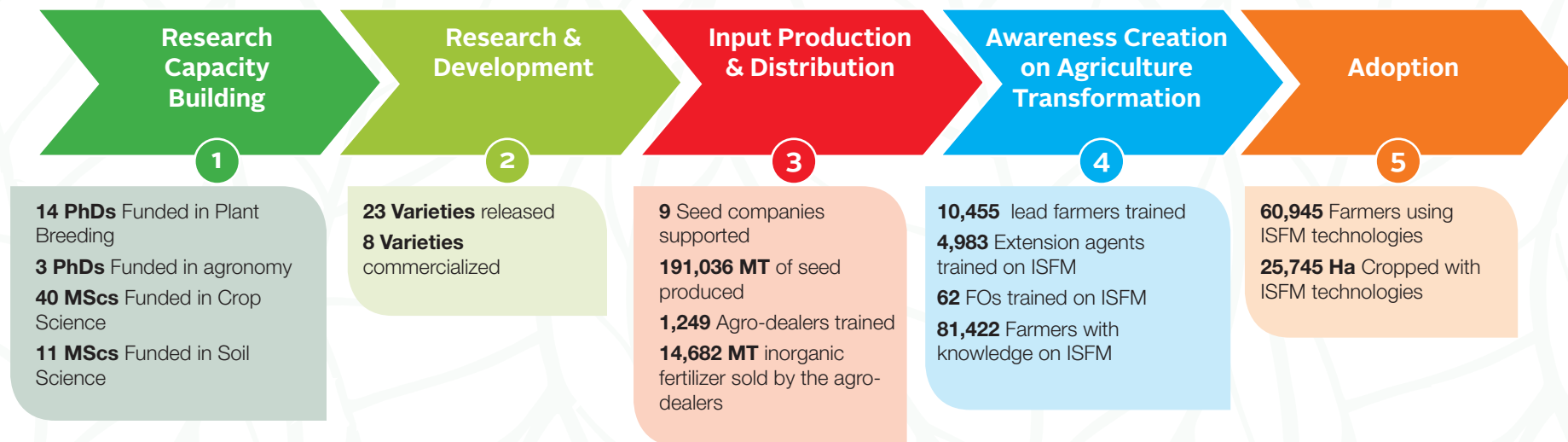




Ethiopia

Grants: US\$18.2 million
Projects: 10

Cumulative 2007 – 2016

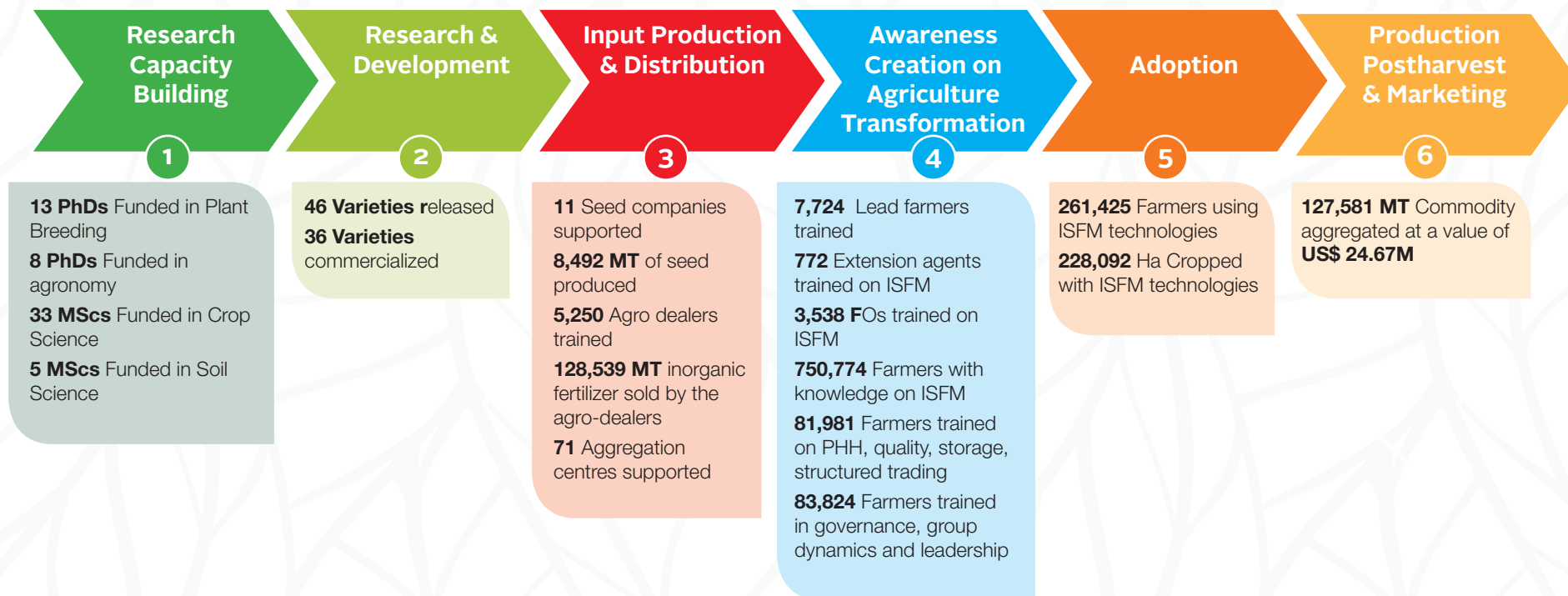




Ghana

Grants: US\$60.7 million
Projects: 99

Cumulative 2007 – 2016





Kenya

Grants: US\$44.9 million
Projects: 89

Cumulative 2007 – 2016

Research Capacity Building

1

20 PhDs Funded in Plant Breeding
4 PhDs Funded in agronomy
21 MScs Funded in Crop Science
10 MScs Funded in Soil Science

Research & Development

2

98 Varieties released
71 Varieties commercialized

Input Production & Distribution

3

7 Seed companies supported
26,122 MT of seed produced
92,510 MT inorganic fertilizer sold by the agro dealers
147 Aggregation centres supported

Awareness Creation on Agriculture Transformation

4

10,561 Lead farmers trained
612 Extension agents trained on ISFM
2,553 FOs trained on ISFM
164,651 Farmers trained on PHH, quality, storage, structured trading
266,437 Farmers with knowledge on ISFM
28,692 Farmers trained in governance, group dynamics and leadership

Adoption

5

181,173 Farmers using ISFM technologies
116,190 Ha Cropped with ISFM technologies

Production Postharvest & Marketing

6

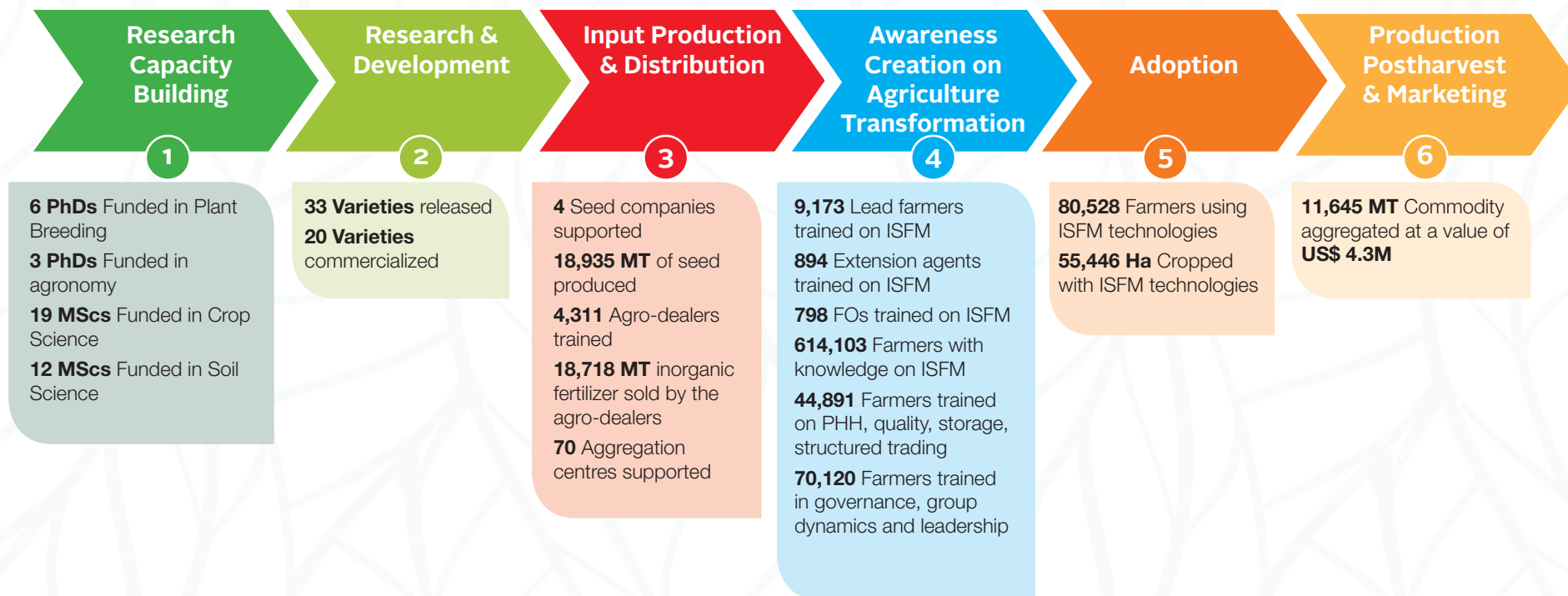
87,405 MT Commodity aggregated at a value of **US\$ 19.96M**



Malawi

Grants: US\$20.6 million
Projects: 50

Cumulative 2007 – 2016





Mali

Grants: US\$20.23 million
Projects: 47

Cumulative 2007 – 2016

Research Capacity Building

1

7 PhDs Funded in Plant Breeding
4 PhDs Funded in agronomy
17 MScs Funded in Crop Science
12 MScs Funded in Soil Science

Research & Development

2

66 Varieties released
28 Varieties commercialized

Input Production & Distribution

3

7 Seed companies supported
11,370 MT of seed produced
4,689 Agro-dealers trained
77,782 MT inorganic fertilizer sold by the agro-dealers
90 Aggregation centres supported

Awareness Creation on Agriculture Transformation

4

3,441 Lead farmers trained on ISFM
450 Extension agents trained on ISFM
822 FOs trained on ISFM
685,256 Farmers with knowledge on ISFM
37,773 Farmers trained on PHH, quality, storage, structured trading
20,775 Farmers trained in governance, group dynamics and leadership

Adoption

5

178,886 Farmers using ISFM technologies
271,990 Ha Cropped with ISFM technologies

Production Postharvest & Marketing

6

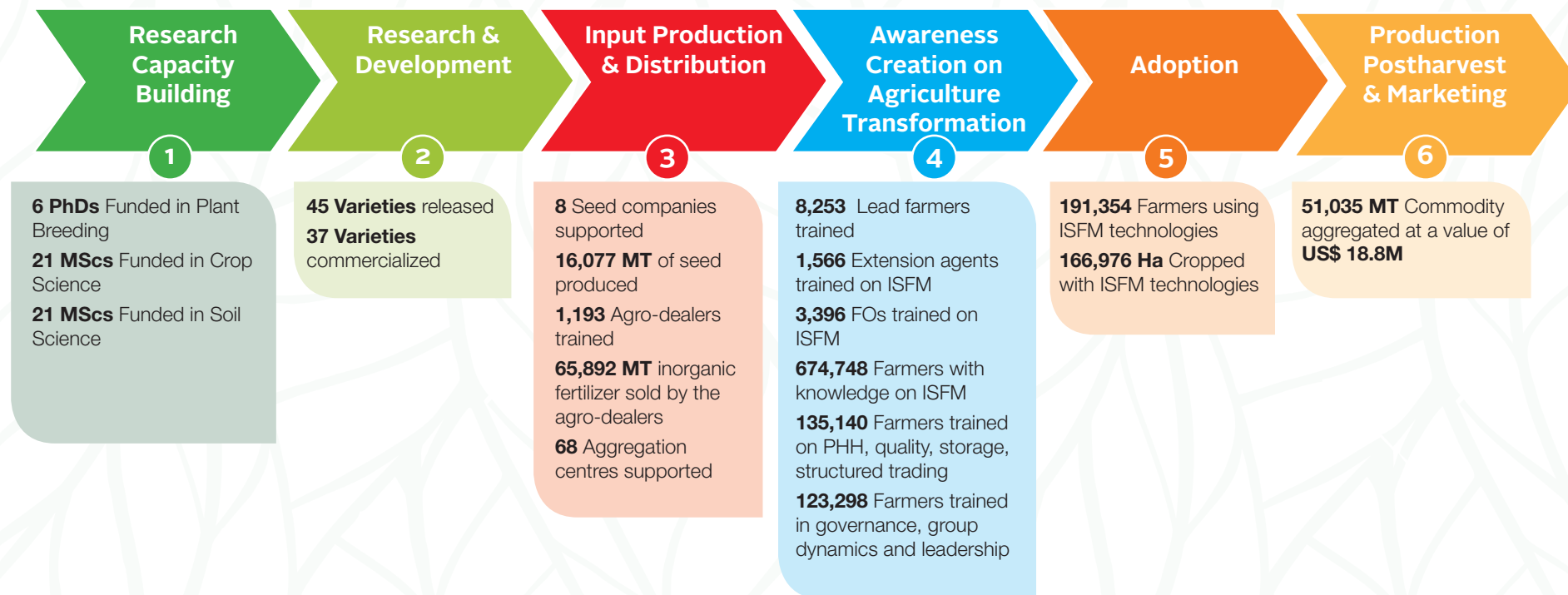
15,549 MT Commodity aggregated at a value of **US\$ 5.1M**



Mozambique

Grants: US\$48.66 million
Projects: 57

Cumulative 2007 – 2016





Niger

Grants: US\$6.34 million
Projects: 15

Cumulative 2007 – 2016

Research Capacity Building

1

9 PhDs Funded in Plant Breeding
3 PhDs Funded in agronomy
13 MScs Funded in Crop Science
9 MScs Funded in Soil Science

Research & Development

2

31 Varieties released
20 Varieties commercialized

Input Production & Distribution

3

5 Seed companies supported
12,635 MT of seed produced
1,726 Agro-dealers trained
21,400 MT inorganic fertilizer sold by the agro-dealers

Awareness Creation on Agriculture Transformation

4

270 Lead farmers trained on ISFM
408 Extension agents trained on ISFM
294 FOs trained on ISFM
148,060 Farmers with knowledge on ISFM
12,175 Farmers trained on PHH, quality, storage, structured trading
5,303 Farmers trained in governance, group dynamics and leadership

Adoption

5

103,453 Farmers using ISFM technologies
100,437 Ha Cropped with ISFM technologies

Production Postharvest & Marketing

6

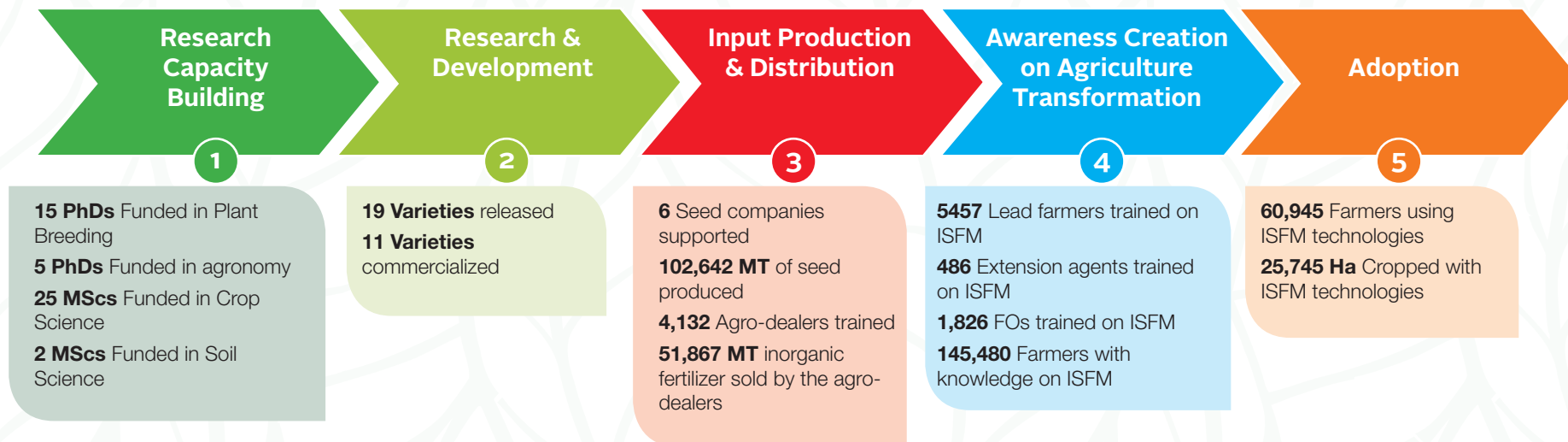
1,980 MT Commodity aggregated at a value of **US\$ 936,834**



Nigeria

Grants: US\$15.8 million
Projects: 43

Cumulative 2007 – 2016

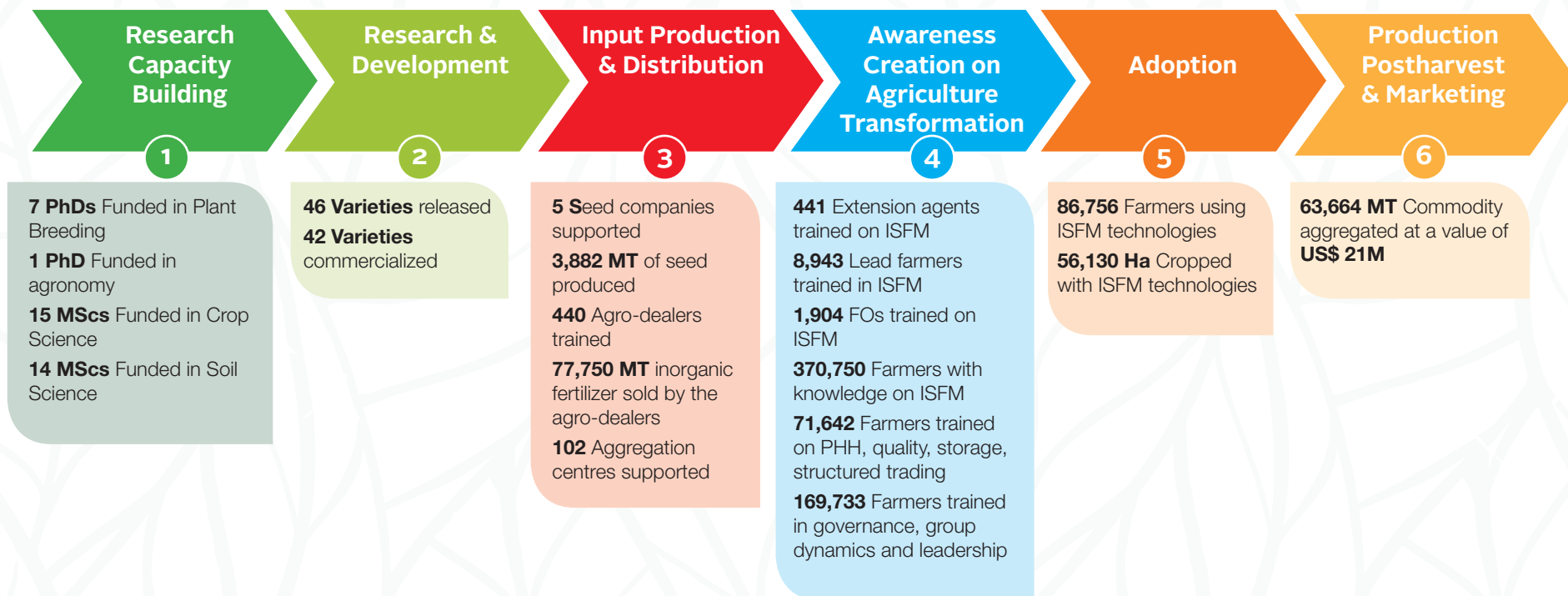




Rwanda

Grants: US\$8.9 million
Projects: 29

Cumulative 2007 – 2016

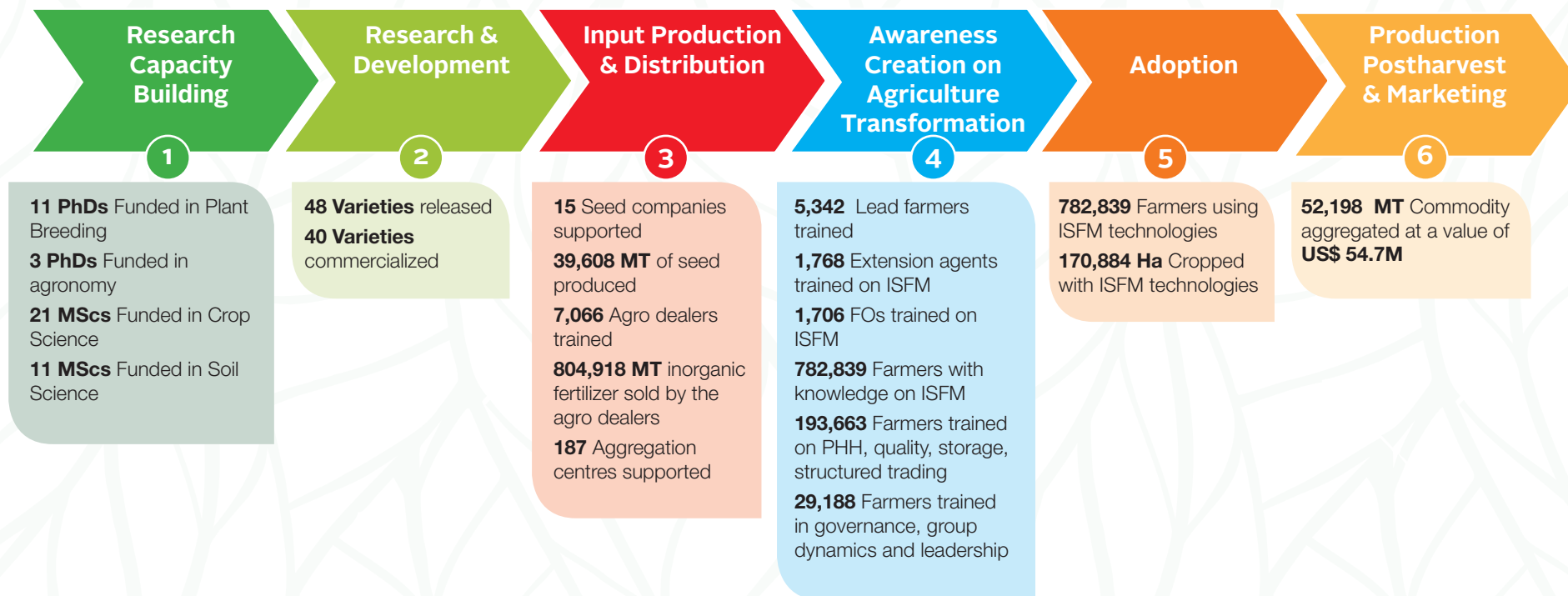




Tanzania

Grants: US\$54.55 million
Projects: 105

Cumulative 2007 – 2016

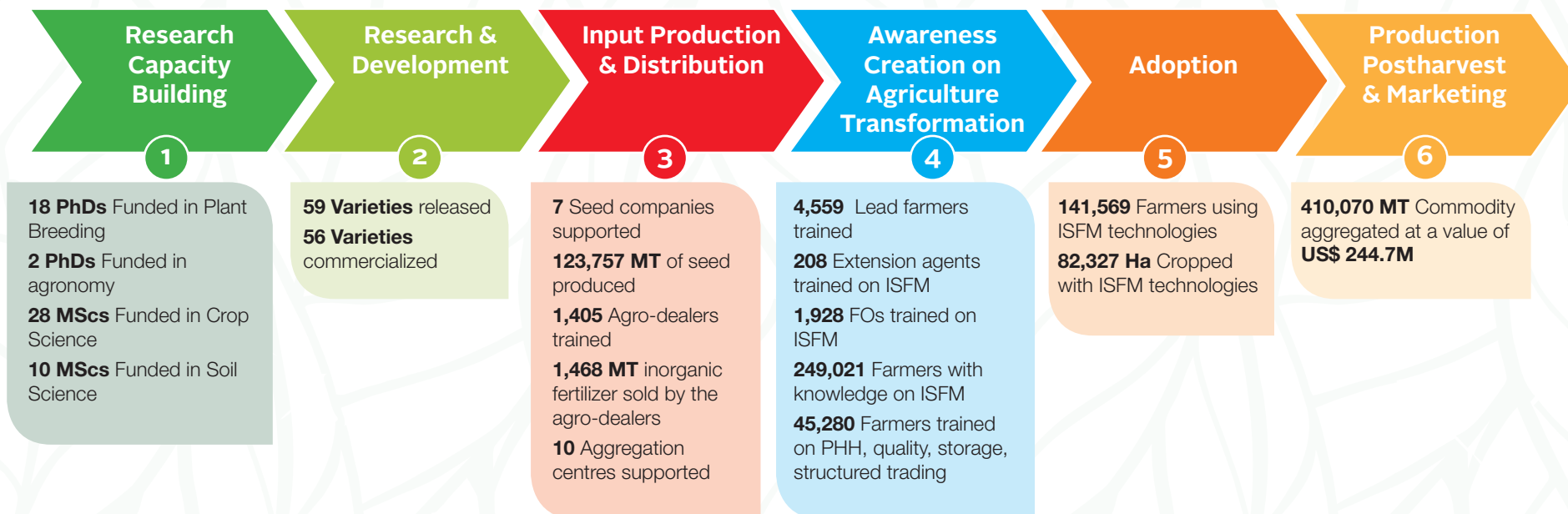




Uganda

Grants: US\$31.4 million
Projects: 58

Cumulative 2007 – 2016

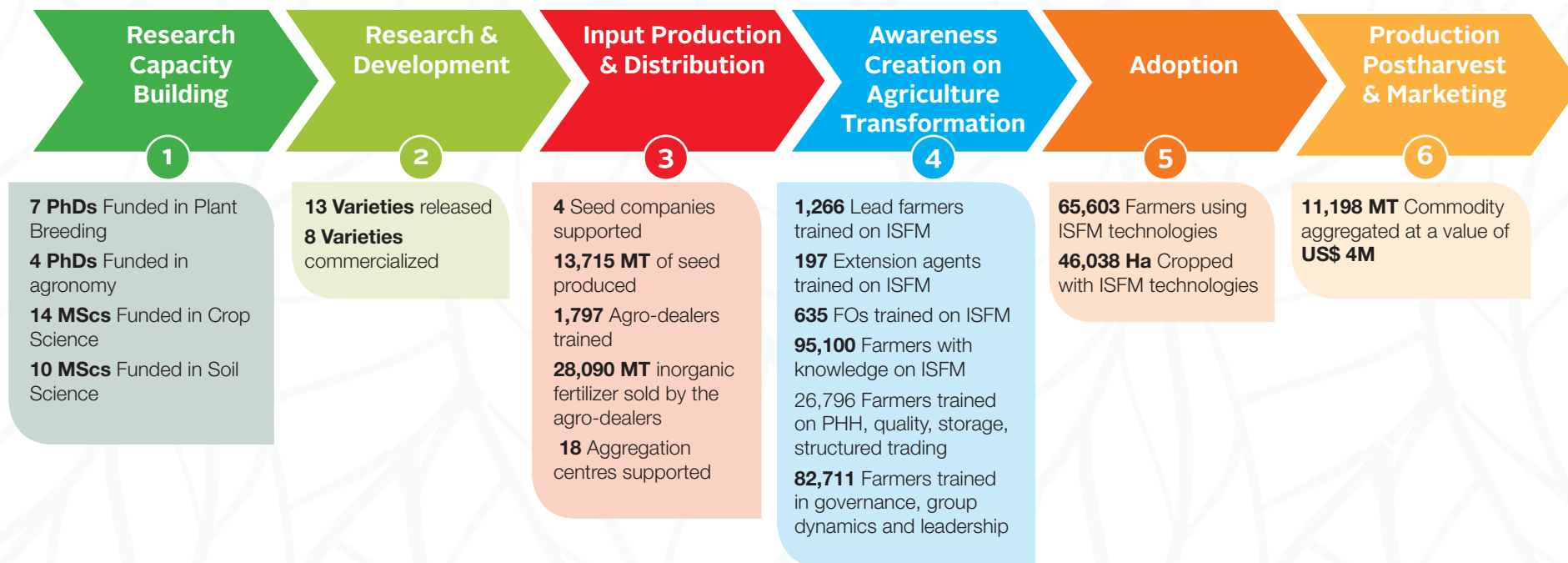




Zambia

Grants: US\$12.4 million
Projects: 24

Cumulative 2007 – 2016





Quantity (MT) of improved seeds by country -The Scaling Seeds and Technologies Partnership (SSTP) Project

Country	Crops Seed	Production	LOA Target	% actual production of target
Ethiopia	Maize, Wheat, Teff, Sesame, Chickpea	2,234	5,976	37%
Ghana	Maize, Cassava, Soybean, Rice, Cowpea, Yam	9,048	4,665	194%
Malawi	Maize, Cassava, Pigeonpea, Beans, Sweet, potato, Rice, Groundnuts, Cowpeas	4,418	7,231	61%
Mozambique	Maize, Cassava, Soybean, Pigeonpea, Groundnuts	2,928	4,998	59%
Senegal	Maize, Sorghum, Rice, Groundnuts, Cowpeas, Millet	4,390	14,214	31%
Tanzania	Maize, Cassava, Soybean, Pigeonpea, Sorghum, Beans, Irish potato	4,641	6,614	70%
Total		27,657	43,698	63.29%



Number and Value of FISFAP Grantees by December 2016

	Ghana		Kenya		Tanzania		Total	
	Number	Value (USD)	Number	Value (USD)	Number	Value (USD)	Number	Value (USD)
Mechanization					1	517,280	1	517,280
Input Layaway Schemes	1	867,788			1	400,000	2	1,267,788
Alternative Delivery Channels	2	1,204,613					2	1,204,613
Supply Chain Financing			3.00	1,649,113			3	1,649,113
Total		2,072,401		1,649,113		917,280	8	4,638,794

	Ghana		Kenya		Tanzania		Total	
Total number of farmers trained in Financial Literacy Program (Production and Post Production combined)				57				57
Total number of farmers that have accessed finance				5,914				5,914
Total value of credit accessed by SHF				631,102				631,102

NB: These are numbers from only three grants in FISFAP that reported for one quarter before the end of 2016. PROFIT numbers are expected to add to this pool in 2017



Policy and Advocacy

Micro-policy and Advocacy achievements



Burkina Faso

- The Direction Générale pour la Promotion de l'Economie Rurale (DGPER), Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Aménagements Hydrauliques (MAAH) led the planning and coordination of agricultural policy and regulatory reform options through the requisite administrative, legal processes and necessary stages of government approval prior to implementation. The reforms focused on the Agricultural Sector Investment Code, Warehouse Receipt System (WRS) for agricultural products, marketing regulations to prioritize procurement of domestic agricultural staple products and domestication of ECOWAS harmonized seed and fertilizer laws, and regulations.
- A technical committee led by DGPER revised the Agricultural Sector Investment Code document, which was approved by the MAAH and other relevant Ministries. MIRA facilitated the approval of

the document, which was submitted to the General Secretariat of the Government for review and approval by the Technical Committee for the Consideration of Draft Bills (COTEVAL) before it was introduced to the Council of Ministers. The decrees for the application of the Code were developed in December 2016.

- A technical committee was set up to draft the national strategy for the development of a warrantage and warehouse receipt system. The document was validated by stakeholders and a new draft of the strategy was produced. This now awaits the signature of the Minister of Agriculture.
- The reforms on agricultural marketing regulations were presented to the incoming Minister of Agriculture. To make the case for market reforms, the DGPER made a presentation at the national meeting of rice value chain actors to illustrate how Burkina Faso could successfully market domestic rice production. Consequently, contracts were signed between ministry departments, agencies and local rice suppliers to procure 15,000 tons of domestic rice. A circular was developed and signed by the Secretary-General of MAAH, directing government departments to use domestic products in the meals served during official ceremonies and meetings.



Ghana

- The Policy, Planning and Budget Directorate (PPBD), Ministry of Food and Agriculture led the planning, coordination and the administrative, legislative processes and various stages of government approval necessary for the implementation of the reforms. These include the approval, passage and gazetting of seed regulations, harmonized ECOWAS seed and fertilizer regulations, electronic data base for improving the efficiency of the fertilizer subsidy program, policy, the Act and regulations on High Quality Cassava Flour (HQCF) composite for use in the confectionary industry.
- The PPBD directors (MIRA National Coordinating team) worked with the Attorney General and Directorate of Crop Services to restart the ratification of ECOWAS Seed Regulation C/REG.4/O5/2008, outlining the harmonization of the rules governing quality control, certification and marketing of plant seeds and seedlings as well as Regulation C/REG.13/12/12 relating to Fertilizer Quality Control. A workshop organized for the Parliamentary

Select Committee on Agriculture, Food and Cocoa Affairs endorsed the regulation and forwarded it to Parliament. The Parliament ratified ECOWAS harmonized seed and fertilizer regulations. The regulation draws on evidence generated from studies commissioned by the Seed and Soil Health Action Policy Nodes. The Attorney General clarified that there was no need to gazette the ECOWAS regulations after ratification. The regulations implementable within the framework of approved national seed regulations.

- After the passage of the ECOWAS harmonized seed and fertilizer regulations, the MIRA team initiated consultations with the Attorney General to kick start the process to lay down Ghana's seed regulation in Parliament for approval and passage into law. Following this, the Attorney General's office presented the regulations to MOFA for final approval on 19th October, 2016. The Minister of Agriculture finally approved, signed and sent back the regulations to the Attorney General's office on 31st October 2016. The regulations were forwarded to Parliament on 2nd November, 2016 for approval, but Parliament could not pass the regulation before the dissolution of the 6th Parliament. However, the MIRA team will facilitate the passage of this regulation when the new Parliament is in full session.
- Peasant Farmer's Association of Ghana (PFAG), an advocacy group for conducive policy environment and implementation of approved reforms, focused on gathering evidence through a desk review study on the situation of implementation of laws and regulations on inputs and awareness creation among various stakeholders for collective action to advocate for proper implementation.



Ethiopia

- The Policy Advisor seconded to Agricultural Transformation Agency led the planning, coordination, agricultural policy and regulatory reforms through the requisite administrative and legal processes as well as stages of necessary government approval prior to implementation.
- Reforms were initiated on the Directive/Guidelines for streamlining of policy processes and procedures under which the cereals export restrictions are introduced and revoked. Amongst the reforms introduced were the comprehensive legal framework governing contract farming to support agro-processing and value addition. It included reducing the burden on players within the sector by reviewing import duties on agricultural machinery spare parts, irrigation and drainage equipment, animal feed as well as the ingredients incorporated into compound feeds.
- The Policy Advisor provided analysis and recommendations on managing export restrictions. A review was initiated of existing best practices on mechanisms to ensure that export restrictions were implemented in a predictable and transparent manner.
- The Agricultural Transformation Council's progress on the Transformation Agenda, focused on Agribusiness, Markets and Enhanced Implementation Capacity Verticals.
- MIRA policy outputs were instrumental in persuading the Government of Ethiopia to lift the export ban on maize. The State Minister for Trade publicly announced this decision at the 4th National Cooperatives Bazar and Symposium. However, the ban was lifted only for certain categories of actors including cooperative unions, commercial farmers, and the Ethiopian Trading Business Corporation, a government parastatal.
- While the focus of MIRA policy work is on putting in place transparent and predictable policy processes and procedures, if and when the Government either imposes or lifts the cereals export ban, the policy work would also make the case for lifting the export ban not only for producers but traders and exporters who are the main players in the Ethiopian grain market. Between 85-90% of agricultural output marketing in Ethiopia is through private traders and the remaining 10-15% is through cooperative unions.



Nigeria

- The MIRA Nigeria project plays a significant role in strengthening the capacity of Nigerian Agribusiness Group (NABG) to lead the coordination and facilitation of MIRA activities. NABG organized a public- private platform in Nigeria through the Fertilizer Producers and Suppliers Association of Nigeria (FESPAN), the Seed Entrepreneurs Association of Nigeria (SEEDAN), other private sector organizations, and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD).
- The NABG led the planning, coordination and management of the reform options through the various administrative and legislative processes and stages of government approval prior to implementation. The key policy recommendations of the NABG Presidential Presentation Committee are underpinned by MIRA reforms in agri-inputs and services and market price stabilization mechanisms. The MIRA Nigeria reforms focus on the Fertilizer Quality Control Bill, the Revised Seed Act and the legal instruments for institutional arrangements to reach millions of smallholder farmers with improved, consistent and affordable agricultural inputs, including soil and crop-specific fertilizer blends

and certified seeds of improved varieties and hybrids as well as commodity market price stabilization mechanisms.

- The NABG presented the agri-inputs and market price stabilization reform options targeted under the project during the Federal and State government-led National Council on Agriculture and Rural Development (NCARD) Conference in Kano. They were also presented to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) Roadmap Retreat Conference, the Agricultural Development Partners and Donor Working Group (ADWG) Roadmap reviews, Presidential Presentation to His Excellency the Vice President and to the Honorable Federal Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. In addition, the reforms were presented to all NABG members at the Annual General Meeting held in December 2016.
- The Fertilizer Quality Control Bill went through the House of Representatives' first reading in December 2015; second reading in January 2016; and third hearing in June 2016. However, it has not yet been debated in the Senate. This Bill is currently at the concurrence stage in the National House of Assembly.
- The Revised Seed Bill reform progressed in the House of Representatives from the stage of Second Reading that was conducted on 28 April 2016 to Committee Stage and Public Hearing but has not been debated in the Senate. The Committee Stage and Public Hearing had been scheduled between September and October

2016, although this was postponed to the first quarter of 2017.

- A presidential committee on gas and fertilizer was inaugurated by the President in November 2016 with a mandate to ensure that fertilizers were affordable and available throughout the country. This committee is chaired by the Executive Governor of Jigawa State. It draws membership from the relevant ministries, department and agencies. FEPSAN was invited to be part of this committee. The issue of promotion of local production was put on the agenda and accepted. The federal government opted to directly support production plants in Nigeria to produce 1.5 million tons of fertilizers in 2017 farming season and sold at fixed market prices. As a result, the President of FEPSAN and the Chairman of OCP Morocco signed an agreement for the supply of phosphate on 2 December in Nigeria in the presence of the King of Morocco and the President of Nigeria. The President of Nigeria subsequently announced at the budget presentation in December 2016 that the program had already commenced. The Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) has since mobilized action on these agreements with FEPSAN through NAIC-NPK Limited, which is a subsidiary of the Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority incorporated for implementation of the project.



Tanzania

- The Directorate of Policy and Planning (DPP), Minister of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries (MALF) working together with Tanzania Seed Trade Association (TASTA) and Fertilizer Society of Tanzania (FST) led the planning and coordination of the agricultural policy and regulatory reform options through the various administrative and legal processes necessary for government approval and implementation.
- The reforms focused on amendments to Circular 2011 to improve access by private seed companies to publicly protected pre-basic and basic seed; relaxing the barriers to registration of new fertilizer products arising from the requirement of 3 seasons of testing and payment of a testing fee of \$10,000 for each season; improving targeting and efficiency of fertilizer subsidy programs; institutional arrangement in the management of issuance of grain export permit system; and umbrella contract farming legislation to address gaps in contract farming laws.
- TASTA organized a seed industry stakeholders' meeting in March 2016, in which the Deputy Minister of Agriculture articulated government commitment to ensure that the private sector obtained access to protected varieties under Public Procurement. TASTA worked closely with MALF and when the tenders were sent out, four companies applied. After consultations with the Ministry and TASTA, three firms were shortlisted and signed the agreement. They are Agri-Seed, Beula and Namburi. They were required to pay royalties to the government for access to germplasm. Agreements were prepared and submitted to the Attorney General's Chamber and the Minister of MALF was empowered to enter into agreement with seed companies under the Plant Breeders' Act.
- TASTA participated at the National Agricultural Show (NANE NANE) in August 2016 in the AGRA Pavilion. The three seed companies obtained pre-basic seed and they have been multiplying breeder seed for certification and for sale to farmers. To expand access by more seed companies to breeder seed of publicly bred protected varieties, TASTA and MALF initiated drafting of regulations and standard operating procedures for tenders.
- The draft regulations were reviewed and improved by a team of experts during a meeting in September 2016 in Dar es Salaam. These were submitted to the Minister of Agriculture for his review and signature. They were revised and approved by the Permanent Secretary, and the revised amended Circular 2011 was re-submitted for approval and signature by the Minister of Agriculture. The secondary reforms, including Amendment of Seed Regulations on Tanzania, TOSCI service fees and standards for producing certified seed of roots and tubers were reviewed by technical experts, submitted by MALF to the Attorney General's Chamber, signed and officially gazetted for the industry to begin implementation.
- The FST worked with Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) and MALF to organize a meeting of experts that reviewed the Fertilizer Act 2011. They proposed changes to bring the regulations in line with changing technologies and competitive market organization of the industry. The changes were validated during a stakeholders' meeting held in June 2016.
- The second draft of Fertilizer Regulations was submitted to the Minister for approval and signature. The Prime Minister's Office agreed to coordinate an inter-Ministerial meeting to discuss various policy issues affecting fertilizer sector. The Minister of Agriculture signed the new Fertilizer Regulations. These include the reduction of the registration fees and testing in trials by the government research institutes to a single season in two agro-ecological zones and US \$10,000 compared to the regulation previously in force that required testing for three seasons at US\$10,000 per season and a total of US\$ 30,000 in registration fees per product. Other reforms included in the regulation include bulk procurement of fertilizer and indicative prices. The new regulations are being gazetted.
- The Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF)'s advocacy efforts including evidence generation on input sector, market access, advocacy meetings, radio and TV broadcasts led to the reduction of barriers to trade for some crop commodities. Some levies and cess were revised and removed and a proposal for a post-harvest management strategy is at an advanced stage of development. ANSAFF, as secretary of the task force, is mandated by the Ministry of Agriculture to lead this work.



Mali

- In Mali Policy and advocacy work executed through the Observatoire Malien du Marche Agricole, (OMA). Through a series of advocacy meetings, OMA helped to fast-track the approval and adoption of the Warehouse Receipt System law in a bid to pave the way for value chain actors to access finances, warehouses and markets for agricultural products in the region. Other sensitization meetings and broadcasts on key findings of their assessment on the lack of enforcement of ECOWAS laws and regulations on inputs are still on-going.

Input Subsidy programs in various countries

- AGRA initiated a project to evaluate the agricultural input subsidy programs in 2016 in Kenya Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi, Mozambique, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Nigeria. The short term objective of the project is to assist the governments in these countries to improve design, implementation and effectiveness of the subsidy programs while the long term objective will provide policy recommendations to ensure the profitability of using inputs so that farmers continue to purchase the inputs once the subsidy programs are terminated. AGRA has employed national consultants to gather data and evidence and to draft country reports. AGRA has also set up a steering committee of experts from AGRA and IFDC to oversee the project and provide guidance and feedback on every step of the project.

I. Macro-policy Advocacy achievements.

- Most of the macro level policy interventions, focused on strengthening implementation of the CAADP framework in partnership with the AUC/NPCA, IFPRI, AfDB, COMESA/ACTESA, EALA and Non State Actors (NSAs). A number of meetings and working groups were convened to frame the tools to strengthen mutual accountability in delivering agricultural transformation in Africa. The seven CAADP thematic working groups formalized are: Agricultural Investment Financing, Nutrition and Food Security, Agricultural Research and Extension, Agro-industry and Value Chain Development, Markets and Regional Trade, Resilience, Risk Management and Natural Resources Management, Knowledge Management, Policy Analysis and Accountability for results. The rationale

for the Technical Working Group's arrangements is to have an institutional arrangement designed to respond to a felt need, demand for capacity development felt by countries, RECs, and other CAADP implementing agencies. They will respond to expressed demand and provide support that builds technical capacity to those institutions

Two important tools, the CAADP Score Card and the Agricultural Policy Practice Index (APPI) were framed with stakeholders' support in the sector including donors, government's practitioners, NSAs, Academia, and think-tank.

- The CAADP score card will support the monitoring and evaluation of the National investment plans, measure progress made on implementing the CAADP frameworks and commitments from the Malabo Declaration while the APPI will focus on detailed aspects of Policy formulation and implementation for agricultural transformation.
- The APPI is a collaborative effort between Barefoot Education for Afrika Trust (BEAT) and AGRA and is being digitalized for public access. The Continent will have a tool to measure and assess policy practices even as we aim to continue piloting the tool in additional countries of Africa in the next phase. The aim is to use it as well in the forthcoming bi-annual review of the CAADP in addition to the agricultural score card under development by AUC/NPCA. The tool is in line with MIRA, tracking proposed reforms to Governments. It is a strong advocacy tool to assess the state of their implementation and the capacity of institutions and regulatory authorities charged with enforcement. The role of MIRA and advocacy grantees is critical for creating the appetite for both micro and macro policy reforms while pushing for enforcement of proposed recommendations. If they work properly together the whole ecosystem will

support the government with appropriate capacity for analysis, as well as tracking mechanisms for policy enforcement.

AGRA, Policy and Advocacy team also contributed to shaping the vision and mandate of ACTESA/COMESA at the second Advisory Committee meeting chaired by AGRA.

- AGRA has engaged with AUC/NPCA to define key areas and value chains to contribute to in the implementation of CAADP in AGRA countries and shaping national investment plans. AGRA is positioned as a go-to partner by AUC/NPCA and major donors delivering thought leadership on CAADP at both regional and country levels.
- AGRA developed a paper analyzing the impact of drought in Southern Africa and the response mechanisms by different institutions. Based on this paper, AGRA will embark on developing 'climate-smart' policies to provide long-term solutions against the effects of climate change. At Davos, AGRA convened a meeting with WFP and other partners to create awareness about the situation and coordinate responses in addition to humanitarian actions. AGRA believes that long-term sustainable solutions are needed to absorb the no longer undeniable fact of climate change.
- AGRA in collaboration with AUC/NEPAD/AfDB successfully started off the Seize the Moment Campaign under the theme "Seize the Moment, - Securing Africa's Rise through Agricultural Transformation". At their various meetings, all the leaders of these institutions stressed the need to keep the agricultural transformation agenda at the center of discussions and decision making to maintain the momentum. This is in line with CAADP's 10 years of championing agriculture transformation through governments, donors, private sector and other non-State actors.

- AGRA Alliance partners include at the highest level - Heads of State, donors, and other policy makers in different institutions, including private sector representatives. A number of those financial commitments to financing agricultural transformation were publically announced and political commitments by Heads of States and Ministers made in support of CAADP's implementation and mutual accountability processes.
- Seven country profiles were developed for Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi, Ghana and Nigeria that were shared at the AGRF. The country profiles, using concrete evidence, summarize each country's progress to date toward meeting the Malabo targets and captures commitments over the next 5 years national governments will focus on to drive their Agriculture sector.

The Policy and Advocacy team engaged in various continental and international meetings as follows:

- AGRA participated and contributed to the Commemoration of the Africa Food Nutrition Security Day under the auspices of AUC/NPCA, FAO, UNDP and Government of Ghana which provided space for various organizations in the sector to share ideas and strategies to prioritize nutrition in all its aspects and ensure all linkages with other aspects of livelihoods of people are targeted. These include nutrition and food security, appropriate food systems, climate challenges, nutrition and health-HIV/AIDs, nutrition, water and sanitation (WASH) aspects, appropriate infrastructure and family planning.
- AGRA participated at a policy meeting convened by USAID's Bureau for Food Security for Agriculture Policy experts and analysts from various key institutions such as IFPRI, BMGF, MSU, Yale University, USDA,

World Bank, AU, AGRA and independent experts to collectively take stock of changes occurring or expected to occur in agri-food systems. The meeting sought to understand the priority driving factors of these changes as well as the knowledge and evidence required to know that transformation is occurring and in the right direction. Based on such a discussion, the meeting addressed measurements of policy change effectiveness and the quality of the process.

- At a panel discussion during the African Economic Conference in Abuja, AGRA's strategy and experience in addressing inequalities in agricultural transformation and agro-allied industrialization processes was shared. 10 action points were drawn from this process:
 1. Consider the graduation from small to medium and large scale farmers in the process of agricultural transformation and industrialization.
 2. While encouraging Foreign Direct Investment in agriculture, consideration should be given to land management and the protection of value chain actors avoid land grabs on a large scale.
 3. Private sector-led financing and regional value chain development should be prioritized and strengthened.
 4. Solid progressive taxation systems and the distribution of revenues should be at heart of government policy agenda.
 5. Investments in rural infrastructure is mandatory and urgent if agriculture is to be developed, ensuring smallholder farmers are not left behind in agro-industrialization efforts.
 6. Partnerships are critical to the advancement of agricultural transformation as well as creating linkages between agriculture and industries.

7. There is need to increase productivity through appropriate technologies including improved seed, good fertilizers, ISFM, increased and appropriate financing models, access to land and extension services.
8. Agricultural transformation cannot function if it is not supported by other social protection policies and instruments. Linkages that ensure all ministries are working together to address the bottlenecks faced by farmers and their families, insuring them for productivity, nutrition and health. Youth and women require support and empowerment, employment, access to education and appropriate skills, access to water and opportunities to manage the natural resources at their disposal.
9. The implementation of existing good policies should be encouraged, while revisions and adjustments are recommended for those that require attention to the extent that new ones are adopted to ensure inequalities in agricultural transformation and agro-industrialization are addressed.
10. Agricultural transformation and industrialization are not only about economics or science, this also encompasses good governance endorsed at the highest political and leadership levels. African economies will prosper if corruption is addressed, if all aspects of gender assaults, including sexual gender based violence are addressed, if salaries for women are adjusted to same level as men, if women and youth are respected equally and if both men and women have equal opportunities at home and in the society.
 - Other advocacy efforts were geared towards alliance building with like-minded organizations such as World Bank, AfDB, AUC/NEPAD, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), FAO, WFP, CGIARs, IFPRI, One campaign, Oxfam, Actionaid, Trust Africa and CAADP Non State Actors Coalition (CNCA).

II. The IDRC supported capacity enhancement Program

- The project entitled “Strengthening evidence-based policy research and advocacy for an African Green Revolution” has progressed well as all milestones were met on time. The project is currently training students and mid-career professionals in agricultural economics and policy at Masters and PhD levels.
- The Masters’ program that takes place at the University of Ouagadougou has already graduated 60 students out of the projected 120. The current employment rate stands at 73.75% and is expected to exceed 80% upon graduation of the last cohort in September 2017. 46 women out of 120 (38.33%) will graduate, beating the target number of 23 women.
- The PhD program takes place at the University of Ghana and is expected to train 20 students in a cohort of 10. Currently 19 students including 3 females are undergoing training and the first cohort of 10 students graduated in December 2016 while the remaining 9 are expected to graduate in December 2017. Placement rates for these graduates is expected to be 100%.

