

Addendum to the Audit evaluation report on the 2019 Access to Seeds Index ranking process

Report on the Scoring guidelines changes and Ranking tool adaptation 08-02-2019

Addendum

The excel-based ranking tool from 3rd of December of 2018 which contained the Global and South-East Asia scores was adapted to calculate the East and Southern Africa and the Western and Central Africa Scores. This version is date-stamp-archived and is available upon request by interested parties. If interested, please address your request to Mr. Ido Verhagen, executive director of the Access to Seeds Foundation.

The analysis of the ranking tool revealed that the modifications introduced do not affect its integrity and still correctly implements the conceptual methodology into the calculations for the Index. All intermediate and final calculations are correct in the sense that they correctly calculate every element according to the methodology proposed.

A thorough technical inspection was applied to compare the two versions, including, among other stress tests similar to the main tests doing on the previous versions of the tool. Only minor issues were found, concerning labels of a few columns.

In view of future iterations of the index, a strong advice is to move into a much more robust technical set-up, using either a relational database structure and/or an object/element oriented data storage where the scoring process can be modeled and documented more generally and safely, and therefore will not require an inspection every time a change in the number of rows or columns is made.

It is my final conclusion that the final version of the ranking tool is correct and has no problems.

Disclaimers

- 1. Since this is an excel-based tool, further (re)-use require care to avoid introduction of any technical mistakes,
- 2. As much as a through technical inspection was done, there is always the small, but non-zero, chance that a (small) mistake exists. We do not believe any substantial errors exist.

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