



Supporting Seed Systems for Development

S34D Newsletter

June 2023

As of the 15th of June, we bid farewell to S34D Chief of Party Nikaj van Wees, who capably led S34D since early in its first year. Over the course of his tenure on the activity, Nik navigated the S34D team through various challenges – most notably, the COVID-19 pandemic – with dedication and aplomb. While it's difficult to imagine S34D without Nik, we look forward to carrying out activities with former Chief of Operations Jason Sullivan serving in an Acting Chief of Party capacity.

Training

Seed Inspector e-Learning Platform in Zambia



In Zambia, S34D partnered with the Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) within Zambia's Ministry of Agriculture to develop an online training platform for seed inspectors. This e-learning platform has been proven to greatly increase equitable access to formal certifications while significantly decreasing the number of counterfeit seeds appearing in the marketplace.

S34D first discussed the idea of a digital seed inspector training platform with SCCI during the height of the COVID pandemic. Following consultations with the USAID Zambia Mission and SCCI, S34D initiated efforts to build out the platform. Development of the e-learning training course for seed inspectors was completed in late 2022, after conducting a security penetration test to ensure personal data protection and a subsequent USAID Section 508 compliance check.

In January 2023, 93 trainees enrolled in the online training program – 89 from Zambia, two trainees from Rwanda, and one each from Kenya and Tanzania. This cohort completed the course in March. 97% of the participants (90 trainees) passed the final exam, including the 19 women and 2 youth enrolled in the course.

S34D received testimonies from eleven public and private sector trainees post-training and -examination. Some were new to the seed inspector training course; others took it as a refresher course. Overall feedback indicated that the e-learning platform was easy to navigate, comprehensive, and innovative. Respondents felt it covered a numerous crops and topics, was self-explanatory, and they were able to take the course at their leisure after work or on weekends, making the training flexible and cost-effective.

Reports & Publications

Participatory Impact Assessment of World Vision Emergency Seed Intervention in Adjumani District, Northern Uganda



This report presents the findings of a Participatory Impact Assessment (PIA) of emergency seed interventions implemented by World Vision in the Adjumani District of Northern Uganda. Adjumani was selected due to its long-term refugee population, most of whom are women and children. The aim of the assessment was to generate evidence on the impacts of selected emergency seed interventions on community beneficiaries and on local seed systems, using qualitative data collection methods and PIA to determine the impacts of the seed interventions on crop production, household food security, and livelihoods. Seed-related recommendations are provided to address the various agriculture and livelihood challenges facing the district.



Participatory Impact Assessment of Selected Emergency Seed Interventions: Synthesis Report

This report provides a synthesis of three Participatory Impact Assessments of emergency seed interventions in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The interventions were implemented by World Vision, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) respectively, and the assessments were undertaken under the Feed the Future Global Supporting Seed Systems for Development (S34D) activity, led by CRS. All three of the interventions assessed provided seed of improved varieties either through direct seed distribution (Uganda) or seed fairs and vouchers (DRC).

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



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