



# FEED THE FUTURE

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



## **February 2021**

Greetings from Supporting Seed Systems for Development! S34D has moved into its third year of programming and we have expanded to a number of new countries this year: Ethiopia, DRC and Benin. Our team is continuing with virtual activities, research and desktop studies during the COVID-19 pandemic, while engaging with local staff and consultants, where possible. Stay safe and healthy!

## **Activity Updates**

S34D continues to work with Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) on the 'stop-bad seed' program. We are collaborating with the Seed Control and Certification Institute and USAID partners in Zambia on developing a virtual training platform for seed inspectors. In Ethiopia, we have completed a forage seed systems and feed reserve analysis and we will develop a forage informatic dashboard. For refugees in Uganda, S34D wrote a white paper on financing potential for the seed sector. See S34D's approved [FY21 Annual Workplan](#) and the map on our [website](#) for all our activities!

New activities: In Ethiopia, we will develop and compare regulatory seed systems maps. It is expected and hoped that a national partner will maintain and update these regulatory maps once completed, validated, and published in the national system. In Benin, S34D will develop a policy brief on its seed registry; in the DRC, S34D will assess the role of market pull to enhance resilience of seed supply and respond to emergency seed needs.

We will conduct a **global** study on lessons learned from operational efficiencies of Vietnam seed clubs and the seed policy and regulatory environment that enabled successes of these

clubs; and, compare those with the QDS producers in Africa (**Uganda, Tanzania, Niger**). These learnings will enable us to understand the flexibilities in seed regulatory systems and policies that have worked successfully to bridge gaps between formal and informal seed systems.

S34D will also identify ways in which seed voucher models can be modified over time (e.g. 3 to 5 years) to build capacity within the seed sector to support the emergence of a sustainable, market-based seed system that offers quality, affordable seeds to smallholder farmers.

## New Resources

- Our consortium partner [Opportunity International's](#) report [Financial Service Provider Inventory Scan for Niger](#) was published, one in a series of activities focusing on the financing potential of the seed sector in Sub-Saharan Africa. The analysis focuses on the capacity of financial service providers to increase the availability of appropriately tailored financial services for key seed sector actors throughout the value chain.
- Additionally, Opportunity International's report [Financial Service Provider Inventory Scan of East Africa](#) was published. This study provides a regional overview as well as country-level assessments for Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania of the supply-side financing gaps and opportunities within the agricultural financial services sector, specifically for the purpose of expanding access to financing for the seed sector.
- S34D recently hosted a webinar to disseminate findings on [Forage Seed Systems and Feed Reserves in Ethiopia](#). The goal of this activity was to identify roles of cultivated forages to develop sustainable business models (using economic analyses) in an inclusive manner, and learn from global case studies to apply novel, forage-based feed preservation technologies in Ethiopia.

## Other Resources

- We recently tested a digital platform for rural agripreneurs in Kenya with our service provider [Kuza](#). This success story was featured by [Feed the Future](#) about creating income opportunities for rural youth.
- S34D had a number of featured blogs published on [Agri Links](#):
  - [Market-led seed interventions in emergency response](#)
  - [Yellow bean corridor analysis in Tanzania](#)
  - [Digitally tracking adaption of new bean seed variety](#)
  - [Regulatory flexibilities bridge gaps between seed systems](#)

## Contact

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



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