



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



S34D NEWSLETTER

June 2020

We hope this update finds you all staying healthy & well during these challenging times. S34D has adapted its on-the-ground work to the COVID-19 pandemic and we are continuing with virtual activities, research, and desktop studies. We look forward to getting back to the field when travel restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, check out our new [S34D website](#), and stay safe!

COVID-19 Programming

S34D and its partners have adapted to the ongoing situation: through our work with the Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC), [guidance was released](#) providing key information to implementing organizations that are considering emergency seed interventions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic and other stresses. Other emergency seed security response guidelines and lessons during COVID-19 can be [found here](#), and minimum standards needed to conduct a Seed System Assessment were [recently released](#).

Our partner [IFDC](#) has developed a [Fertilizer Watch](#) to provide updates to stakeholders in East & Southern African related to the spread of COVID-19, measures taken by country governments, and logistical constraints that impact fertilizer flows and supply chains; these updates will allow stakeholders to use the information to plan accordingly and ensure consistent delivery to farmers.

ISSD has released [Seed Alerts](#) to identify current challenges and urgent actions in the seed sectors

of [Ethiopia](#), [Nigeria](#), [Myanmar](#) and [Uganda](#) based on surveys and focus group discussions with various stakeholders.

Ongoing Activities

S34D will be completing a number of activities in the coming months—we are continuing to work with Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) on the ‘stop-bad seed’ program RIMI (Ripoti Mbegu Isiyu bora), and we are finishing a yellow bean system analysis in [Tanzania](#) with our partner [PABRA](#). In [Ethiopia](#), we are conducting a forage seed value chain study for feed technologies that are suitable across agro-ecologies and livestock production systems; developing a technical road map for assessing demand for seeds; and, identifying the role of forage seeds and national feed reserves during emergencies in drought-prone regions.

In [Zambia](#), we are collaborating with the Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) and USAID partners on developing a virtual training and testing platform for seed inspectors; in [Senegal](#), we are mapping seed companies for impact investment. We recently developed a digital platform for rural agripreneurs in [Kenya](#); working with Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) on standard seed protocol, and, finalizing a point of sales (PoS) application to measure new bean variety adoption. In [Uganda](#), we are conducting a training for seed companies with the Uganda Seed Trade Association (USTA).

Resources

- S34D and New Markets Lab recently hosted a webinar to disseminate findings of our [Global Seed Policy study](#), with attendees from various organizations, including multilateral and donor partners.
- [Study on Cash Transfers for Seed Security in Humanitarian Settings](#) -- This study examines the barriers and opportunities for cash transfers to be used to address seed security in humanitarian situations.
- In June, S34D will post blogs to [Agri Links](#) on our global seed policy review, high-iron bean niche market business model and point of sale application, and the potential for yellow bean seed and trade—stay tuned! We will also participate in a seed-focused webinar hosted by Agri Links, tentatively scheduled for July 1st.



Contact

Want to know more about S34D? Visit our [website](#) or send us an email at S34D@crs.org!



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