



Supporting Seed Systems for Development

S34D Newsletter

July 2023

It's official – Jason Sullivan, S34D's former Director of Operations, has been named S34D's Chief of Party! Jason brings to the position over 25 years of international development work experience in both programming and operations with a focus on complex projects. We are also pleased to welcome Emily Keast, whose 5+ years of agricultural development and USAID project management experience will be instrumental in supporting S34D finance and operations.

Reports & Publications

S34D has several new innovative resources available:

Emergency Seed Interventions, Subsidies & Seed System Development



Based on a review of literature from Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, and Mozambique, this briefing explores the changing nature of seed distribution through emergency interventions and subsidy programs, as well as the impacts of such distributions on the formal seed sector. Alternative emergency seed provisioning mechanisms are highlighted, along with additional recommendations to build seed sector resilience.



Contextual analysis of South Sudan's Seed Sector

This country case study provides a better understanding of the current status of South Sudan's seed sector, from the South Sudanese context and food cropping systems to current seed sector development efforts – and stakeholder's perspectives thereof.

The study provides guidance to humanitarian and development agencies to contribute to resilience building among farmers by proposing ways in which seed systems can provide farmers in fragile states with access to quality seed of appropriate varieties in a timely and affordable manner.

Informal Market and Seed Systems Analysis of the Bean and Cassava Value Chains in Eastern DRC: A Case of North and South Kivu Provinces



In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), various constraints limit the production of beans and cassava, which serve as key food security and income crops for smallholder farmers.

This study, therefore, (1) characterizes the current status and identify constraints limiting development of seed systems in DRC, (2) assesses the role of market pull in enhancing access to customer preferred varieties and information by value chain actors, (3) estimates gross profit margins of informal seed traders, and (4) uses the results to propose appropriate business models for enhancing the capacity of the informal seed system to respond to both farmer demand and emergency seed needs. The report provides recommendations, along with considerations for their operationalization.



Seed Policy Provisions and Operational Challenges in Ethiopia

This study aims to understand why Ethiopian regulatory provisions for seed are not operationalized at scale, are implemented inconsistently, and feature asymmetrical patterns of adherence. Focused on three key regulatory arenas that would push the frontier for seed markets and formalize the informal seed systems in Ethiopia, the report first assesses the levels of operationalization of seed-related regulatory provisions and then identifies reasons behind low levels of implementation. Recommendations on how to reduce implementation barriers are delineated.

Stay safe and be well,

S34D team

“Seeds: that’s where our knowledge, ceremonies, history are.”

— Rebecca Webster

Contact

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