The Access to Seed Index for Vegetables in Africa and Asia

16 February 2021
Access to Seeds Index evaluates efforts of seed companies at improving access to quality seeds for smallholder farmers

- Initiated in 2012 to increase transparency around the seed industry, identify good leadership and practices
- First Access to Seeds Index in 2016 assessed 26 seed companies
- The 2019 Access to Seeds Index assessed 62 seed companies
- The 2021 Access to Seeds Index evaluating 72 seed companies is developed within the World Benchmarking Alliance and launches at 2021 UN Food Systems Summit
- The Index encourages the seed industry contribution to the 2030 development agenda, SDG2- Zero Hunger
• Vegetable seed is a key business driver; almost all companies have a portfolio that includes vegetable seeds

• Two-thirds of the companies reported vegetable seed as one of their main business drivers

• Regional companies’ breeding programs are tailored to the regional demand for local crops including vegetables

• Overall, the industry offers a broad portfolio of vegetable seed

Key findings from 24 seed companies assessed for the 2019 Access to Seeds Index for South and South-east Asia (SSEA)

Source: https://www.accesstoseeds.org/index/south-southeast-asia/#key-findings
Access to well-adapted vegetable varieties to smallholder farmers in SSEA

Key findings from 22 seed companies assessed for the 2019 Access to Seeds Index for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA)

- Vegetables are prominent in company portfolios but considered less important than field crops
- Four of the 16 companies selling both field crops and vegetables consider a vegetable among their three most important crops
- Only three specialized vegetable companies had extensive breeding programs in the region
- Three companies breed for local crops including vegetables of regional importance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crops found in company portfolios</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vegetables</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Field crops</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legumes</strong></td>
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Source: https://www.accesstoseeds.org/index/eastern-southern-africa/#key-findings
Nine companies offer a broad vegetables portfolio

Large part of the youngest varieties in the portfolio of regional companies is older than five years; open-pollinated varieties dominate

Only two companies reported breeding activities for vegetables in the region.

Most seed companies sell package sizes tailored to the needs of smallholders; vegetables range from 5g to 2kg
The 3rd Access to Seeds Index under development to launch in 2021

Methodology review
Scope of Index publication
Regional landscaping reports

Methodology publication & public consultation
Data collection and analysis
Launch 3rd Access to Seeds Index
UN Food Systems Summit

Access to Seeds 2021 Index Development Plan

June 2020  December 2020  March 2021  September 2021
Thank you

Access to Seeds Index

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