



Supporting Seed Systems for Development

S34D Newsletter

April 2023

S34D has entered the third quarter of its final year! In this issue, we share three S34D-penned blogs shared during Agrilinks' Seed Delivery Theme Month in February, along with details on a recently convened workshop hosted by S34D in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia focused on a Farmers' Variety Registration System and a new report about quality declared seed in Ethiopia.

Workshops & Conferences

S34D Farmers' Variety Registration System Workshop

From March 28th to March 30th, S34D hosted a Farmers' Variety Registration System workshop.



Nearly 40 national and international seed experts were present, representing national research institutions, non-governmental organizations, USAID, and the Ethiopian government. S34D was honored to welcome distinguished guests Dr. Zemen Haddis, Feed the Future Coordinator and Senior Policy Advisor from USAID Ethiopia's Economic Growth and Transformation Office, Ato Abera Mulat, Advisor to the State Minister within Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture, and Mr. Fiseha Teshome, Director of the Plant Variety Release, Protection, and Seed Quality Control Directorate within the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority.

During the workshop, participants discussed a range of matters, including (1) regulatory flexibilities commonalities, challenges, opportunities and solutions, (2) the tenets of an ideal and practical FVRS, (3) seed certification and quality assurance for farmers' varieties and for formally released varieties, and (4) seed labeling, distribution, marketing for farmers' varieties, amongst other topics. To facilitate knowledge-sharing, international attendees exchanged information and experiences related to their respective country's process of establishing legal provisions for a farmers' variety registration system. S34D is in the process of culminating key findings from these fruitful exchanges, which will feed into a road map for the forthcoming implementation of a farmer variety registration system in Ethiopia.



Reports & Publications

Quality Declared Seed Mechanism in Ethiopia

This S34D study investigated why Ethiopia adopted quality declared seed (QDS) and how it is implemented considering the political economy perspective of divergence and similarities of the different provisions indicated in the FAO guideline, the Ethiopian directive, and actual implementation practices.



Rainbow Exports on Mundus Agri, 2017

The result indicated that the main driver of adopting QDS was to legitimize the existing production and supply of seed by small farmers – in addition to the seed supply by licensed seed companies – with the ultimate goal to fulfill the ambitious seed production targets included in government development plans. The report unpacks practices and divergences of QDS in Ethiopia, highlights implications, and suggests a context-specific path forward.

[Read more about Seed Mechanism](#)

Agrilinks Blogs

Examining Climate Change Effects on Small-Scale Agriculture



Photo by Charles Nkhoma, CDT Zambia

Supporting Seed Systems for Development and Oxfam Novib (through the [Sida funded SD=HS program](#)) have collaborated on a field study in five countries focused on the impacts of climate change on small-scale agriculture. Read the Agrilinks blog to gain detailed insights as to the most commonly reported climate change effects on crop and seed production that smallholder farmers experienced and their resultant coping strategies, as validated by external stakeholders.

[Read more about Climate Change effects](#)

What Are the Impacts of Emergency Seed Interventions?



Photo by Onnyye

A recent S34D study in three areas of Central and Eastern Africa sought to explore the impacts of short-term seed interventions for disaster relief in emergency contexts, particularly focusing on outcomes for food security and livelihoods (FSL) and seed systems. Due to its ability to measure FSL impacts in cases where baseline data is unavailable, a participatory impact assessment methodology was applied. Findings indicate that longer-term, more strategic interventions may be more impactful, as they allow for greater attention to varieties, seed access, and factors that influence crop production such as access to land, soil quality, drought, climate change and access to markets. Read the full Agrilinks blog to read more about specific findings, conclusions, and practical recommendations.

[Read more about Seed Interventions](#)

Study Links Ethiopia Forage Diet with Emission Reductions



Photo by Daggy J. Ali

Following a release in CABI Reviews and an S34D report, S34D has written an Agrilinks blog that neatly summarizes its recent research that explored the economic benefits and role of cultivated forages. This information-packed blog shares key findings, which underscore its primary message – that forage-based feeding offers a triple win, with clear economic, social, and environmental gains, and is one of the more promising climate-smart feeding interventions at present.

[Read more about Emissions Reductions](#)

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 (USAID) responsibility of Catholic Relief Services and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.