



Supporting Seed Systems for Development

S34D Newsletter

December 2022

We're pleased to share S34D's Year in Review, wherein we present selected materials that reflect the breadth of work that S34D undertakes within the seed space. This edition also takes us abroad, as we discuss findings from recent S34D-led, seed-focused workshops in Ethiopia and field work in Uganda and DRC.

As the year comes to a close, we wish you a peaceful and very merry holiday time and all the best in the coming year.

Reports & Publications

S34D has several new innovative resources available:

New: Forage seed system performance of Ethiopia: An overview based on key indicators

Published in CABI Reviews in December 2022, this study provides a template to monitor forage seed system performance in a developing country and identifies opportunities and recommendations for development partners, practitioners, national stakeholders, and decision-makers active in the Ethiopian forage sector.

Formal/Informal

- [Micro-Franchise Model for Last-Mile Seed Delivery in Kenya](#)
- [Review of Existing Last Mile Seed Delivery Models and Approaches](#)
- [The Role of Seed Vouchers and Fairs in Promoting Seed Market Development: Opportunities and Limitations](#)
- [Seed Storage Survey in Northern Tanzania](#)
- [Seed Systems in Fragile States - Haiti Case Study](#)
- Strengths and weaknesses of organized crop seed production by smallholder farmer: A five-country case study: [Report & Outlook on Agriculture Journal Article](#)
- [Transforming Last Mile Seed Delivery: Case of High Iron Beans \(HIBs\) Niche Market Business Model in Lower Eastern Kenya - Second Season Study Report](#)
- [Uganda seed sector profile](#)

Emergency/Resilience

- [Effects of Agricultural Input Fairs on Seed Markets: A Review](#)
- [Rapid Seed System Security Assessment \(R-SSSA\) - Pilot Evaluation Report](#)
- [SSSA Toolkit](#)

Policy

- [Incentivizing Seed Companies to Expand Crop-Seed Portfolio: An Evaluative Learning](#)
- [Development and Comparison of Seed Regulatory Systems Maps in Ethiopia](#)
- Realizing economic and environmental gains from cultivated forages and feed reserves in Ethiopia: [Report & CABI Reviews Journal Article](#)
- [Seed Demand Forecasting in Ethiopia: Assessment and Recommendations for a Technical Roadmap](#)

Seed Financing

- [An Analysis of Opportunities and Constraints in Regulated Finance or the Emergency and Humanitarian Aid Seed Sector in Uganda](#)

Periodic Reports

- [FY22 Semi-Annual Report](#)
- [FY22 Annual Report](#)

Agrilinks Blogs

- [Can Informal Traders Drive Seed Security? A Case of Eastern DRC's Bean and Cassava Business](#)
- [Empowering Zinduka Women's Group in Tanzania to Produce Quality Bean Seed and Better Their Community's Well-Being](#)
- [Gender and Youth-Inclusion in Financing of the Seed Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)
- [Participatory Approaches and Demand-Led Research Making Bean Seed Accessible to Millions of Smallholders in Burundi](#)

Presentations

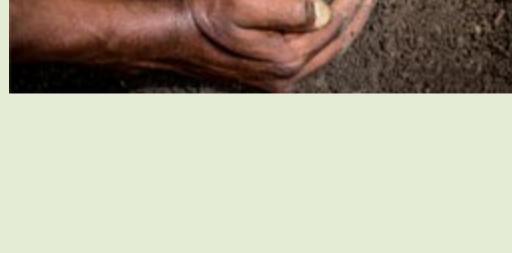
- [Development and Comparison of Seed Regulatory Systems Maps in Ethiopia](#)
- [Forage Seed System Performance in Ethiopia: An overview based on key indicators](#)
- [High-Quality Seed Production by Smallholder Farmer Groups](#)
- [Operationalization of Seed Policies and Directives at Scale in Ethiopia](#)

Travel and Workshop Proceedings

The S34D team was delighted to begin travelling again in 2022, having visited Ethiopia, DRC, and Uganda for a series of workshops and field work.

Ethiopia Workshop Series

In mid-October 2022, S34D held a series of workshops in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia focused on the areas of early generation seeds, cultivated forages and densification technologies, and seed policy.



Nearly 75 private sector and seed policy experts, business owners, researchers, academics, and government representatives were in attendance over the course of the various workshops. During the workshops, attendees provided information and recommendations to address challenges related to forages and seed policy, including:

- Animal feed is of critical importance in Ethiopia and the price of feed must be brought down.
- Feed preservation technologies must be introduced in Ethiopia.
- Access to forage EGS to grow forage crops is an essential first step.
- Connecting with other USAID implementing partners leveraging the work happening on the ground is essential.
- On the policy side, stakeholders identified registration of farmers' varieties in Ethiopia is critical and a learning convening hosted by S34D will be a very good first step.
- Improving data quality for seed demand forecasting process is essential.

These findings and recommendations will be used to inform forthcoming research, policy, and implementation efforts, including related S34D activities.



Uganda Field Work

From late June to mid-July 2022, S34D staff traveled to the Adjumani District of Uganda, which hosts nearly 250,000 refugees from South Sudan.

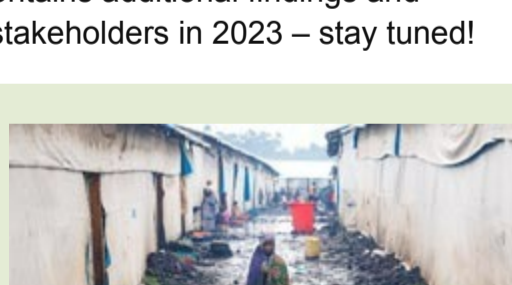
Field work was undertaken using participatory methods to assess the impacts of different emergency seed interventions implemented by World Vision and Lutheran World Federation, and to develop, test, and refine a methodology that can be replicated elsewhere. Key personnel were joined by national and international consultants and supported by field assistants and partner NGO staff.

Preliminary findings reveal that: (1) There was improved food security for both male and female refugee and host smallholder farmers in the southwest of the district, but the role of seed in contributing to this increase was relatively minor. Increased access to fertile land was the main reason for the increase in food security among refugee farmers.. (2) In the more arid north-eastern parts of the district, it was difficult to draw any firm conclusions on the impacts of the seed interventions on food security, mainly due to low production caused by the low rainfall levels experienced in the project area since 2021. (3) Many seed distributions over many years have allowed for the regular introduction of new varieties into local cropping systems, giving farmers an appreciation of a range of different varieties and their particular characteristics (e.g., drought resistance, marketability, duration, etc). Consequently, many of the varieties provided by the more recent seed interventions were already locally available. (4) Various seed interventions have led to an increase in the number of agro-input dealers in Adjumani Town, but there seems to be a disconnect between many of these agro-input dealers and the majority of smallholder farmers, who rarely – if ever – purchase seed from agro-input dealers.

S34D will release a formal report that contains additional findings and practical recommendations for various stakeholders in 2023 – stay tuned!

DRC Field Work

In September 2022, S34D staff and consultants visited the Greater Kasai region of DRC to conduct a participatory impact assessment (PIA) of emergency seed interventions that were implemented following conflict and displacement that led to severe food insecurity among populations within the region.



The aim of the assessment was to generate evidence on the impacts of selected emergency seed interventions on refugee and host community beneficiaries and on local seed systems, as such evidence is currently lacking and is needed to inform and improve humanitarian and development work.

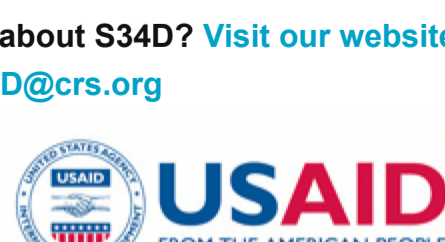
Findings from the PIA indicate that the emergency seed interventions led to greater varietal diversity and use of best planting practices amongst target participants. The seed had a marginal impact as a resource transfer and very little impact on seed systems and farmer well-being in the second season due to a drought that undermined the outcomes. However, there was a noticeable effect in the first season, likely due to ideal rain conditions. Key recommendations include: (1) to ensure that in insecure security measures accompany any provision of seed in food insecure situations, (2) to address systemic issues in addition to seed provision for longer-term, sustainable impact, and (3) to tackle soil health to improve production over the long term, make agriculture more resilient to climate change, and optimize results from any improved, climate-resilient seed.

In 2023, S34D will disseminate a report that contains additional findings and practical recommendations.

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



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 7200AA18LE00004. The contents are the responsibility of Catholic Relief Services and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.