



Supporting Seed Systems for Development

S34D Newsletter

February 2022

New Resources

S34D is pleased to present a variety of new resources from across the full spectrum of seed systems.



Seed Policy

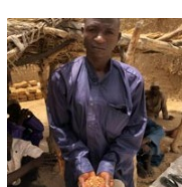
Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the [New Markets Lab \(NML\)](#) collaborated on the [“Development and Comparison of Seed Regulatory Systems Maps in Ethiopia”](#). Ethiopia’s legal and regulatory system for seed is currently undergoing important changes, following the passage of a new seed policy in February 2020 and proposed revision to the Seed Proclamation, which expand opportunities for private sector engagement in the Ethiopian seed system. S34D’s work in Ethiopia revolved around a set of Regulatory Systems Maps (RSMs) developed by NML. The RSMs spell out the rules and procedures in the Ethiopian seed value chain in a step-by-step manner, highlighting bottlenecks in current rules that impede access to quality seed for farmers and referencing practical experiences and challenges faced by private sector stakeholders in navigating the regulatory framework. The organizational partners complemented the RSMs with gender aspects of the seed system, and ways in which to highlight the gaps and opportunities created by the proposed rules. Two side-by-side RSMs for each key regulatory process illuminates differences between the current and proposed legal and regulatory system, highlighting changes that will result from the new Seed Proclamation. These RSMs were developed based on extensive consultations with national public and private stakeholders and were validated with stakeholders (November 2021) and disseminated to seed sector experts (January 2022).



Seed Financing

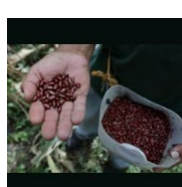
[Opportunities & Constraints in Regulated Finance for Emergency & Humanitarian Aid Seed Sector in Uganda](#)

draws from S34D consortium member Opportunity International’s experience in agriculture and refugee financing in two settlements in Uganda from 2019. The paper discusses the Ugandan refugee context, the response from the Ugandan government and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the shift away from food in-kind towards a market development approach within the humanitarian sector and the role financial service providers are playing in tin seed and agricultural work.



Emergency, Humanitarian Aid and Resilience seed sector

In response to demand for a more rapid and less resource-intensive seed system assessment, S34D developed a methodology and set of tools – the Rapid Seed System Security Assessment (R-SSSA). The R-SSSA toolkit is based on the standard [SSSA toolkit](#) and was designed to be implemented by a single agency to understand the seed security situation in a project area and identify an appropriate seed response. The advent of COVID 19 required tools that could be also conducted remotely. [The Rapid Seed Security Systems Assessment Pilot Evaluation](#) report analyzes nine pilots carried out in seven countries by members of the Global Food Security Cluster.



CRS’s Southern Africa Regional Office and S34D conducted a study on [Diversity for Nutrition and Enhanced Resilience \(DiNER\) Fairs and Voucher Programming: Evaluation and Learning in the Southern Africa Region](#).

This study evaluates how the DiNER Fair approach improves participating households’ food and nutrition security as well as strengthen access to seed and other agricultural inputs at the last mile in Madagascar, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.



Formal and Informal Seed Systems

S34D consortium partner Purdue University implemented a [Seed storage Survey in Northern Tanzania](#) to assess postharvest seed management of various grain value chain actors (farmers, agrodealers and seed producers) in four districts Northern Tanzania. The goal was to identify the current storage and protection practices of postharvest management of seed of farmers, agrodealers, and seed producers and to identify potential causal factors of those practices.



Ethiopia is one of the few countries in sub-Saharan Africa to have a working process and system that forecasts demand for seed across all administrative levels in the country. S34D carried out a study, funded by USAID Ethiopia, in the Amhara and Oromia regions to assess the present system, and methods employed to forecast demand, with the goal to provide a roadmap on what the next steps could be to modernize the approach such that the gap between effective and realized demand narrows over time. [Seed Demand Forecasting in Ethiopia: Assessment & Recommendations](#) lays out the recommendations for a technical roadmap.

Call for Consultants

[S34D has an open call for consultants.](#)

S34D is seeking a consultant for an activity to support with Research to Identify Pathways to put Farmers Central in the OneCGIAR Strategy. The purpose of this consultancy is to find novel ways to implement and approach that involves farmers in the entire breeding process, from setting goals to selecting materials to develop seed production initiatives. The closing date for submissions is February 17th. [Full announcement and details are available here \(Word Doc\)](#).

Stay safe and be well,
S34D team

Contact

Want to know more about S34D? [Visit our website](#) or simply reply to this email newsletter S34D@crs.org.

Header photo by Moses Sawasawa/CRS

Sadelina Bijoux, her husband Mukalenge Yuba and their eight children, Tanganyika Province DRC.



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