Agriculture is a fundamental for sustainable development and poverty discount in many growing countries (Ouma & de Groote, 2011).

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) food production has simply kept up with the fast population growth experienced over the past two decades (Fuglie et al., 2013).

Agricultural productivity growth in SSA averaged only 2.4% over the previous four decades, whilst the productivity of the rest of developing world accelerated by 4% (Dzanku et al., 2015).

The issue of the use of low-quality seeds by farmers among other factors (Louwaars & de Boef, 2012).

Objective of this paper: Review factors constraining the adoption of improved seed varieties and strategies to enhance their adoption in SSA to draw lessons for decision makers.

**WHAT IS THE ISSUE?**

Agriculture is a fundamental for sustainable development and poverty discount in many growing countries (Ouma & de Groote, 2011).

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) food production has simply kept up with the fast population growth experienced over the past two decades (Fuglie et al., 2013).

Agricultural productivity growth in SSA averaged only 2.4% over the previous four decades, whilst the productivity of the rest of developing world accelerated by 4% (Dzanku et al., 2015).

The issue of the use of low-quality seeds by farmers among other factors (Louwaars & de Boef, 2012).

Objective of this paper: Review factors constraining the adoption of improved seed varieties and strategies to enhance their adoption in SSA to draw lessons for decision makers.

**METHODS**

Data: Secondary data from Google scholar, Agora, Hinari.

Various points guiding the literature search: seed systems, impediments to the adoption of improved seeds, and past experiences to increase the uptake of improved seeds.

Criteria used for inclusion were: (i) articles relevant to the various points discussed, (ii) articles in peer reviewed journals, and (iii) articles with focal point on Sub-Sahara Africa countries.

First screening: More than 90 articles, but only a total of 44 articles met the criteria

**RESULTS**

Agricultural productivity growth in SSA is low (Figure 1)

Low level of adoption of improved varieties in SSA (Figure 2)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Encouraging the development of contractual farming
- Development of efficient seed marketing/value chain
- Alternative subsidy mechanism on seed and other inputs
- The development of warrantage system (also known as warehouse inventory credit, or inventory credit, or the warehouse receipt system)
- The demand-led method for all initiatives: functional value chain based on the preferences of end consumers

**REFERENCES**