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## Kenya

### Planting Seeds

### Kenya Planting Seed report

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**Report Highlights:**

Corn seed dominates the Kenya seed sector with vegetable seed rapidly growing

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
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## Introduction

Kenya's seed industry consists of formal and informal sub sectors. These are distinguished by circumstances of seed handling. The informal sub sector (80 %) involves mainly cases where farmers use seed from unregulated sources (own seed, saved from own production, or bought from the local market, or seed obtained from neighbors). The formal seed sector (20 %) operates through an established regulatory (Cap 326) process and according to international seed testing and certification schemes (ISTA and OECD respectively). The latter is applicable mainly to seeds of major and/or high value crops grown in high potential or under intensive production systems. Development of seed is done by mainly registered seed companies or their authorized agents. Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) is the national seed certification authority. KEPHIS seed certification is governed by the Seeds and Plant Varieties Act (Cap 326) and other related legislations. Certification of seed is a legal requirement in Kenya.

Kenya's annual seed requirement varies from 24,000 to 35,000 metric tons, with annual seed sales averaging 30,000 to 37,000 metric tons. Seed imports have been rising, from 4 % in 1999 to 22 % in 2005/06. By 2007 seed production was 44,000 metric tons due to good weather and early harvest.

## Formal Seed Sector

There are about 63 registered seed companies. The Seed Trade Association of Kenya (STAK) covers about 90% of the Kenya's formal seed business, but provides only 20 % of total planting materials. STAK members are registered producers, processors, distributors or sellers.

## Seed availability

Corn seed dominates (97 %) the formal seed sector but vegetable seed is rapidly growing. Kenya Seed Company, a state corporation, is the largest local seed company accounting for almost 90 % of the formal seed sector (available for 2008 planting season).

TOTAL SEED AVAILABLE (2008)	
Crop	Quantity (tons)
Corn	46,681
Legumes	302
Vegetables	301
Sorghums/Millet	457
Oil Crops	192
Totals	44,933

**Source: STAK**

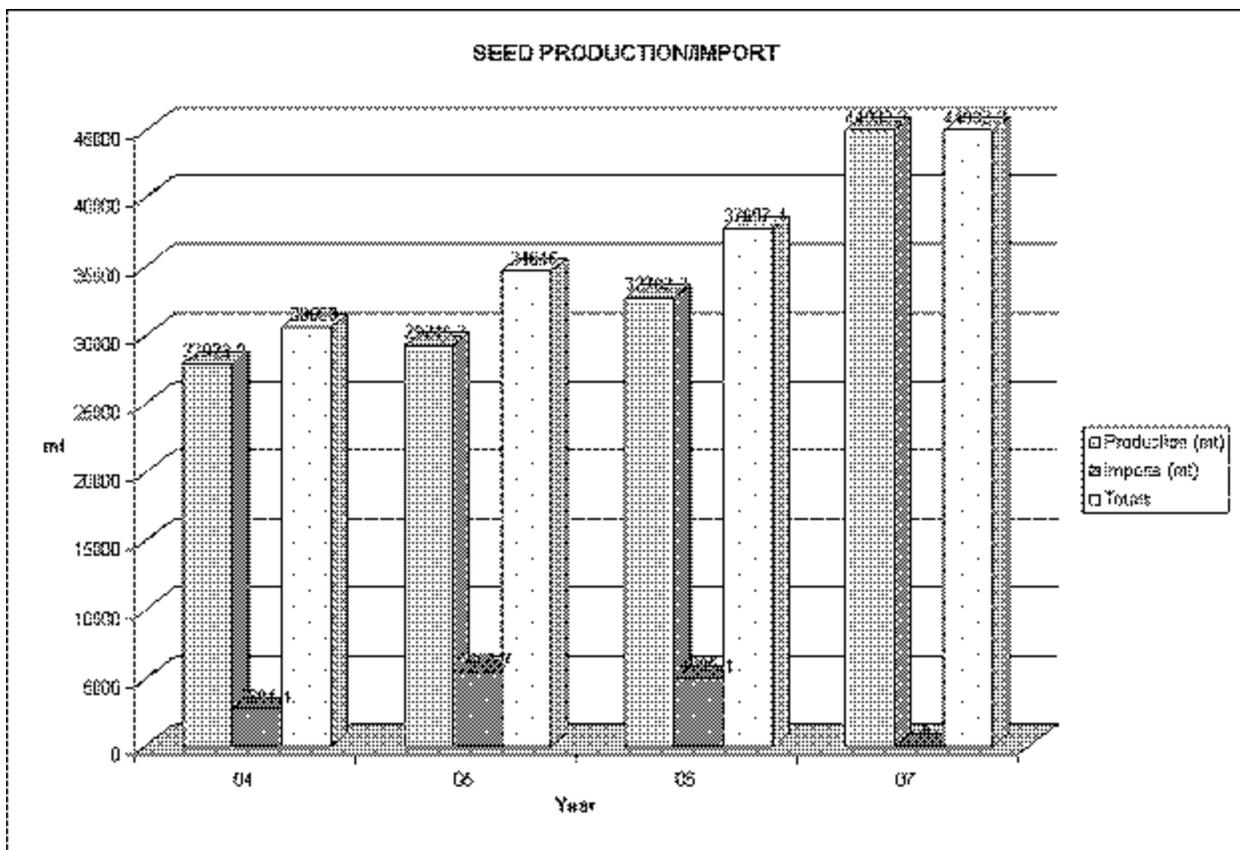
Vegetable Seed (tons) (0.45 %)	
Tomato	31.1
Onion	55.3
Cabbage	42.2
Carrots	45.6
Others (Brinjals, pepper, leak, okra, squash, collards etc)	126.8
Totals	301

**Source: STAK**

## Seed Imports & certification procedure

All trade in seed (import/export as well as local production) must be undertaken only by enterprises officially registered as seed merchants. A duly filled seed regulation form (SR 14) and a Plant Import Permit (PIP) must be processed through KEPHIS before any importation of seed is undertaken. The latter states conditions that must be attested to in a Phytosanitary certificate that, together with an International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) orange certificate, must accompany the seed being imported into the country. Seeds of all crops are subjected to laboratory quality tests upon arrival and must meet the Kenyan minimum standards before being offered for sale.

Kenya imports seed of various crops from a number of countries (including Holland, Denmark, South Africa, Tanzania, India and U.S). Seed production and import trends compiled by STAK from KEPHIS reports are summarized in the graph below (Import figures for the year 2007 are under compilation).



The U.S. exported diverse vegetable seeds to Kenya including bean, alfalfa to melon. There is huge potential for seed exports from the U.S. as the formal seed sector expands and the demand for numerous kinds of seeds grows.

## Seed Exports to Kenya from the U.S. (2003 – 2007)

		Planting Seed U.S. Exports to Kenya (Values in 1000USD)				
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
PLANTING SEEDS	No.	1,974	1,109	1,401	1,900	2,936
SWEET CORN SD	<a href="#">712908550</a>	3	0	0	3	0
PEA SD	<a href="#">713101000</a>	24	0	12	82	94
CHICKPEA SD	<a href="#">713201000</a>	28	4	0	0	0
BEAN SD, GRAM	<a href="#">713311000</a>	0	322	367	448	0
BEAN SD,NAVY	<a href="#">713331020</a>	30	56	87	88	106
BEAN SD,OTH KID	<a href="#">713331040</a>	115	0	0	0	767
BEAN SD, OTHER	<a href="#">713391000</a>	0	52	9	45	0
LEGUME SD, OTHER	<a href="#">713901000</a>	0	0	28	0	0
CORN SD, YELLOW	<a href="#">1005100010</a>	1,104	0	0	0	0
GR SORGHUM SD	<a href="#">1007000020</a>	401	259	0	0	0
ALFALFA SD,UNCRT	<a href="#">1209210040</a>	0	0	23	0	0
FESCUE SD, TALL	<a href="#">1209230020</a>	0	0	0	0	15
BERMUDAGRSSD,HSK	<a href="#">1209299025</a>	0	36	0	0	0
FLOWER SD, OTHER	<a href="#">1209300080</a>	0	0	0	3	15
CELERY SEED	<a href="#">1209912000</a>	0	0	0	159	0
ONION SD	<a href="#">1209914000</a>	0	0	342	141	95
PEPPER SD, SWEET	<a href="#">1209916010</a>	0	36	0	57	409
PEPPER SD, OTHER	<a href="#">1209916090</a>	0	0	0	0	6
BROCCOLI SEED	<a href="#">1209918005</a>	0	0	0	0	347
CABBAGESD, GREEN	<a href="#">1209918008</a>	0	0	0	0	149
CABBAGESD, OTHER	<a href="#">1209918009</a>	18	39	27	45	0
CUCUMBER SD	<a href="#">1209918040</a>	0	0	19	0	0
KALE SEED	<a href="#">1209918045</a>	8	0	0	12	0
LETTUCE SD	<a href="#">1209918050</a>	68	38	0	35	17
PUMPKIN SEED	<a href="#">1209918055</a>	0	4	0	0	0
SQUASH SD	<a href="#">1209918060</a>	9	0	0	0	39
TOMATO SD	<a href="#">1209918070</a>	0	4	38	104	10
VEGETABLE SD,OTH	<a href="#">1209918090</a>	147	228	424	651	530
WATERMELON SD	<a href="#">1209994040</a>	0	0	0	0	253
TOBACCO SEED	<a href="#">1209994070</a>	0	30	0	0	0
MELON SEED,OTHER	<a href="#">1209994075</a>	0	0	23	0	0
OTHER SEED	<a href="#">1209994090</a>	18	0	3	27	84
TOTAL		1,974	1,109	1,401	1,900	2,936

## Constraints and Challenges

The key constraints to increased seed trade business in Kenya include

- a relatively lengthy variety testing, release and registration process
- stringent seed certification standards
- Ineffective plant variety protection system to promote breeding

Efforts have been directed at addressing these constraints and considerable progress made in the following areas:

- Development of a national seed policy document and a Draft Seeds and Plant Varieties (Amendment) Bill 2007. This aims to liberalize seed law in Kenya where certain/some aspects of seed certification, hitherto undertaken solely by KEPHIS will be handled by private enterprises
- Developing Seeds and Plant Breeders' Rights Regulations providing for enforcement of intellectual property rights
- Developing a Quarantine Pest List for East Africa (to rationalize the list of quarantine pests) to facilitate seed flow in the region
- Putting in place institutional frameworks to incorporate private sector in regulatory committees.

These initiatives have resulted in more private seed companies releasing varieties to complement what is done by KARI.

The key challenge is the completion of the seed regulation reforms.