FEED THE FUTURE SUPPORTING SEED SYSTEMS FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

FY19 SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
AUGUST 24, 2018 – MARCH 30, 2019

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ABBREVIATIONS

AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AOR	Agreement Officer's Representative
BFS	Bureau for Food Security
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategies
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CIMMYT	Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo
CoP	Community of Practice
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DiNER	Diversity and Nutrition for Enhanced Resilience
DSD	Direct Seed Distribution
ECR	Emergency, Chronic stress and Resilience
EGS	Early Generation Seed
FAO	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization
FFP	Food for Peace
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
ISSD	Integrated Seed Sector Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEAL	Monitoring and Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems
NFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
OFDA	Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
OI	Opportunity International
PABRA	Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
PSP	Private Service Provider
QDS	Quality Declared Seed
S34D	Supporting Seed Systems for Development
SOW	Scope of Work
SSSA	Seed System Security Assessment
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
TASAI	The African Seed Access Index
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government

Contents

1. Executive Summary

The Feed the Future Global Supporting Seed Systems for Development activity (S34D) is a five-year Leader with Associates Award, funded by Feed the Future initiative through the Bureau of Food Security (BFS) and by USAID through the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is leading this consortium with support from partners that include: Agri Experience, CIAT-PABRA, IFDC, Opportunity International (OI) and Purdue University. S34D's Life of Activity (LOA) runs from August 2018 through August 2023. The overarching goal of S34D is to improve the functioning of national seed sectors in focus countries in an *inclusive* manner—this 'inclusive' approach aims to support all farmers, including women farmers and youth. S34D aims to meet the activity goals by increasing the capacity of the formal and informal seed systems and humanitarian and relief programming to sustainably offer quality, affordable seeds of a range of crops (***Objective 1***), and increasing collaboration and coordination among all seed systems actors and actions (***Objective 2***).

This activity is unique in that the overall strategy proposes to generate a broader view and integration of the seed systems, with **Objective 1** working across formal, informal and emergency seed sectors; and, **Objective 2** placing emphasis on the interactions and synergies among the three systems. This integrated approach is further strengthened by cross-cutting IRs that seek to improve policies and practices that support pluralistic seed systems, rather than focusing on individual parts of each system. An important aspect of the activity is to gain a better understanding about how seed systems interact and where there may be positive or negative market interactions. In the case of detrimental actions, S34D intends to develop interventions to address market distortions.

At the time of writing this semi-annual report, S34D is in its extended start-up phase and the annual work plan is pending approval.

All key personnel were hired and deployed at the beginning of the activity. Five out of the seven sub recipients have a sub recipient agreement fully executed. S34D engaged with missions in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi and obtained concurrence letters from Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi. The clearing process in the Kenya mission is almost completed. S34D also engaged with missions in Ghana and South Sudan.

Meetings were held with New Markets Lab, Corteva, Kazu One, Seed Assure, Seeds2B, Agmark, IITA, to explore engagement and collaboration. S34D participated in AGRA's 10K seed conference in Ghana and The African Seed Access Index dissemination meeting in Lilongwe. S34D attended the AVISA planning meeting in Arusha and developed relationships with BMGF and ISSD.

Agra's strategy and IITA global seed projects were reviewed. As part of the Tanzania seed road map, a desk study was conducted, and a literature data base formulated.

Based on discussions with the USAID Washington, S34D developed a 'light' approach and revised S34D's proposal activities accordingly in the first year. S34D has also reviewed its activities against the work being done by other key actors and aligned the S34D goals and objectives with those actors', such as AGRA's PIATA. The team is in the process of taking a more considered approach to engaging Missions, which aims to support the service nature of the activity to the Missions.

Under **Objective 1, Increased capacity of seed systems to sustainably offer quality affordable seeds and IR 1.1 Constraints in formal seed systems Identified and mitigated,** the formal seed sector, S34D held informal conversations with private sector partner in Kenya and Tanzania to discuss objectives and cooperation with S34D to address barriers to operating efficiency. Learnings from Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa Seed Scaling (DTMASS) were reviewed and organized with a view to support the new activities within the S34D. Lessons learned from last mile delivery options through mobile seed vans and private sector involvement in ATT-Ghana and through mobile carts and local markets in ISSD-Burundi were reviewed. Experiences in agro dealer hubs and micro satellite networks mechanisms in Mozambique and Nigeria were documented for further adaptation for S34D focus countries. Existing agro-dealers data base and training materials were compiled in Kenya and Ghana from AGRA and other partners involved in capacity building initiatives, especially for agrodealer development programs. Collaboration with Kuza One was explored towards plans for selection of

target crop and selection of agents for testing Kuza One approach for last mile agri-preneurs using digital toolkits to manage and expanding customer outreach, points-of-sale data collections from last mile actors with feedback on farmer preferences. Met with Kuza One and other partners at the Disruptive Agriculture Technology meeting with the World Bank to discuss basic plans for piloting a local agent model.

Under **IR 1.2**, **Strengthened capacity of informal seed systems to offer a broader range of affordable, improved quality seeds,** in the informal seed sector, S34D engaged with NARS in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and DRC and ICRISAT, off takers, NGOs, farmer production organizations S34D developed a provisional inventory of formal and informal seed producers in Tanzania and used secondary data to map bean value chain actors in the major (yellow) bean corridors in Tanzania. Several meetings (Skype and WhatsApp) were held with Kirk Trust House Foundation about their interventions in Niger to promote striga resistant/tolerant cowpea seed. Preparations to assess storage and post-harvest management constraints and capacities, bottlenecks for seed providers, options for supporting increased availability of EGS through private sector companies in E&SA and development of Financial Institution (FI) scoping framework are on the way. Furthermore, designs were developed to test bundling of Apron Star (seed dressing chemical, quality of seed and PHT) and a WhatsApp group was established ('Kilimo Bora cha Maharage Tanzania') to bring together different stakeholders (Researchers, farmers, buyers, development organizations, seed traders, grain traders) to share and discuss different issues related to common beans.

Under **IR1.3**, **Strengthened capacity of emergency and humanitarian aid programs to respond effectively to acute and chronic stresses,** Emergency, Chronic Stress and Resilience (ECR), S34D developed a SOW for a cash feasibility analysis linked to seed security interventions and set up a Strategic Think Group with (CRS, FAO, WFP, Mercy Corps, World Vision International, CIAT and IFDC). The learning agenda across countries for DiNERs were reviewed; this includes collection and analysis of existing data from Malawi, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Zambia. Four field instruments were developed for vendors and beneficiaries to address possible outcomes in Production, Income, Nutritional enhancement, Crop and variety diversity.

Under **Objective 2**, I**ncreased coordination and collaboration among all seed system actors and actions,** S34D finalized the Survey CTO instruments and mobile tests were conducted via simulations as part of the development of SSSA field test mobile data collection tool. Formal bibliography completed and annotated. To scope the current formal/private sector links to emergency interventions (range and roles) including financing approaches, a formal bibliography was completed and annotated, and current roles analyzed of both formal seed sector in emergency and formal research sector in emergency. Field instruments to interface seed companies and research institutes are almost completed. As part of a position paper on free seed definition, S34D developed a 7-step approach to address the free seed challenge. Four of the seven steps have been completed.

Under the Cross-cutting IRs, to develop, socialize, and test validity of the seed policy road map in one country, S34D drafted a seed policy road-map template. A SoW was drafted to conduct desk study of the regulatory framework, and implementation evidence of seed policies, policies on possibilities of selling seed in non-seed markets by actors and venues, and counterfeiting issues in seeds. A SoW was finalized to generate a synthesis of the global overview of S34D seed policies and standards by leveraging existing studies, reports, and publications. S34D is building evidence-base linked to S34D policy effects and subsequent implementation practices and results. For this effort a desk study started, and a literature database was formulated. A SoW was finalized, and consultant identified to coordinate with TASAI, EBA, and ASI to develop a synthesis of indicators across the three groups for one sample country.

2. Accomplishments vs targets

Because the FY19 annual work plan and the MEL plan were not approved at the time this report was written, we cannot report accomplishment against set targets.

3. Result Indicators

Because the FY19 annual work plan and the MEL plan were not approved at the time this report was written, we cannot report on result indicators.

4. Summary of accomplishments by Sub IR

CRS activity leadership, award management

Strategy and Outreach Activities	Geography	Progress August 2018 – March 2019
Recruitment	Global	- Operations Director began 12/1/18. - MEAL technical advisor began 2/4/19. - Finance manager began on 4/1/19 at 25% LOE. - Reviewing JDs for Data Analyst and Policy Coordinator for posting. - New COP identified, USAID approval obtained and start date of April 23 confirmed.
Operations	Global	- Conducted in person partner financial assessment visits with CIMMYT, CIAT, IFDC and Opportunity International. - Began work on S34D operations manual, including chapters on staff travel, consultancies, office/administrative procedures and finance.
Sub agreements	Global	- Agreements/contracts signed with Opportunity International, IFDC, Dimagi and AgriExperience. - Contract with Purdue University awaiting signing by Purdue. - CIAT and CIMMYT- held meeting with USAID to discuss their Indirect Cost Rate requests; awaiting internal approval of their ICR and the timeline of activities from CIAT will then be ready for signing. - Held discussions with USAID on two occasions to verify required documentation and PIO engagement.
Finance	Global	- Set up S34D activity expenditure codes for CRS and partners. - Made payments to Opportunity International, IFDC and Dimagi. - Expenditure reports have been compiled, but we have not yet closed March.
Activity website	Global	- Have held two internal meetings to begin working with the team and CRS web unit on potential activity website. - Using Seedsystems.org as an outreach platform as S34D site is being prepared.
Planning meetings	Global	- Held full team planning meeting 10/29/18 in Nairobi. - Submitted the initial YR1 Annual Work Plan on 12/05/18 and revised workplan on 1/28/19. - Meetings also held with AGRA team on 11/2/19 to discuss seed strategies for AGRA, their last mile approaches with Village Based Agents (VBAs) and linkages to other agencies such as Seeds2B.
Mission engagement	Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi,	- **USAID Mission Kenya:** Initial meeting with Senior Program Management Specialist, Policy and Research, Office of Economic Growth and Integration, CRS Country Representative (CR), CRS Agriculture Livelihood Director and former S34D COP on 11/2/19, to discuss S34D. S34D provided AOR with draft language and AOR has sent concurrence form to the Kenya Mission. The concurrence form is pending internal clearance process and signature from the Kenya Mission Director. When concurrence is approved, proposed date for a technical meeting with USAID team in Kenya in **May.**

	Ghana, South Sudan	- **USAID Mission Tanzania**: Initial email correspondence has been supported with meetings with CRS Country Representative (CR), Mission Director and Feed the Future Coordinator. These meetings showed interest and highlighted the importance of understanding the current country context. Concurrence letter signed in April and proposed date for technical meeting with USAID team in Tanzania in **May**. - **USAID Mission Uganda**: Initial meetings held with CRS CR and Agronomist & Program Management Specialist. Letter of concurrence was signed in April. Proposed date for technical meeting with USAID team in Uganda in **May**. - **USAID Mission Malawi:** CRS CR, and Opportunity International met with the Agricultural Productivity Specialist from the Sustainable Economic Growth Team to discuss the S34D strategy. USAID would like a technical visit to learn more about how to engage with S34D. Letter of concurrence was signed in March. S34D team are planning a technical meeting in **May.** - **USAID Mission Ghana:** held meetings with USAID Mission's Senior Ag Advisor and USAID/Ghana Deputy Director of the Economic Growth office. Ghana Mission asked to discuss how S34D's "approaches, capabilities, and interventions" would discriminate us from PIATA's work. CRS is following up with subsequent meetings through offices of CRS CR. - **USAID Mission South Sudan**: Meeting with Director of Office of Economic Growth and Agriculture in the Ronald Reagan Building/DC. Other USAID BFS staff and US OFDA's lead attended for the S34D activity. There are 2.0 million IDP's living in internal camps. USAID/South Sudan team are conducting detailed surveys to inform programming and will continue making large "institutional" seed buys, primarily from suppliers outside of South Sudan.
Partner meetings	Global	- Meetings held with **New Markets Lab** on 12/18/19 to discuss the key seed policy issues around scoping studies and support to seed road map development, Counterfeiting and exploration of seed liberalization approaches through standard seed and QDS. NML is keen to engage and is in discussion with S34D's Monitoring and Evaluation/Learning and Knowledge Manager on possible next steps, once concurrence is approved. - COP attended **AGRA's 10 K Seed Conference** in Ghana, met with full range of partners from private sector, Governments and lead projects. Based on this meeting exploring partnerships with ICRISAT's AVISA project and attended the planning meeting in Tanzania. The S34D team is working on options to establish links with AGRA and to pursue Mission engagement approaches in Non-AGRA countries as well. - Meeting with **Corteva** on 11/9/18. - Held meetings with **Kuza One** in CRS HQ to discuss possible methods for testing local agent models in Kenya in year 1 as one of the first New Business models to support last mile delivery systems. This work will link with the formal and informal seed sectors. CRS as part of its scaling strategy and outside of the S34D activity has signed an NDA with KUZA where we can share information on costs and structures for a deployment model. This information will be reused for S34D approaches on concurrence. - Meetings with **Seed Assure** to discuss possible options for engagement. The area of digital seed support options will require meetings with Certifiers and private sector. This meeting was to open the discussions, this likely to be a scoping survey for the team in the region, to learn how **TradeMark** is engaged with the various certifiers in Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania. S34D is keen to support this approach as is appropriate and is supported by private sector and Governments. - Meeting with **Seeds2B Syngenta Foundation** to explore last mile seed delivery options. Set up meetings with Richard Berlin to possible pilots in Kenya to test village agent models. Will also link with AGRA to gain insights into opportunities for closer collaboration

Formal Seed System

Planned Activities	Geography	Progress
IR1.1 Identified and mitigates constraints in formal seed systems to offer a broad range of crops, high quality seed, and seed business options		
IR 1.1.1 Increase operational efficiency of seed companies		
A. Address barriers to operating efficiency with selected seed companies to improve their resilience, and production and management efficiency, in producing of quality seed for a broad range of climate smart varieties and crops, including legumes and other high-nutrition crops within the target trade corridor.	Ke, Tz	Workplan has been adjusted to new budget. Geographies for activities for Y1 will be Kenya and Tanzania. Informal conversations with private sector partners have been held to discuss objectives and cooperation going forward. The seed companies will include a range of firms that CIMMYT has worked with in the past and new seed firms. Information from DTMASS is being reviewed organized with a view to taking the learnings from this activity to support the new activities within the S34D activity.
B. Explore new financing options to enable seed firms to expand their access and use of financial service providers (FSPs) to promote greater investment in seed production and sales	Ke, Tz, Ug, Mw	No progress
IR 1.1.2 Increase seed availability for climate smart crops through enhancing EGS capacities		
A. Review and validate options for supporting increased availability of EGS through private sector companies in E&SA	Ke, Tz, Ug, Mw	No progress
IR 1.1.3 Strengthen capacity of local seed actors to extend customer base and support last mile		
A. Co-create last mile delivery strategies / business models to include linkages between agro-dealers and other / new last mile actors (e.g., Tulaa, KUZA and local agripreneurs, kiosks), leveraging existing knowledge and assessments and integrating digital technologies to support market development and scaling.	Ke, Tz, Ug, Mw, Ghana	- Desk top research initiated on documenting IFDC's on-going last mile intervention processes and lessons learned from last mile delivery options through mobile seed vans and private sector involvement in ATT-Ghana and using mobile carts and local markets using small packs in ISSD-Burundi; and experiences in agro dealer hubs and micro satellite networks mechanisms in Mozambique and Nigeria are being documented for further adaptation purposes in S34D focus counties. - Information on existing agro-dealers data base and training materials compiled in Kenya and Ghana and other countries from AGRA and other partners involved in capacity building initiatives, especially for agrodealer development programs. Consultations held with IFDC's on-going activity leads in Uganda and Kenya for a possible leverage on strengthening last mile options for seed delivery mechanisms in potato, rice, sorghum and cassava systems. - Liaised with CRS on Seed BASICS project, which is exploring ways of developing last mile village level agripreneurs to sell certified and or clean cassava stems to the farming community. - Preliminary consultations held with Kuza – Kenya to collaborate towards plans for selection of target crop and selection of agents for testing Kuza One approach for last mile agri-preneurs using digital toolkits to manage and expanding customer outreach, points-of-sale data collections from last mile actors with feedback on farmer preferences etc.

		- Met with Kuza One and other partners at the Disruptive Agriculture Technology meeting with World Bank and others to discuss basic plans for piloting a local agent model. Need to have further discussions to establish target crops, geography and partners.
Preparations for scoping analysis in Niger	Niger	No progress
IR1.1.4 Prototype sustainable models with private sector players to supply quality EGS and QDS to a range of suppliers and scale using innovative financing		
A. Prototype scalable next and last mile options to expand seeds of climate-smart varieties, EGS, QDS and others: marketing promotion for new varieties for Agri-preneurs to compliment IR 1.1.3.	Ke, Ug	No progress
IR2.1.1 Assess local capacity and local seed network to develop strategies to interface, collaborate, and leverage		
A. Link Formal and Informal Sectors to understand EGS demand needs	Ke, Tz, Ug, Mw	No progress
Seed Distributor Stakeholder Mapping of actors in the value chain for delivery of climate resilient / maize-non-maize delivery options	Mw, Ug	Draft stakeholder analysis completed in Uganda and initial conversations with Malawi distributors underway.
CCIR1.2 - Develop and implement practices to expand / liberalize seed quality possibilities; expand market outlets/venue; address counterfeit seed issues; restrict free seed distribution		
A. Facilitate implementation of standard seed	Kenya	No progress. The new seed regulations allow for a standard seed class in Kenya. However, no implementation has taken place since the passing of the regulations in December 2016. Standard seed requires formal consultations between KEPHIS, the seed industry and Mission etc., towards proper implementation, which can be done on getting the concurrence.
CCIR 2.3 Enabling last mile markets for new and quality-assured seed varieties by developing, prototyping, adapting, and scaling feed-forward and feedback mechanisms that loop farmers' preferences, and provide information on new varieties and quality assured seed		
Pilot SMS-based farmer feedback loop on seed quality ("Stop Bad Seed")	TZ	Developed proof of concept from their implementation in Kenya. Tanzania regulator – TOSCI is interested with the implementation year 2 onwards. Upon concurrence – formalize implementation protocol with TOSCI and other relevant stakeholders (seed traders/firms association etc.)

Informal Seed Systems

Planned Activities	Geography	Progress
IR1.2 - Strengthened capacity of informal seed systems to offer improved quality seeds		
IR 1.2.1 - Assess informal trader capacity and local seed networks		
A1. Characterize legume (beans and groundnut) input and output (seed and grain) market (sellers and buyers).	TZ (Southern Highlands), UG (SW, Central and Eastern), KE, ML, DRC, RWA, BUR	Engaged (electronically / virtually) with research organizations (NARS in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and DRC, ICRISAT), off takers, NGOs, farmer production organizations involved in bean and ground nuts value chains. Initiation of the design of the field analysis tools. Engaged with the leadership and partners of the BGMF supported AVISA project (at its launch in Arusha) to explore potential partnership and collaboration with S34D.
A2. Identify key seed producers / actors of integrated chain (of informal, QDS, seed companies etc.) and assess explicit linkages for their interactions	TZ, UG	Developed a provisional inventory of formal and informal seed producers in Tanzania. Using secondary data, mapped bean value chain actors (facilitating organization, off takers, seed producers) in the major bean corridors in Tanzania particularly the yellow bean corridor.
A3. Assess storage and post-harvest management constraints and capacities.	UG	Engaged with PABRA (via WhatsApp and Skype calls) to discuss the implementation of the survey in East Africa. Discussion included partnering with existing PABRA enumerators to collect data in Uganda. Purdue has been working on developing a questionnaire for the survey in Uganda that will be share with partners for inputs. Held several meetings (Skype and WhatsApp) with Kirk Trust House Foundation about their interventions in Niger to promote striga resistant/tolerant cowpea seed
A4. Conduct scoping studies to identify financial bottlenecks for seed and PH technology providers.	UG, MW	Development of scoping framework and comparison metrics. Mapping underway for Ug and initial conversations with Mw distributors underway.
A5. Scope options for supporting increased availability of EGS through private sector companies in E&SA	MW, UG	Development of Financial Institution (FI) scoping framework underway, and initial FI inventory scan underway for Mw and Ug.
IR 1.2.2 - Strengthen capacity of local seed entrepreneurs and non-traditional seed actors		
Link the PH technology distributors/vendors to the PH suppliers and seed traders	TZ	No progress
Promote seed enterprises (an integrated set) to establish marketing demos and market the seed along with PH technologies. (i.e. Bundling)	UG, KE	Through secondary data (report and phone calls) profiling of bean producers and linkages with off takers were established in Uganda in partnership with Mastercard, NARO, CEDO and farmers organizations

IR 1.2.3 - Validate business models to leverage integrated operations with formal enterprises		
Assess quality parameters of various seed grades from various categories of seed producers.	TZ, UG, KE	No progress
Model: 1a (Bundling technologies) technology Test bundled distribution of quality seed + PHT + seed dressing in the TAZAMA corridor and Uganda corridor. Bundling different technologies.	UG in year 1, TZ in year 2	Designs were developed to test bundling of Apron Star (seed dressing chemical, quality of seed and PHT) A representative expected to participate at a DNA fingerprinting meeting/training (Ethiopia) to assess quality of seed and planting materials (genetic purity).
Model 2: Explore private sector farmer cooperative business model for seed production, delivery, and links to off-takers in Uganda corridor.	UG	No progress
Model 1b (Bundling seeds of different crops) : Test bundled cross crop sale and delivery. Bundle of different seeds.	KE	No progress
Model 3 : Facilitate linkages of existing and newly identified seed producers and suppliers (seed companies, QDS and traders) to grain off-takers through platform forums in TAZAMA corridor.	TZ	Through phone calls, report review, chatting, the identification of seed producers and other facilitating organizations were linked to the source of foundation seed (e.g. Bayda Agro Vet, RECODA, NAFAKA, ACT, Est Africa Seed, World Vision etc.). Introduce off takers to buyers/exporters (G2L). WhatsApp group established ('Kilimo Bora cha Maharage Tanzania') to bring together different stakeholders (Researchers, farmers, buyers, development organizations, seed traders, grain traders) to share and discuss different issues related to common beans. Improved bean varieties popularization through social media (Facebook, Twitter).
Model 4: Explore non-seed distribution and sale niches and climate smart/resilient varieties	KE	No progress
IR 1.2.4 - Strengthen last mile delivery solutions through non-traditional partners and ICT		
Pilot ICT feedback mechanism from farmers and seed value chain actors (market size, customers' base, preferred pack size, which information is relevant).	KE	No progress
Develop demand-aggregator application to aggregate demand for PH tech and seed (i.e. all key seed actors in corridors) in Uganda bean corridors	Uganda	No progress

IR 2.1 - Strengthened interface and collaboration between formal and informal seed systems		
IR 2.1.2 - Catalyze / support crop and seed platforms that link formal/informal		
Catalyze bean and seed platforms to systematically link formal and informal seed systems in Uganda cooperative model/corridor.	UG	No progress
IR 2.1.3 - Leverage and link Formal Sector suppliers and NARs / breeders with local farming communities and professionalized informal seed sellers		
Explore non-seed distribution and sale niches and climate smart/resilient varieties	KE, TZ	No progress

Emergency, Chronic Stress and Resilience (ECR)

Planned Activities	Geography	Progress
IR 1.3 Strengthened capacity of emergency and humanitarian aid programs to respond effectively to acute and chronic stresses		
IR 1.3.1 Assess select emergency and humanitarian past actions: focus on farmer evaluation, new varieties, and markets (local and formal)		
Develop new template to insert in all Feed the Future programs- focus on new varieties and market distortion monitoring and evaluation.	Global analysis	No progress
Cash feasibility analysis linked to seed security interventions.	Global analysis, (but done remotely) CRS/HRD (Humanitarian Group)	Initial SOW developed. Strategic Think Group Catalyzed (CRS, FAO, WFP. Mercy Corps, World Vision International, CIAT, IFDC and consultant screened.
Review of Diners and Cash systems -- Guatemala (CRS' version of livelihood and nutrition fairs).	Guatemala and exploratory work being conducted on similar learning topic in Nicaragua	First instruments completed (cash focus). Note that discussions are unfolding to include at same time learning activity with DiNERS in Nicaragua (cash focus).
Review learning agenda across countries for DiNERs (CRS version of Livelihood and Nutrition fairs).	Field Insights: Malawi, Madagascar, Zimbabwe Secondary data insights from: Lesotho Zambia	Existing data from all five sites collected, analyzed and put in single Excel table. Includes vendors and beneficiary feedback and processes. Field instruments developed for Vendors and Beneficiaries to address possible outcomes in: *Production, Income, Nutritional enhancement, Crop and variety diversity.* 4 instruments near completion (2 individual questionnaires, 2 focus groups. Field plan and logistics for each of the three countries very advanced.

IR 2.2 Strengthened interface and collaboration between development and relief to resilient and market-based seed systems		
IR 2.2.1 Adapt and scale-up Seed System Security Assessments in Feed the Future Crisis Hotspot areas (focus on formal, semi-formal and informal seed systems)		
SSSAs on demand, # possibly Northern Uganda, NE Nigeria (remote support elsewhere)	In-country (e.g. Nigeria, Uganda) Sites to be verified 'on demand' in real time	No progress
SSSA Field test mobile data collection tool development. SSSA real-time data backstopping, cleaning data sets, remote support	Field sites: Kenya first test. Then tied to location of SSSAs. Data analysis office-based	First cut Survey CTO instruments finalized. Mobile tests conducted via Simulations (with colleagues and Relatives N=8)
SeedSystem website facilitation, maintenance, upgrading and blogging.	Global	Blogging themes focusing on: *Last Mile Beans- Mobile selling* (6 Sept), *How ICT can bridge Formal, Informal and Emergency Seed Sectors* (15 Oct), What does the data revolution mean for seed (14 Nov), *Experience of farmers in adoption production and use of QDS in Uganda (20 Jan),* QDS seed: a vigorous conversation among experts (7 March). On Facebook, site had a user reach of 319,502 (end of Dec 2018).
Develop joint Humanitarian standards (FAO/others) for what constitutes evidenced-based SSSAs	Globally through consultation, Consult visits to Rome and Washington DC	No progress
Strategic high-level awareness-raising in International Community on SSSA- and seed security-related issues. Includes Free Seed discussions	Global	No progress
IR 2.2.2 Develop and promote emergency and humanitarian responses that link relief to development, especially links to private sector and formal and biodiverse suppliers		
Scoping of current formal/private sector links to emergency interventions (range and roles) including financing approaches.	Globally, 4 core countries (Ke, Tz, Mw, Ug) and high stress (DRC, Nigeria)	Formal bibliography completed and annotated. Current roles analyzed of both Formal Seed Sector in emergency and Formal Research Sector in Emergency. Sketches of field instruments to interface Seed Companies and Research Institutes well advanced (note: need to share drafts with BFS/OFDA).
Review of types of current market approaches support to local markets linked to seed security (humanitarian and development).	Global, core countries, high-stress subset	Have linked the two—to ensure integration of market support analysis (demand and supply) and Cash-specific beneficiary approaches.
Original research on informal markets and seed/grain traders in high-stress spots.	Possibly: N Uganda, Northern Nigeria, Kivu, Kasai, linked to SSSAs	No progress
Review of types of current market approaches support to local markets linked to seed security (humanitarian and development).	Global, core countries, high-stress subset	No progress

IR 2.2.3 Leverage emergency and development seed programs to capture market opportunities from supply side to support vulnerable farmers in less prime market areas.		
CCIR1.2.4 Position paper on free seed definition and scope of inquiry	Global	Four of the seven steps have been completed: #3. Exploration of alternative strategy- Cash- linked to seed #4. Evaluations of Non-free seed strategy, DiNERS #5. Private sector and Seed aid review- positive/negative best practices for moving forward #7. Development and promotion of International Humanitarian Standards specifically liked to SSSA.

Policies, Practices and Implementation for Pluralistic Seed Systems

Planned Activities	Geography	Progress
CCIR1.1 - Develop country specific seed policy road maps		
Develop and deploy a seed policy road-map template to populate and arrive at seed policy road-maps.	Global	Draft developed; socialized with S34D technical leads; comments incorporated
Landscape of core seed policy partners, advisors, and institutions who are aligned and working on S34D policy areas.	Global	Desk studies initiated, scope is included as part of the Tanzania seed road map, AGRA's seed system strategy is reviewed and IITA global seed projects list is reviewed.
Develop, socialize, and test validity of the seed policy road map in 1 country.	Tanzania	Scope of work is drafted and finalized in consultation with S34D technical team, outreach ongoing to solicit input for appropriate consultancy / in-country institute and literature database for Tanzania is formulated as a desk-based activity
Generate a synthesis of the global overview of S34D seed policies and standards by leveraging existing studies, reports, and publications.	Global	Scope of work is finalized in consultation with S34D technical leads; outreach for potential consultants is ongoing
Conduct in-country meetings to collect feedback on the road-map contents developed under activity 1.1.3	Tanzania	No progress
CCIR1.2 - Develop and implement practices to expand / liberalize seed quality possibilities; expand market outlets/venue; address counterfeit seed issues; restrict free seed distribution		
Facilitate implementation of standard seed.	Kenya	No progress
Understand policy contexts and build evidence-base to expand market outlets and venues, as well as, expand / liberalize seed quality measures.	Corridor; Global	Skype dialogues with CIAT/PABRA initiated; a set of initial questions for the study identified
First draft a 2-pager on free seed definition and scope of inquiry.	Global	No progress

Conduct program visits to key "donor" and institutional nodes to raise awareness of issues related to free seed distribution.	Global	No progress
Build evidence-base linked to S34D policy effects and subsequent implementation practices and results.	Global	Initiated as part of desk-based study and literature database is being formulated.
CCIR1.3 - Strengthen linkages and coordination of seed development efforts through consolidation of data and evidence		
Coordinate with TASAI, EBA, and ASI to develop a synthesis of indicators across the three groups for one sample country.	Global	Scope of work is finalized, consultant identified and desktop research as input for the Consultant is completed;
Conduct a workshop to socialize and present findings.	Global	Outreached to BMGF who has shown interest in attending the workshop if schedule permits

ICT Activities

Planned Activities	Geography	Progress
CCIR-2.2 Develop tools, technologies to capture quality information about seed supply in a geo-referenced manner		
Develop and roll out demand aggregator application to aggregate demand for PH tech and seed (cooperative & corridors).	Uganda	Skype call with Dimagi and PABRA initiated to identify and define user needs, parameters etc.
CCIR-2.3 Enabling last mile markets for new and quality-assured seed varieties by developing, piloting, adapting, and scaling feed-forward and feedback mechanisms that loop farmers' preferences, as well as, provide information on new varieties and quality assured seed		
Develop and deploy a comprehensive MLE (Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation) to monitor the use of small packs Desk review and field visit/surveys, followed by testing the innovation at small scale.	Kenya	Skype calls with PABRA and CRS continuing to define user needs and other parameters before going to the field.
Pilot SMS-based farmer feedback loop on seed quality ("Stop Bad Seed")	Tanzania	No progress
Develop last mile delivery strategy to include agro-dealers and other last mile actors (Tulaa-types and agripreneurs, kiosks), leveraging existing knowledge and assessments	Kenya	Held several meetings with Kuza to discuss how to develop and or replicate a last mile seed systems agriprenuer strategy. This work is linked to FORMAL systems last mile seed systems.

5. Lessons learned

Without the approved FY19 annual work plan and the MEL plan, we cannot report on the learning at this time.

6. Problems and Solutions

a. The previous Chief of Party resigned in December and left the S34D activity in February. The new Chief of Party started in April. The transition slowed down the revision of the AWP, addressing questions raised by USAID and engagement with the missions.

b. The US Government shut down, let to a period of time when the S34D were developing activities that may have been too project oriented, compared with the USAID team's desire to have more flexibility in the approach to respond to Mission led requests and create more of a service approach to the design. Once the USAID teams and S34D were able to reconnect, there was a need to reconcile the approach and adjust across the various team.

c. The concurrence process has taken longer than expected and required the team to place much greater emphasis on developing a mission engagement strategy.

d. CRS worked diligently with consortium partners on having full signed sub recipient agreements in place since the signing of the Award. Five sub recipient agreements have been fully executed and the sub recipient agreements with CIAT and CIMMYT have not been fully executed yet.

7. Planned activities for next period

Formal seed sector
1. Complete Report on Firm level needs assessment towards improving Operational Efficiency of seed firms completed including existing digital tools in use by firms;
2. Complete Identification of firms – beyond maize with wider portfolio for coaching on territorial marketing aspects;
3. Produce a feasible fee-based approach model of capacity building to improve the OE of seed firms;
4. Inventory of financial services needs of the seed firms across all focus countries and crop;
5. Detailed landscaping report on EGS needs/constraints in target countries;
6. Detailed landscaping report on last mile models of delivery and approaches in the focus countries;
7. Coaching materials prepared for 're-tooling' agro dealer capacities and identification of firms;
8. Coaching materials on financial needs for agro dealers- re-tooling training program prepared.
9. Detailed land scaping report prepared with feasible options on the co-creating new business models of last mile delivery for crops beyond maize in the focus countries prepared along with existing or on-going seed delivery mechanisms;
10. Stakeholder consultations with regulators, Government and seed firms and associations initiated;
11. Training plan for seed inspection to new standard seed procedures established;
12. Consultation with regulators on protocols for standard system established;
13. Consultations with TOSCI and government entities for piloting of the proposed campaign along with timelines and delivery established;
14. Negotiate or agreement with mobile firms on the proposed system;
15. Designing, customizing the tool for delivery initiated based on stakeholder consultations.

Informal Seed Sector
1. Characterize the legume (beans and groundnut) input (seed / PHT) and output (grain) markets;
2. Conduct yellow bean study in regional bean corridors to assess market-led technology diffusion, and draw associated policy implications;
3. Using existing reports and consultations with stakeholders, construct baseline scenarios to design and plan interventions, linkages with formal and ECR systems;
4. Organize facilitations, workshops, and stakeholder meetings to design interventions for the seed business models (farmer cooperative model; niche model; bundling models, corridor linkage model). Develop business plans for deployment in year;
5. Assess seed quality parameters of various seed grades using DNA Fingerprinting – that is, develop variety reference library;
6. Explore traditional (formal) and non-traditional seed market avenues to accelerate dissemination of high-iron (biofortified) beans – develop a business plan for deployment in year 2;
7. Design ICT tools / applications to aid seed-business models' implementation (customer profiling, customer feedback etc.).

Emergency seed sector
1. S34D is conducting an SSSA in Niger, and we will be working with the country team in Niger to explore next steps. The findings from this work will be reported back to the USAID Mission with a view to developing both activities to by supported through the core award and the team will discuss interest of the Mission to co-invest with local award options;
2. S34D is seeking funding through our networks to support an analysis and follow on activities in the ASAL region of Kenya, where rains have been much delayed. This work will have implications for the S34D and the team will be seeking ways to support these activities;
3. Following Cycline Idai, CRS is working on an analysis of community needs. As soon as is practical CRS will be working on SSSA's to assess key needs particularly for seeds;
4. These activities are all in addition to the SSSA's planned by the S34D team in Northern Uganda to support the Sudanese refugees and the work planned for Northern Nigeria.

ICT

1. Prepare and develop materials for demand aggregator application tool for PABRA's farmer cooperative business model in central Uganda;
2. Prepare and develop materials for PoS application tool for PABRA's niche-market business model in Kenya;
3. Prepare for the pilot on SMS-based farmer feedback (stop bad seed) in Malawi.

Policy:
1. Conduct seed road map study in Tanzania and socialize findings;
2. Conduct global review of seed policies and practices and socialize findings;
3. Facilitate implementation of standard seeds with KEPHIS in Kenya;
4. Construct and share two-pager on free-seed distribution;
5. Conduct visits to raise awareness about limiting free-seed distribution to critical needs;
6. Produce a report on seed indices coordination across TASAI, EBA and ASI. Desktop study to show alignment. Disseminate study findings at a workshop with USAID and BMGF.

8. Annexes

Annex A. Elaborating on light touch, menu of services, corridor and delivery approach.

The activity consortium partners are seeking to operate with a clear scaling approach from the outset and we plan to start our work within the bean / legume trade corridors in East and cow pea trade corridor West Africa that link several countries. This geographic strategy will support the Feed the Future trade corridor approach, that is promoting a wider basket of crops within specific agro-zones in target countries. Where possible, the corridor approach will be replicated in Asia and Latin America, where the intervention packages can support the combined formal, informal and chronic stress systems.

The formal operations will initially focus on ways to improve the efficiency of EGS and strengthen links between seed companies and agro-dealers and finding ways to bundle services to farmers. As part of our informal approach, we aim to build our consortium and partnerships to increase access to a broader list of quality seed, within new business models that will generate impact in distinct ways:
1) cooperative-mediated seed model, 2) private sector-led corridor model, 3) leveraged-seed and non-seed kiosk model, 4) bundled food/cover crop model, and 5) niche-outlet models that support the vulnerable. In the emergency-to-relief seed system, the team will develop global tools and methods to support chronic and hotspot areas. We will strengthen humanitarian response to promote positive climate resilience, expand explicit private sector opportunities, the use of cash and vouchers and enhance gender-based opportunities. Details for how we will achieve gains through these approaches are provided in the activity tables below.

This SAR highlights a series of shifts in strategy and activities to align with points shared by USAID on February 11 in response to the Annual Work Plan, submitted on December 5, 2018, and follow up discussions held with BFS and OFDA and the S34D team on February 15, 2019.

The February meeting highlighted several issues raised by the Washington team, requesting more clarifications on the following issues:

1. Light touch interventions with an emphasis on Mission service delivery
2. The "corridor approach" which allows for integration across all sectors;
3. A more complete description of how we will achieve a working integration between the sectors;
4. Core Funds versus longer-termed interventions in the four targeted East African countries, and on-going expansion into new countries in out-years, and;
5. "Mission Engagement" and how we can both work in targeted countries and yet be responsive to other Missions' request for seed sector work.

In the following paragraphs, the report elaborates on the point shared and issues raised by USAID.

Shift to a "Light touch"

The S34D activity is designed to provide seed systems services to support Feed the Future target countries and other countries, including emergency locations. Since February 2019, S34D has focused on developing a "light touch" approach in terms of planned interventions, in the initial target countries. The plan being to seek Mission concurrence and then enter detailed discussions with the missions to determine how to align with ongoing work.

As of the date of this report, The S34D activity has obtained concurrence from Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi and is in the process of obtaining concurrence from Kenya. After concurrence, S34D plans to begin implementation with a series of scoping exercises to validate partners, identify critical challenges and gaps and to identify specific seed services to the Missions. These services will be based on the original 15 intervention areas outlined in the NOFO with adjustments to account for specific contextual situations by country. This learning process would then offer ways of developing a more rounded implementation plan. As the team builds rapport with the Mission teams and their projects, S34D plans to implement a limited number of core funded

activities and develop additional work through potential buy-ins to the leader award. As the work progresses in-country, there may also be opportunities to discuss associate awards.

The Emergency, Chronic and Resilience (ECR) activities will operate in a slightly different mode, as this work has a more direct route to approval for work, directly between OFDA and the Missions. The activities in this case will be based on a scoping / SSSA study. This means that ECR work may proceed more quickly. Central and Mission buy-ins to the leader award could support key services to upgrade the seed systems within target countries by supporting the following types of activities. S34D will work on efforts that are **directly (D) delivery of a service** as well as efforts that are **facilitating (F) and providing the groundworks**. Although maybe not very accurate and a potential for both to be happening, an attempt to distinguish between facilitation and direct service delivery is made in below list:

Menu of services
Key services to upgrade the **formal system** include:
- (F, D) characterizing and profiling formal seed systems actors and customers,
- (F) working on a process/model/protype to sustainably improve market forecasting and cost estimation;
- (F) supporting seed production logistics to broaden crop portfolio,
- (F) develop new market strategies with firms to extend market frontiers for seed,
- (F) new financing models to support seed inventory,
- farmer buying options,
- (D) Direct service provision of DNA fingerprinting to assess genetic purity of seeds and planting materials,
- (D) research on farmer adoption of new varieties and constraints to adoption,
- (F) harmonize seed systems to facilitate regional seed harmonization protocols, and;
- (F, D) last mile seed business models to support marginalized communities.

Key services to upgrade the **informal system** include:
- (F, D) developing new business models that accelerate production and delivery of higher quality seed QDS;
- (F, D) link Seed producer organizations to agro-dealer networks;
- (F) exploring options for standard seed (non-hybrid crops);
- (D, F) developing new market strategies with informal actors to open new sales points and push out market frontiers;
- (F, D) develop sustainable last mile seed business models to support highly vulnerable communities.

Key services to upgrade the **Emergency Seed System** include:
- (D) emergency Seed System Security Assessments (SSSA) to identify seed constraints and best response interventions;
- (D) develop tools to determine the effect of market-based humanitarian seed interventions to create linkages between buyers and sellers;
- (D)find effective ways to enable vulnerable farmers to test improved varieties, and track quantities and movement of seeds, such as micro-packs;
- (F, D) develop sustainable last mile seed business models and distribution networks to support highly vulnerable communities;
- (F, D) analyse cash versus Vouchers and practices for implementation.

Key services to seed **policy services** to meet Missions needs include:
- (F) Support to Government Seed road maps where they do not exist to identify gaps and needs;
- (F) Generate evidence to influence national decision making and facilitate discussions on issues like private sector certifications, counterfeiting, free seed distribution; different aspects of seed quality measures;
- (F) Focus on seed policies and standards that allow for greater liberalization in seed markets;
- (F) Barrier analysis to adoption of seed for new varieties;

- (F) Raise global awareness to limit free seed distribution to critical needs;
- (F) Support measures to stop practices such as marketing counterfeit seeds;
- (F) Coordination of seed indices - e.g., Enabling the Business of Agriculture (EBA), The African Seed Access Index (TASAI), Access to Seeds to benchmark and improve its seed system.
- (F) Enabling seed policy through open digitized information, and enhanced information flows about customer profiles and technology adoption at last miles.

Key services to the **interfaces** include:
- (D) Expanded seed systems analysis to identify critical constraints and opportunities between formal and informal sectors;
- (F) Support institutional and public policy through digitized public information;
- (F) Develop ways to gather information on seed requirements across systems, to support improved market forecasting and avoid market distortions;
- (D) Strengthen interface and collaboration between development and relief to resilient seed systems;
- (D) Develop and promote emergency and humanitarian responses that link relief to development;
- (F, F) Test new business models that support improved flow of quality seed across seed systems.

Working in Trade Corridors

The S34D team is keen to explore both national and regional seed systems, given that seed and crop markets are not bound by national borders. Our approach aims to build on inter- and intra-country-specific investment portfolios to reach greater numbers of men and women farmers. This work will build on existing gains in formal systems, forge stronger links to informal market channels and find ways to enable informal actors to offer a broader portfolio of quality seed. Our initial analysis proposes a trade corridor focus in East and West Africa (*Figure 1*) with more specific investments in Asia and Latin America. The East Africa corridor will support Ethiopia, **Kenya**, **Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi**, Zambia and Mozambique. The West Africa corridor will focus on Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso, **Niger** and **Senegal,** with the target countries being **Nepal** in Asia and **Guatemala** in Latin America. Bolded countries will receive early priority. Country engagement justification is elaborated on under Mission engagement below.

Figure 1: Corridor approach, Source Authors
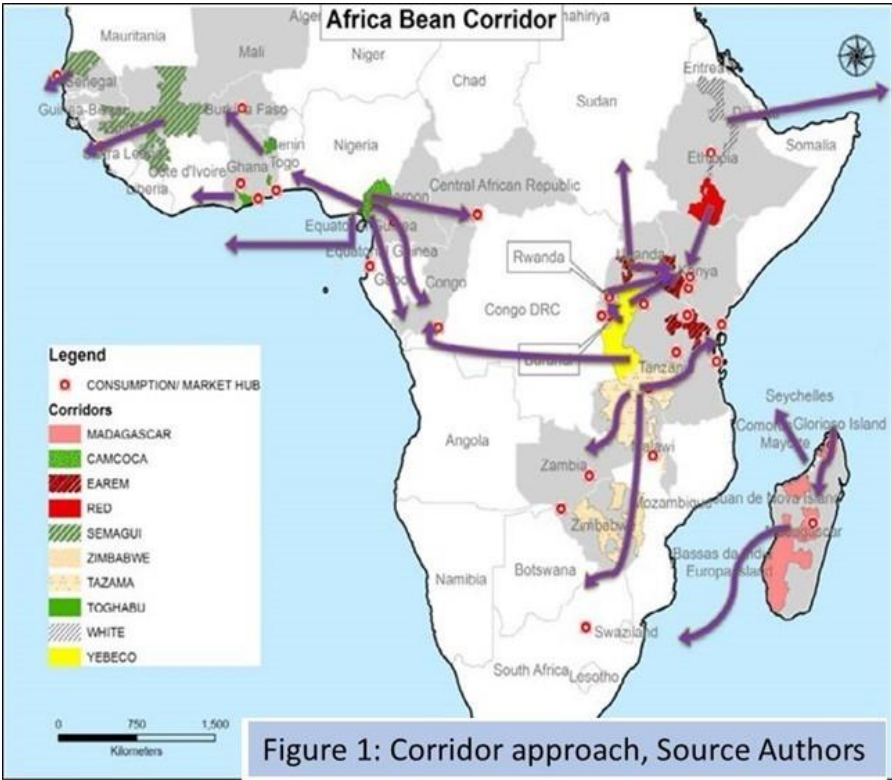
The corridor approach provides the S34D team with opportunities to pilot and scale proven models across agro-ecologies and explore opportunities to support trade between countries. The trade corridor thinking is being used increasingly by FEED THE FUTURE at both the country and regional levels, given the recognition that farmers and farming working in specific geographic locations, must grow and sell a range of crops, as part of their livelihood strategies, and we aim to support that farm level – market shed approach. Positive spill-over effects will be examined in our gender inclusive learning agenda for replication by other implementing partners. The S34D team will continue to

work on target countries based on discussions with USAID Missions and partners. The team recognizes that the success of the program is based on support through the Missions and working on issues that affect more than one country. Cross border trade is particularly important in the seed sector, as this allows for greater regional efficiency, in terms of certification and perhaps more importantly, regional trade agreements for seed, provides the basis greater phyto-security.

Sectoral integration description

The activity was designed to explore better links among the three types of seed systems, to provide opportunities for co-investment leading to greater seed access and to avoid negative market disruption.

S34D looks at the interfaces among systems (formal, informal, emergency), but also to push each system to reach wider—to more crops, more geographies, a greater range of clientele—and a broader set of seed system goals; towards resilience and nutrition as well as enhanced production and income generation.

Several basic observations on the interfaces might be warranted.

1. *Each thrust (formal, informal and emergency) crossing is encompassing multiple systems;*
2. *Specific and deliberate activities have been programmed across thrusts, even for year 1;*
3. *The ECR and Policy components span all systems—at their core.*

1. *Each thrust in itself (formal, informal, emergency) crossing is encompassing multiple systems.*

For ease of presentation, and clarity of activity plan per partner, the thrusts are listed as distinct sections in the activity text and in accompanying workplan tables. The reality is quite different. The "formal sector' workplan moves well beyond strictly formal, on both the production and delivery sides. For instance, catalyzing quality declared seed systems is central as is delivery (sale) through normal kiosk stores, via mobile satellite vans, and through rural based agents (CRS-PSPs, Kuza One) whose base is the community, not formal sector supply. The strictly classic formal sector work in the 'formal thrust' is housed in 1.1.1 on strengthening operational efficiency of seed companies. Yet, even here, the seed company training will cross-cut the 'informal thrust'- in that it will also focus on a range of legumes (which are nominally housed in the Informal/integrated work). Similarly, what is labeled the informal thrust, encompasses significant activities of formal sector systems: broadening supply of certified seed production, sale in agro-dealer shops, and stimulating formal distributor networks—to sell high quality legumes to a greater range of customers (including the malnourished.) So S34D current formal/informal trusts already cross boundaries and are as much characterized by crop type as by seed system type.

2. *Specific and deliberate activities have been programmed across thrusts, even for year 1.*

There are a range of specific activities which are programmed deliberately to be integrating, even in year 1. Some of those activities are:

- Operational efficiency training of seed companies—across crops;
- Characterizing, the corridors, with focus first on beans and groundnut;
- Forecasting seed supply - formal, QDS, informal;
- Testing bundled options - currently housed in 'informal thrust;
- Using varied ICT to get customer feedback;
- Developing, promotion demand aggregator tools;
- Platform building, e.g. first in Uganda and Tanzania and including with a farmer cooperative focus.

3. *The ECR and Policy components at their core span all systems.*

The ECR work draws on both formal and informal to achieve the impacts aspired Year 1, explicit and novel formal sector ties are analyzing and setting guides with the formal sector in emergency seed relief both seed companies and public research sector; looking at cash options in emergency, especially on the supply side; evaluating emergency response options which tie directly to private sector providers (e.g. DiNERS). The major informal-linked sector focus for year 1, is on the seed/grain traders (also in informal sector workplan), synthesizing what we do know (8+ countries) and then practically exploring how they operate in the S34D foci corridors.

The *S34 policy work* has two distinct thrusts, both grounded and practical. One of its cores aims to push the formal sector boundaries towards more integrated systems liberalizing quality and open seed marketing venues and seed marketing agents, cross-cutting, formal, informal and emergency. The other two themes are more formal sector based: stopping counterfeiting of maize and legumes and other crops, so straddling S34D formal/informal thrusts, and halting/ finetuning free seed, which is at the heart of emergency, but also more developmental work. S34D's work is internally integrated in each thrust or programmed directly across thrusts.

Core Funds, longer-termed interventions, and on-going expansion

In the first year, the S34D team plans to establish a series of activities in target countries where we can leverage ongoing work by partners, and where there is intensive work on seed systems by USAID Missions, Other donor based project partners, private sector and governments. The learning from these initial activities in a "live lab" will help the team to learn more about promising new tools and methods and enable the team to work with seed agents to test new business models, exploring options with partners in Government, other projects and private sector. The learnings from these activities, which may run for two to three seasons will offer lessons and results that can be shared globally and integrated into other activities with other Missions. The team feels that having a limited number of longer-term activities in a specific corridor, alongside, Mission initiated services, will help to support regional learning and identify methods that will have global application.

Examples of initial activities that lead to longer term sustainability

The planned activities include several examples where the team will test a promising new approach and build on the lessons learned. Examples include (i) developing new marketing strategies for formal businesses, (ii) developing new business strategies within the informal marketing system and (iii) developing last mile business models for sales of seed to vulnerable customers.

This work is likely to take 2-3 years of investment to show concrete results. However, as these activities are developed, the lessons being learned will be used in other locations and as new models emerge they can be applied many other countries. These examples of work meet existing gaps that have been highlighted in the extensive literature on improving seed systems in Eastern Africa, this will support ongoing work being supported by the Missions and will also align with other key actors, such as PIATA, in developing more scalable, and sustainable seed methods. These examples will cover the following areas:

1. **Building the business capacity of target seed companies:** This work will work with a select number of leading seed firms, to expand the market frontier for their seed sales and find ways to profitably diversify their crop portfolio, using a territorial marketing strategy. CIMMYT will lead this work drawing on their experience in international seed marketing with support from IFDC and Agri-Experience. The work will not only develop the training materials, but will also be executed within a process to develop a fee for service training program, that will support future engagement with the seed companies and provide mentoring for learning about and implementing more targeted marketing approaches. The training will be housed with a recognized industry agency, such as the seed trade association and would provide them with a fee-based service to support their members. The demand for this type of capacity building is something that CIMMYT has been developing and would target the more commercial seed companies.

2. **Upgrading informal seed sales:** This work plans to engage in a live regional value chain, to show how a market-based approach to a crop can be upgraded across the input to output market system within and across countries. The work will place greater emphasis on strengthen informal actors, who are managing the legume seed system and will support new methods to improve access to seed by using options such as

"standard seed" and or QDS systems, that can integrate informal approaches effectively with the formal seed sector.

3. **Last mile delivery seed models**: The S34D team plans to test two methods for developing commercially viable last mile seed delivery methods, using fee for service agents, youth agripreneurs and a technology backbone that can link formal, informal and potentially, ECR sales points. The methods will be tested for two years, will be linked into ongoing projects and scaled in target countries in years 3-5 with both core and Mission funds.

To support greater sustainability of this work, the team will look to several options. The first opportunities may be through taking the learning that is achieved in one year or across seasons from one location and replicate the approach in year two and other locations with partners, where similar opportunities arise. Building on this type of intermediation may also enable the S34D team to expand our findings through partners projects and networks. Similarly, as activities are tested and show good results, we will discuss these findings with Mission teams as part of our mission engagement strategy. These discussions may lead to developing buy-in's at either the leader or associate level that will further sustain the more promising activities and outcomes.

Annex B. Mission Engagement Strategy

S34D activity is anticipating addressing Missions' needs for formal, informal, emergency and policy seed services. These services were reflected in the fifteen intervention areas in the NFO released in 2018. These intervention areas were captured by S34D consortium in its strategy as reflected in the Results Framework. We, therefore, assume, most of the services that Missions may request, will fall under our strategy and will be linked to the 15 intervention areas from the NFO.

As indicated in the cooperative agreement and in our Annual Work Plan, the activity will work along the maize-legume corridors in sub-Saharan Africa to build on existing gains in formal systems, forge stronger links to informal market channels and find ways to enable informal actors to offer a broader portfolio of quality seed. Our initial analysis proposes a trade corridor focus in East and West Africa with more specific investments in Asia and Latin America. Our strategy focuses on strengthening individual seed systems, and then enabling sustainable linkages across the systems to improve the functioning of the integrated seed systems. In that process we will develop proof-of-concepts, technologies, tools, innovative business models, scale-up proven models to serve smallholders with quality enhanced seeds of a variety of crops up to the last-mile.

S34D will start activity execution with a "light" touch while seeking concurrence from the USAID Missions. Once that is received and start our "light" activities, S34D engages in deeper conversations using the menu-option of service offering as described below.

Criteria for choosing the USAID Country Missions
Some of the criteria the activity is using to select countries for engaging with missions are:
- Falls in corridor countries;
- Has three types of seed systems and/or policy activities;
- Range of nutritious, high value and resilient crops;
- S34D consortium partners have a relative comparative advantage in those countries;
- Other seed system programs being implemented so collaboration, coordination, and co-location of activities is possible;
- Agricultural sector plan, CDCS and other plans highlight the importance of seed security;
- S34D consortium partners(s) has (have) strong ties with USAID Missions to cultivate relationships and partnerships with the Missions;
- Stability and peace

With these criteria, S34D has selected first, second and third year countries as well as potential emergency seed response countries.

List of countries
In year 1, the activity starts engaging with the Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Malawi Missions – in the maize-legume corridor. In year 2, the activity has the intend to extend up to Ethiopia, in East Africa, to Zambia in southern Africa and to Senegal and Niger in West Africa. In West Africa, the activity will work in the Maize-cow-pea corridor for Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal. Furthermore, the plan is to expand to Asia in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. In year three the activity is anticipating expanding to more countries in West Africa and East Africa and Asia.

Table 1. Initial list of target missions and reasons for engagement.

Country	Region	FEED THE FUTURE	FFP	PIATA	ECR	Justification for engagement
First phase countries Year 1						
Kenya	East Africa	x	x	x		Target initial countries, within east Africa bean trade corridor. Selected to leverage partner projects and where there are all three seed systems in operation. Site represents live lab to build on existing work, extend the market frontier for formal and informal seeds, test new business models and last mile strategies.
Malawi	East Africa		x	x		
Tanzania	East Africa		x	x		
Uganda	East Africa	x	x	x	X	
Scoping phase countries Year 1						
Niger	West Africa	x	x		x	Scoping studies build on IFDC operations
Ethiopia	East Africa	x	x	x	x	Build on extensive partner projects
Emergency / Chronic Stress						
Nigeria	West Africa	x	x	x	x	SSSA in North East
Uganda	East Africa	x	x	x	x	SSSA in North Uganda (Refugees SS)
South Sudan	East Africa		x		x	Support to USAID seed distribution
Guatemala	Central America	x	x		x	Cash v Vouchers analysis
DRC (Kivuu)	Central Africa		x		x	Support on DFSA operations and World Bank interest in seed vouchers
Mozambique*	East Africa		x	x	x	Possible interventions post Cyclone Idai
Next phase countries West Africa - Year 2						
Senegal	West Africa	x	x			Partners active and strong history in testing new seed mechanisms
Mali	West Africa	x	x	x		Links between formal and emergency seed production, sales and distribution
Next phase countries Southern Africa - Year 2						
Zambia	East / Southern Africa					Linkage to the maize-bean corridor, using digital seed certification systems, that could help to integrate regional catalogue
Zimbabwe	Southern Africa					Support to Farmers interested in fodder crop seed and associated seed systems, to enable farmers to improve their feed systems and feed lots.
Next phase countries Central Africa - Year 2						
Next phase countries Asia - Year 2-3						
Bangladesh	Asia	x	x			Prospects to support climate smart crops, particularly drought / flood tolerant rice
Myanmar	Asia		x			Rapid project development, seeds will be a critical part of the new portfolio
Nepal	Asia	x	x			Interest in diversification beyond rice, strong potato
India	Asia	x				Interest in rice, wheat, potato and maize. Possible linkage with Syngenta foundation
Next phase countries West and East Africa – Year 3						
Ghana	West Africa	x		x		Mission shown interest in learning more
Sierra Leone	West Africa		x			Mission shown interest in learning more
Rwanda	East Africa		x	x		Following up with partners
Somalia	East Africa		x		x	Following up with partners

The activity has formed a menu that comprises a suite of offerings as "demand services" for Missions' uptake. These services will be "*contextualized*" and largely driven by lessons learned. This menu could then be presented to and used during discussion with Missions to show how these S34D services could fill gaps and provide expertise that aligns with Mission strategies. Central and Mission buy-ins to the leader award could support key services to upgrade the seed systems within target countries by supporting the activities listed under 2.1.

Steps of engagement

The S34D activity will work with the USAID Missions to gather information on their interests and needs for upgrading and strengthening seed systems. As we begin to engage with the bilateral Missions, as outlined in the Cooperative Agreement, the activity is developing a mission engagement strategy. S34D will provide justification to USAID/BFS and OFDA in Washington for our planned engagement with target Missions and maintain close dialogue as we plan discussions and activities. Our initial Mission engagement strategy has a logistics and a technical strategy part.

Logistics

The S34D team developed this strategy for mission engagement taking into consideration part of the USAID guidelines[1]. When S34D team members meet people informally at meetings etc., S34D will inform the AOR who could follow up with providing important background on the activity. If the outreach is formal then, S34D will engage the AOR first. As such the COP will request AOR's support to make *initial contact* with the Mission and establish a point of contact. After AOR has contacted the Mission, the COP will follow up with Point of Contact (POC), provide AOR with draft language for the concurrence letter and provide POC with S34D activity information (table of proposed work plan activities, factsheet, S34D PowerPoint and country profile). The COP, S34D consortium partners or CRS (country program) will set up a meeting with the POC to discuss S34D work plan activities and answer any S34D questions the Mission may have. This meeting could take one or two hours. The AOR will then send the concurrence form to the Mission. The POC shepherds the concurrence form through the internal Mission clearance process. A final draft concurrence letter will be sent to the AOR by the POC and finalized between USAID/Washington and USAID Mission. Before moving forward, S34D will gauge the Mission's potential interest for buy ins and or Associate Awards, which will support our plans for intervention sustainability.

With a signed concurrence letter, S34D will set up a *technical meeting* with POC and Mission technical staff to discuss S34D engagement strategy. This meeting could also take one to two hours. COP will inform USAID/Washington, S34D activity consortium partners and CRS Country Programs about technical meetings with the Mission. The technical meetings will provide an opportunity to socialize S34D goals and provide an outline of the menu of services and methods that S34D can provide across the seed systems. Prior to the meeting, the S34D team will undertake a robust analysis of the existing seed systems situation within a country, conduct scoping mission and will consult with local partners to review country specific documentation, such as the host government (ag) development strategy, Country Development Cooperation Strategy, USAID and other investors project portfolio, the status of private sector and how S34D complements, differentiates or accelerates existing investments, such as AGRA/PIATA.

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[1] Mission Engagement Playbook, June 2018

During the technical meeting, a timetable will be drafted to outline the activity's engagement with the Mission and planning of the strategy meeting. COP will share timetable and technical meeting minutes with AOR.

During the *strategy meeting* (four to five hours), S34D and the Mission will align S34D's services to USAID's investment portfolio and development objectives and Mission's potential for buy in to S34D country specific activities. As talking points for the strategy meeting, S34D will use the robust analysis of the existing seed systems situation within a country conducted prior to the technical meeting, to provide evidence of gaps in seed programming in the country (region). In consultation with USAID Mission technical staff, S34D will identify and agree on the gaps in seed programming and intervention points that fit S34D program description and results framework. S34D will link its (proposed) activities with the gaps identified and draft a plan that complements Feed the Future Country Plans and other countries' strategies. This plan will include activities, budget and justification/explanation of how it contributes to the S34D and USAID Mission objectives and complements other seed investment in the country. Mission's potential for an Associate Award will be included in the plan. The COP or POC will share this plan with the AOR. With AOR's consent, S34D could assist the Mission with the buyin process.

Planning

To date, we have received concurrence from three Missions – Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi. S34D is waiting for the Kenya mission to complete the concurrence process. Below is a preliminary timetable for the short-term Mission engagement.

The engagement with the Missions, status of concurrence and planned meetings are listed below.

	Initial meeting	Concurrence	Technical meeting	Strategy meeting
Kenya	November 2018	Expected in May	May 6	June-July
Uganda	February 2019	Completed in April	May 8	June-July
Tanzania	Pending	Completed in April	May 9	June-July
Malawi	February 2019	Completed in March	May 13	June-July
Ghana	April 2019	TBD		TBD, pending mission's interest
South Sudan	April 2019	FY19 Q3	FY19 Q4	TBD, pending mission's interest
Niger	June 2019	FY19 Q3	FY19 Q4	TBD, pending mission's interest
Nepal	July 2019	FY19 Q3,	FY19 Q4	TBD, pending mission's interest

While engaging with Missions, S34D was asked by USAID about the differences between PIATA and S34D. Some key differences between PIATA and S34D are listed in below table.

AGRA	S34D
AGRA is mainly working on formal seed	Working on Formal, Informal
AGRA is **not** working in emergency / chronic stress	Working on Emergency seed, chronic stress
Single system approach	Looking at how the three seed systems work together
Focus on limited number of crops, bias towards maize	Working on extending efforts for seed in a range of crops

In addition to the differences, S34D is also complementing PIATA. The complementarity options are listed in below table. A more detailed list of alignment and complementarity interventions can be found in Annex B.

AGRA Seed Systems Strategic Intervention Areas	Alignment and complementarity with S34D
Improved seed policies at national and regional levels	• Socialize national seed road maps and associated discussions and findings on exactly how to link with AGRA in specific countries. • Provide feedback on implementation of regional harmonization at national levels to fill in knowledge gaps on implementation.

Early Generation Seed Supply	• Link S34D Seed producers to the AGRA seed companies to access good quality starting planting material. • Link up with AGRA efforts so S34D partners and seed producer groups have better access to EGS for a variety of crops.
Expanding certified seed markets	• Link up with willing and able AGRA seed companies to establish, scale last mile efforts under S34D activity. • Link up with AGRA private seed companies to access quality seeds. Coordinate S34D relief-to-development efforts
Increased awareness among local farmers	• Fill in gaps with studies and lessons learnt using data gathered using PoS applications • Expand and accelerate AGRA's efforts of linking seed producer groups with local grain traders and other output market nodes.
Increasing the density and sustainability of agro-dealer networks in key agro-ecologies	• Best to not duplicate agro-dealer support but accelerate and expand in different territories. • Share findings from learning studies to understand customer segments served by the agro-dealers, as well as customer preferences especially smallholders.

Communication

The COP will inform our AoR about the initial contact, progress on concurrence/clearance, and shall share all documents in the process and from the technical and strategy meetings and copy AOR in communication with the Missions. Suggestions or input provided by the AOR shall be promptly included in our engagement approach. Resources will be set aside to do both the desktop research and intelligence gathering, as well as for in-country technical and strategy visits by S34D.

Annex C. S34D Alignment and Complementarity with AGRA Seed Systems Strategic Intervention Areas

AGRA Seed Systems Strategic Intervention Areas	Alignment and complementarity with S34D
Improved seed policies at national and regional levels:	• Socialize national seed road maps and associated discussions and findings on exactly how to link with AGRA in specific countries • Provide feedback on implementation of regional harmonization at national levels to fill in knowledge gaps on implementation • Share evidence on S34D seed liberalization efforts (to extend market frontiers) for advocacy purposes and fill in gaps • Use last-mile services rendered by S34D, provide farmers' feedback on adoption of higher-yielding, as well as climate smart varieties. • Share reports and findings on seed policy metrics summaries at country levels to inform development and use of seed dashboards for integrated seed systems; thus, explore opportunities for AGRA to fill in data gaps • Provide evidence on emergency seed approaches and impact on formal sector.
Early Generation Seed Supply	• Link S34D Seed producers to the AGRA seed companies to access good quality starting planting material. • Link up with AGRA efforts so S34D partners and seed producer groups have better access to EGS for a variety of crops • Expand/accelerate efforts to link additional seed companies to QBS using AGRA's approach. • Link with AGRA to help with identification of other approaches to support non-maize EGS models. Link S34D seed producers so they can access non-maize EGS through AGRA's efforts.
Expanding certified seed markets	• Use lessons by AGRA as input to increase operational efficiency for S34D seed companies • Share S34D lessons learnt with AGRA • Expand and accelerate efforts in collaboration with AGRA to share and co-develop innovative models to incentivize private seed companies to expand portfolios beyond maize. • Fill in gaps with learning studies and share the same with AGRA • Link up with willing and able AGRA seed companies to establish, scale last mile efforts under S34D activity. • Link up with AGRA private seed companies to access quality seeds. Coordinate S34D relief-to-development efforts
Increased awareness among local farmers	• Fill in gaps with studies and lessons learnt using data gathered using PoS applications • Expand and accelerate AGRA's efforts of linking seed producer groups with local grain traders and other output market nodes.
Increasing the density and sustainability of agro-dealer networks in key agro-ecologies	• Best to not duplicate agro-dealer support but accelerate and expand in different territories. • Share findings from learning studies to understand customer segments served by the agro-dealers, as well as customer preferences especially smallholders.

---- End of FY19 SAR ---