

Malawi



Region
Eastern and Southern Africa

UPOV membership status
Member of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO); initiated the procedure for acceding to the UPOV Convention

Participation in OECD Seed Schemes
No

ISTA accredited member laboratories
Yes

GM crop approval for cultivation (domestic or non-domestic use)
No

Law on Plant Variety Protection
Seed Act (2005)

The seed sector in Malawi

Agriculture employs 80% of Malawi's population and makes up 30% of its GDP. The sector is predominately comprised of smallholders, mainly at the subsistence level, and is largely focused on maize cultivation, alongside certain cash crops such as groundnuts, soybeans and, to some extent, tobacco.

In 2012, the Malawian government through the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II identified agricultural productivity, diversification and food security as focus areas for growth in the sector. The Seed Services Unit in the Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) is responsible for seed certification and hence involved in inspection and testing. It also has a seed testing laboratory, which is accredited by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA).

The seed sector in Malawi strongly promotes improved seed, which is distributed to small-scale farmers through agro-dealers. The country's Farm Input Subsidy Programme promotes and markets quality seeds for improved varieties of maize, groundnut, pigeon pea, common beans, cotton and soybean. Other major crops in Malawi, such as cassava, potatoes, rice and sorghum, have not yet attracted commercial seed entrepreneurs, other than those spurred by non-governmental organizations. Malawi is a signatory of both COMESA and the Southern Africa Development Community.

Observations

There are 11 index companies in Malawi, including Demeter Seed, which has its headquarters in the country. Demeter Seed does not have its own breeding program but does test and produce seed for the local market. It also carries out extension services for smallholder farmers, the only company to do so besides Seed Co.

Three other companies have testing locations, while five produce seeds, three of which (Capstone Seeds, Corteva Agriscience and Demeter Seed) engage smallholders in the process. Syngenta and Capstone Seeds are the only two companies processing seeds in Malawi, and Syngenta is the only company with a breeding program.

Alongside the headquarters of Demeter Seed, the capital Lilongwe also has an ISTA-accredited laboratory that the company uses to ensure compliance with quality assurance standards.

Company activities identified in Malawi

Company Companies selected for the Access to Seeds Index	Crops in Portfolio		Company activities in country					
	Field crops	Vegetables	Breeding location	Testing location	Seed production	Processing location	Sales	Extension services
Capstone Seeds	●	●		●	●*	●	●	
Corteva Agriscience	●				●*		●	
Demeter Seed**	●	●		●	●*		●	●
East African Seed	●	●					●	
East-West Seed		●					●	
Klein Karoo Africa	●	●		●			●	
Monsanto	●	●			●		●	
Pop Vriend Seeds		●					●	
Sakata		●					●	
Seed Co	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Syngenta	●	●	●				●	

Other index companies are also active in the country. However, country-specific information for these companies is not available or was provided under a non-

* Company involves smallholder farmers in seed production activities
** Company headquartered in Malawi

Other companies identified in the regional landscaping study and their activities

Company Companies selected for the Access to Seeds Index	Crops in Portfolio		Company activities in country		
	Field crops	Vegetables	Breeding location	Testing location	Sales
Funwe Seeds	●				●
Multi Seeds Company	●				●



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