Incentivizing Seed Companies to Expand Crop-Seed Portfolio: An Evaluative Learning

Strengths and weaknesses of organized crop seed production by smallholder farmer: A five-country case study

New Resources

Incentivizing Seed Companies to Expand Crop-Seed Portfolio: An Evaluative Learning

In many countries, smallholder farmers play a key role in food crop seed production. So far, the community roles, operational structures, seed production efficiency, aspects of sustainability, and the social and policy environments in which these groups operate have been poorly studied and described. This report attempts to better understand these factors by drawing cases from twenty-five seed producer groups in five countries (Vietnam, Uganda, Zambia, Niger, and Guatemala) that deal with nine crops in total (rice, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, common bean, cowpea, soybean, groundnut, potato and sweet potato). Results of the study show all groups supply a significant share of seed offered in local markets. Two key challenges stand out across seed producer groups interviewed. First, most seed producer groups experience difficulties in accessing good quality early generation seed (EGS) on time. Second, in most groups packaging and labelling of the seed produced and offered in local markets is suboptimal, hindering further professionalization. Our observations point to actions that external stakeholders could undertake to strengthen smallholder farmer seed production in recognition of their contribution to food and nutrition security.

In an NML and CRS collaboration, S34D assessed progress and dynamics in Ethiopia’s seed system by documenting the processes and procedures contained in Ethiopia’s current and proposed seed legal and regulatory systems. This work compared current laws, regulations, policies, and directives with the changes contemplated under the Draft Seed Proclamation and other instruments, highlighting important changes and gaps, and building upon efforts by the Government of Ethiopia. This report contains the results of this comparative mapping of rules and regulations along six key dimensions of the seed systems regulatory value chain.

Contact

Want to know more about S34D? Visit our website or simply reply to this email newsletter.

This newsletter was made possible by the generous support from the American people through the U.S. Government’s Feed the Future initiative and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through Cooperative Agreement 7200AA18LLA00. The contents are the responsibility of Catholic Relief Services and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.