



# Victoria Seeds

Access to Seeds  
Index

## Corporate Data

Headquarters: Kampala, Uganda  
Ownership type: Private  
Total food crop revenue (2014): UGX 6,278,047,537

Victoria Seed Limited (Victoria Seeds) was founded in 2004 in Uganda. It has operations in field crops and vegetable seeds, horticultural and oil crops, and crop protection products in both the domestic and regional market. Since its inception, the company has operated three seed processing facilities and two research facilities.

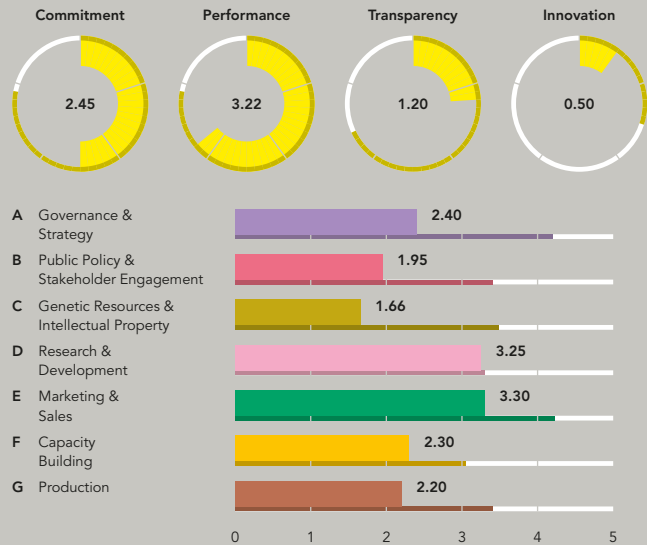
2

rank out of 17  
score 2.59

## Regional Index – Eastern Africa

Ranking second in the Regional Index, Victoria Seeds demonstrates numerous strengths in addressing access to seeds for smallholder farmers. It has a countrywide distribution network in Uganda and has developed improved varieties for three of the local crops in its portfolio suitable for mid-altitudes.

It is one of few companies with engagement and capacity building programs targeting women farmers. It is encouraged to provide more information about its activities outside Uganda.



## Leading Practices

Victoria Seeds states that it aims to serve smallholder farmers, who produce more than 90% of agricultural output in Uganda. The company has an explicit focus on empowering rural women. It has set itself the goal of ensuring that at least 70% of the seed-producing farmers it recruits each season are women and it partners with organizations that share its vision.

Furthermore, it provides seed technologies, extension services and access to markets for women farmers to increase their production, crop output and income levels. More than 2,800 women in Uganda have so far been reached and trained in seed production and business skills.

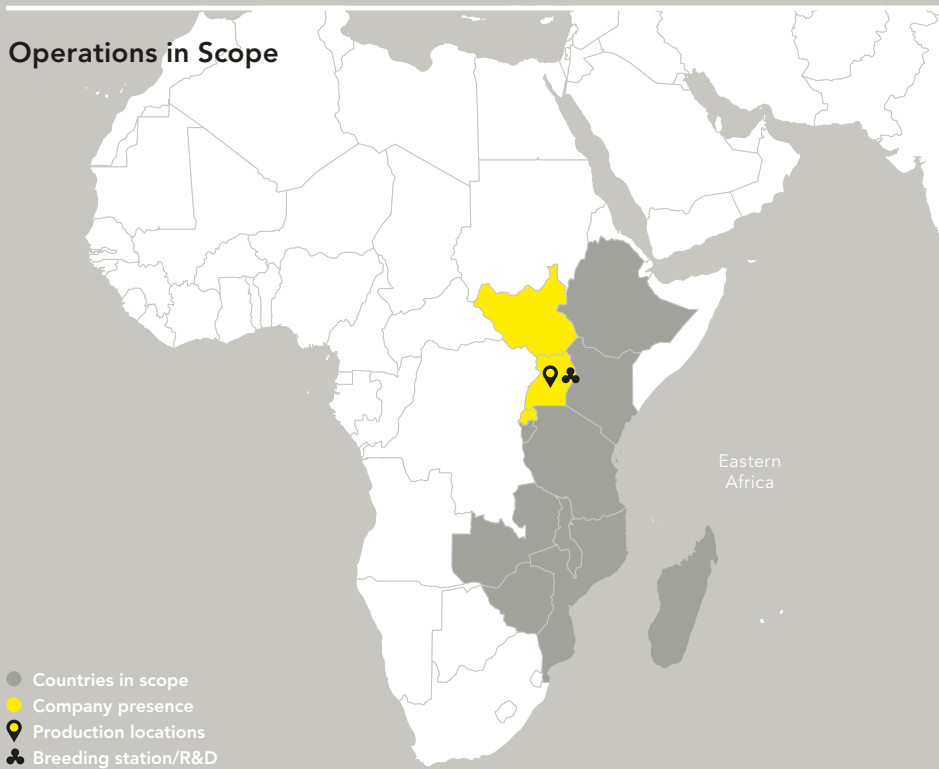
The company has established a countrywide network of more than 400 retail stockists in Uganda and intends to expand this further. Smallholder farmers in remote areas are reached using mobile seed shops (tuk-tuks).

The company also aims to improve the availability of quality seeds in (former) conflict areas. This is demonstrated by its development in 2008 of new facilities in the formerly Lord's Resistance Army-controlled city of Gulu in northern Uganda.

## Areas for Improvement

Victoria Seeds is encouraged to disclose more information about its activities outside of Uganda.

## Operations in Scope



## Notable Findings

■ Victoria Seeds' managing director lobbied for agricultural inputs in Uganda to be exempt from value-added tax, helping to ensure that the price of these inputs is affordable for farmers. The levy imposed in June 2014 was reversed in November 2014. The company has also used its membership in seed trade organizations to lobby for tamper-proof labels and the elimination of counterfeit products.

■ The company holds field days and has implemented a learning platform with technology demonstrations. The company states that it works with development organization Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA), micro-financier Grameen Foundation and international not-for-profit TechnoServe to provide extension services to smallholder farmers in different parts of Uganda. The provision of toll-free phone lines also allows farmers to call in and speak to extension agents at no cost.

■ The company has seed production activities in Uganda, one of the three Regional Index countries where it is active, and is building up production in Rwanda.

## Index Crops in Portfolio

Global Field Crops*	Sales											Breeding Focus				
	BDI	ETH	KEN	MDG	MWI	MOZ	RWD	SSD	TZA	UGA	ZMB	ZWE	Broad adaptation	High altitude	Mid altitude	Low altitude
Finger millet																
Maize																
Pearl millet																
Rice, paddy																
Sorghum																
Global Vegetable Crops																
Broccoli							●	●		●						
Cabbage							●	●		●				☼	☼	
Carrot							●	●		●						
Cauliflower							●			●				☼	☼	
Chili pepper							●			●				☼	☼	
Cucumber							●	●		●				☼	☼	
Eggplant							●	●		●				☼	☼	
Gourd							●			●						
Green bean							●			●						
Leek							●	●		●						
Lettuce							●	●		●						
Melon														☼	☼	
Okra								●		●				☼	☼	
Onion							●	●		●				☼	☼	
Pumpkin							●	●		●				☼	☼	
Spinach							●	●		●						
Squash							●			●						
Sweet pepper							●	●		●				☼	☼	
Tomato							●	●		●				☼	☼	
Watermelon							●	●		●				☼	☼	
Local Field Crops																
Cowpea								●		●						
Pigeon pea								●		●						
Local Vegetable Crops																
Amaranth							●	●		●					☼	
Black nightshade							●	●		●						
Jew's mallow							●	●		●						
Spider plant							●	●		●					☼	