



Supporting Seed Systems for Development

S34D Newsletter

December 2021 Seasons Greetings

S34D is hiring!

Feed the Future Global Supporting Seed Systems for Development is seeking a **Specialist II** to support a variety of activity related tasks including MEAL, programming and operations. This is a great opportunity to work on an innovative USAID-funded Leader with Associates Award. Recruitment is ongoing and the position allows for telecommuting.

New Resources

Lessons from Nicaragua, Guatemala and Uganda regarding voucher and cash in seed fairs:



How does voucher modality in seed fairs compare to providing cash? A newly released study **Assessing Voucher Modality in CRS Nicaragua Seed Fairs** identifies the benefits and drawbacks of vouchers in seed fairs. This includes voucher's effectiveness, efficiency, and appropriateness in terms of provision of seed, responding to beneficiaries' needs, and supporting the local market.



CRS launched a series of seed fairs that responded to prolonged drought in the dry corridor of Guatemala. In Guatemala, initial fairs (2016, 2017) utilized a voucher mechanism, while the more recent fairs (2018, 2019) have used cash transfers. The report '**A comparison of voucher and cash transfer modalities in seed fairs in Guatemala**' examines the tradeoffs of these two modalities and finds significant benefits from the use of cash.

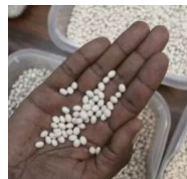


The Uganda resource was shared in the October newsletter. **Here is the report.**

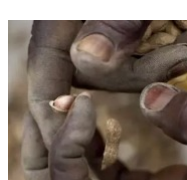
Upcoming Activities

In December S34D and AgriLinks host Seed Systems month on AgriLinks!

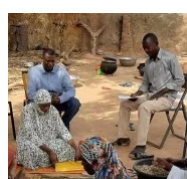
Feed the Future Global Supporting Seed Systems for Development activity (S34D) is very excited to partner with AgriLinks to host the December Seed Systems month. Throughout the month S34D will be posting blogs highlighting seed work in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania and Niger. Here are a few of the dozen posts:



Forecasting Demand for Seed: The Case of Ethiopia



Financing Potential of the Seed Sector in Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania and Niger



High-Quality Seed Production by Smallholder Farmer Groups: A Global Case Study

If you are implementing seed systems work and would like to share your results with a broader audience, please reach out **S34D@crs.org** or Michael Saltz at **MSaltz@qedgroupllc.com** and we will work together to get your blog(s) posted.

The highlight will be a webinar on December 17th, 9:30-11:00 am Eastern Standard Time presenting an analysis of the yellow bean corridor in Tanzania which was conducted under S34D by a team of researchers at Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), the **Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT**, Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA) and CRS. The **bean corridors** for specific market types are well-established across Tanzania and extend to other countries in the region demonstrating a market pull for seed. One of the most traded bean types across corridors in Tanzania is the yellow type and its variants. There are three major sources of seed in Tanzania: formal, informal, and integrated seed systems. In this 90-minute session, panelists will present findings from the **Yellow Bean study** that aimed to characterize and explore business and investment opportunities in three seed systems to respond to grain trade demand.

- The study also shows how bean traders intervene in the seed supply chain using both formal and informal seed systems through various innovations.
- Traders use an informal system where they buy grains of specific varieties (including the yellows) from farmers, sort a portion of it and sell it back to the farmers to produce grains in the subsequent planting seasons.
- On the other side, some traders interested in specific varieties connect research outputs and small-scale farmers through seed companies or other local seed entrepreneurs. These actors would source early generation seed, multiply and sell it to farmers, then end up aggregating grains and selling to the markets.

The panelists will share their experiences on demand-led seed systems (combining both formal and informal) and how this contributed to high variety turnover and wider variety access in Tanzania. These integrated seed systems also reduced time lags between release and use to less than three years while expanding business opportunities to various value chain actors particularly women and youth. Given the fast-growing demand for yellow beans, demand-led breeding is being deployed to replace lower-yielding and poorly adapted varieties by climate-resilient, farmer, and market demanded varieties.

The Agrilinks webinar is an opportunity to share this information while collecting further insights on the Yellow Bean study's implications. For more information and to register visit <https://agrilinks.org/events/grain-market-pull-seed-businesses-across-bean-corridors-tanzania>.

Stay safe, be well, and happy holidays!

S34D team

PS: As we said at the top, S34D is seeking to hire a Specialist II to support ongoing programs and operations. Read the job description, share with your network, or apply.

Contact

Want to know more about Supporting Seed Systems for Development? **Visit our website** or simply reply to this email newsletter. **S34D@crs.org**



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