



Supporting Seed Systems for Development

S34D Newsletter

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High-quality seeds are vital for improving smallholder farmers' livelihoods and food security outcomes, and additionally serve as vital sources of income for seed producer groups. In this issue, S34D shares its newest publications focused on crop-seed production – from incentivizing the expansion of seed companies' crop-seed portfolios to smallholder farmers' collective crop-seed production.

New Resources

S34D has several new innovative resources available:

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



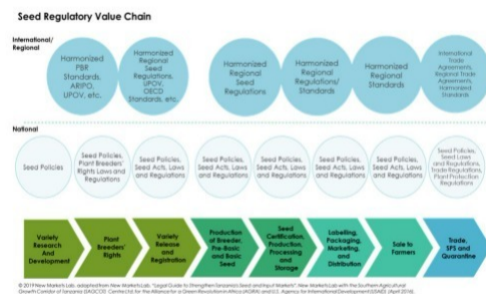
This report shows that seed companies in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania consider seed demand, competition in the seed industry and crops with higher nutritional content, resilience to emerging diseases, and promoted varieties by other organizations among other factors, before introducing a new variety into their portfolio. The most important challenges preventing seed companies, particularly small seed companies, from expanding crop-seed portfolio include high cost of seed certification, persistent incidence of fake seeds, lack of enforcement of regulations and policies, poor business environments and limited internal capacity (such as market development strategies) of the seed companies. Diversifying crop-variety portfolios can help seed enterprises expand their customer base and better respond to smallholder farmer demand, however one major constraint to diversification is the high cost of certification. More streamlined government policies on seed certification, including an increased number of licensed inspectors, both public and private, would help create an enabling environment of accountability and transparent enforcement to promote private sector growth. Several types of incentives could encourage seed enterprises to diversify their crop-variety portfolios. Partnerships with relevant research centers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and government bodies could help connect seed enterprises to a wide range of adapted seed varieties.



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

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. The present **study 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.

Development and Comparison of Seed Regulatory Systems Maps in Ethiopia



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

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