



## Wishes for the New Year, January 2022

On behalf of the Governing Board, management and staff of AfricaSeeds, I extend warm greetings and best wishes to all the forty-four Member States who, with FAO, formed AfricaSeeds in 1998. I greet also our numerous friends and partners who have assisted to position AfricaSeeds to be able to tackle its important continental mandate. In spite of the numerous challenges in 2021, partners and friends have supported us to conduct critical activities which brought significant relief to critical areas of the seed sector in Africa.

The year 2021 saw immense contributions by several partners, making good inroads into old challenges. But at the same time, new challenges emerged which called for concerted and collaborative efforts to address. AfricaSeeds is happy to be at the forefront of the fight to address the emerging issues:

- The practical mainstreaming of the informal seed sector, side by side with development of the private seed sector where it has taken root;
- The proper embedment of seed sector knowledge and skills that should form the valid and authoritative basis of seed industry management;
- Assistance to seed policy formulation to ensure overall legitimacy of seed sector strategies;
- The incorporation of animal seeds as an inclusive component of 'seed' as a holistic terminology which covers both crops and animal generative products.

These areas may not immediately command popular attention but AfricaSeeds and several partners view them as critical for the future of the seed sector and agriculture. Particularly, with the recent AU initiatives relating to the next decade of ASBP implementation and for which AU has recently introduced Guidelines for the harmonization of policy and regulatory frameworks, AfricaSeeds stands ready to contribute its advantages in capacity building, knowledge and skills, advocacy and coordination to ensure that member states are able to take full advantage of the new initiatives that are opening up.

In view of the role that AfricaSeeds will need to play in the emerging dispensation, AfricaSeeds has seen it fit to update its current strategy which, since 2014, has served as a good guide in all its activities. The new strategy, presently at the concluding stages of formulation and clearance, will be finalized and out doored in the early part of 2022 and will arm AfricaSeeds with an arsenal of approaches that will make AfricaSeeds ready to address all that will confront it in its seed sector battles.

As the new year dawns, we call on all our friends, partners and Member States to rally to the call to aid the African seed sector, seeing in it the surest pathway to the attainment of Africa's cherished goal of food and nutrition security.

AfricaSeeds congratulates you for your successes in 2021 and wish you all a very happy new year, productive collaboration in your new endeavors in the seed sector community, as well as success and prosperity in all your undertakings.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL

*Dr. Miézan Kouamé, Executive Director*