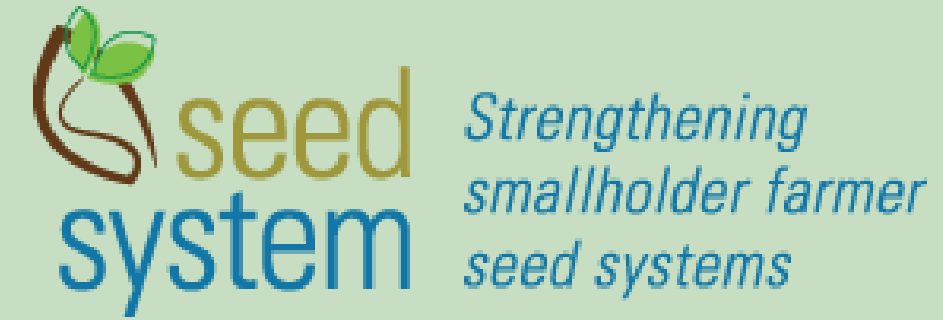




USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SCALE Seeds Learning Group for USAID/BHA-funded Programming

Session Four
August 31, 2022

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Today: Planning for the Future



Session 4: Planning for the Future

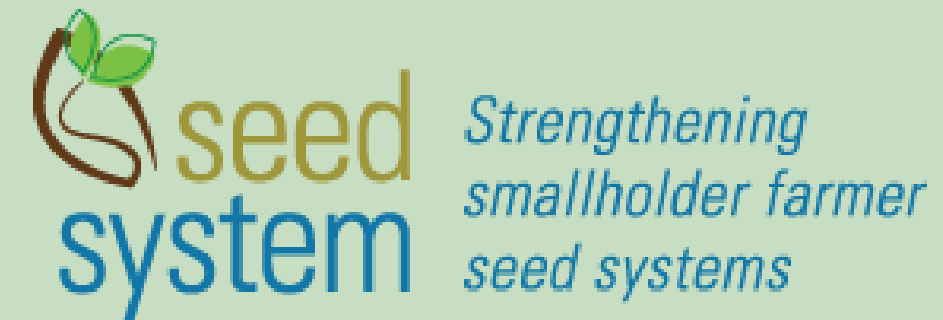


Today's Agenda

- 1 Review of Session 1 - 3
- 2 Planning an SSA
- 3 Future SSAs, constraints & needs
- 4 Evaluation
- 5 Closing remarks & certificates



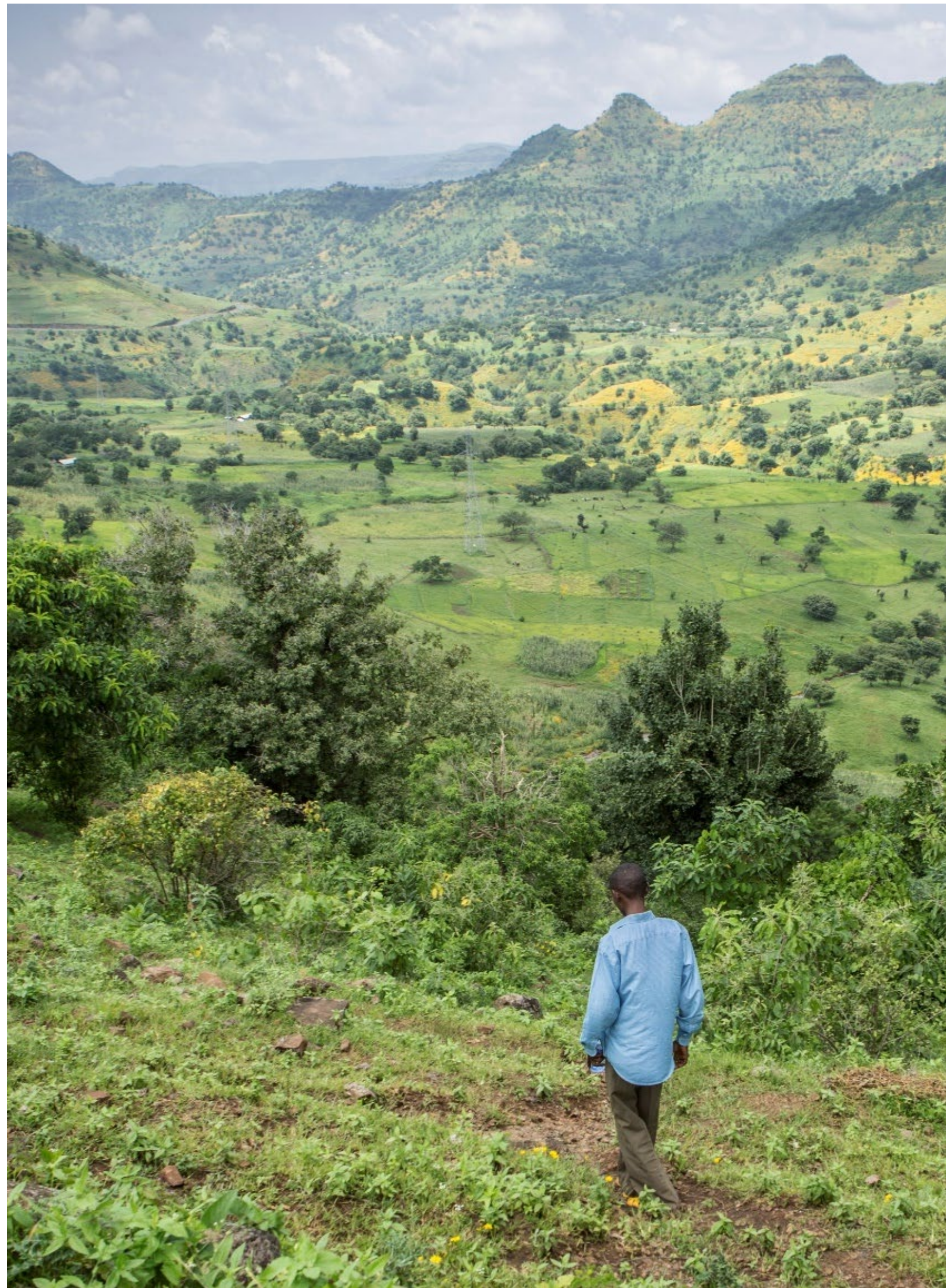
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Recap: What have we covered so far?

First 3 sessions in August 2022

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SCALE Consultations on Seed Systems Assessments in March 2021

- Two implementing partner consultations
 - USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)-funded programs
 - HQ technical advisors
 - Program implementers

Aim: better understand the variation in uptake and usage of Seed System Assessments in BHA-funded programming



Learning Group Aims

Participants leave with:

- Solid understanding of **general seed systems**
- Solid understanding of **seed system assessment (SSA)** and how to access and use **existing tools, trainings** and other resources
- Strong awareness of **common pitfalls**- and how to avoid them
- Clear understanding of **BHA expectations** around SSA



Seeds Learning Group Session Map





**SESSION ONE:
UNDERSTANDING
SEED SYSTEMS**



Is this **Seed**?





Is this **Seed**?





Seed Security Framework

Parameters	Definition
Availability	Sufficient quantity of seed of adapted crops is within reasonable proximity (spatial availability) and in time for critical sowing periods (temporal availability)
Access	People have adequate income or other resources to purchase or barter for appropriate seeds
Seed Health / Quality	Seed is healthy: good physical, physiological and sanitary quality
Variety Suitability / Quality	Varieties are adapted, meet farmers' preferences (men and women) and are market-acceptable



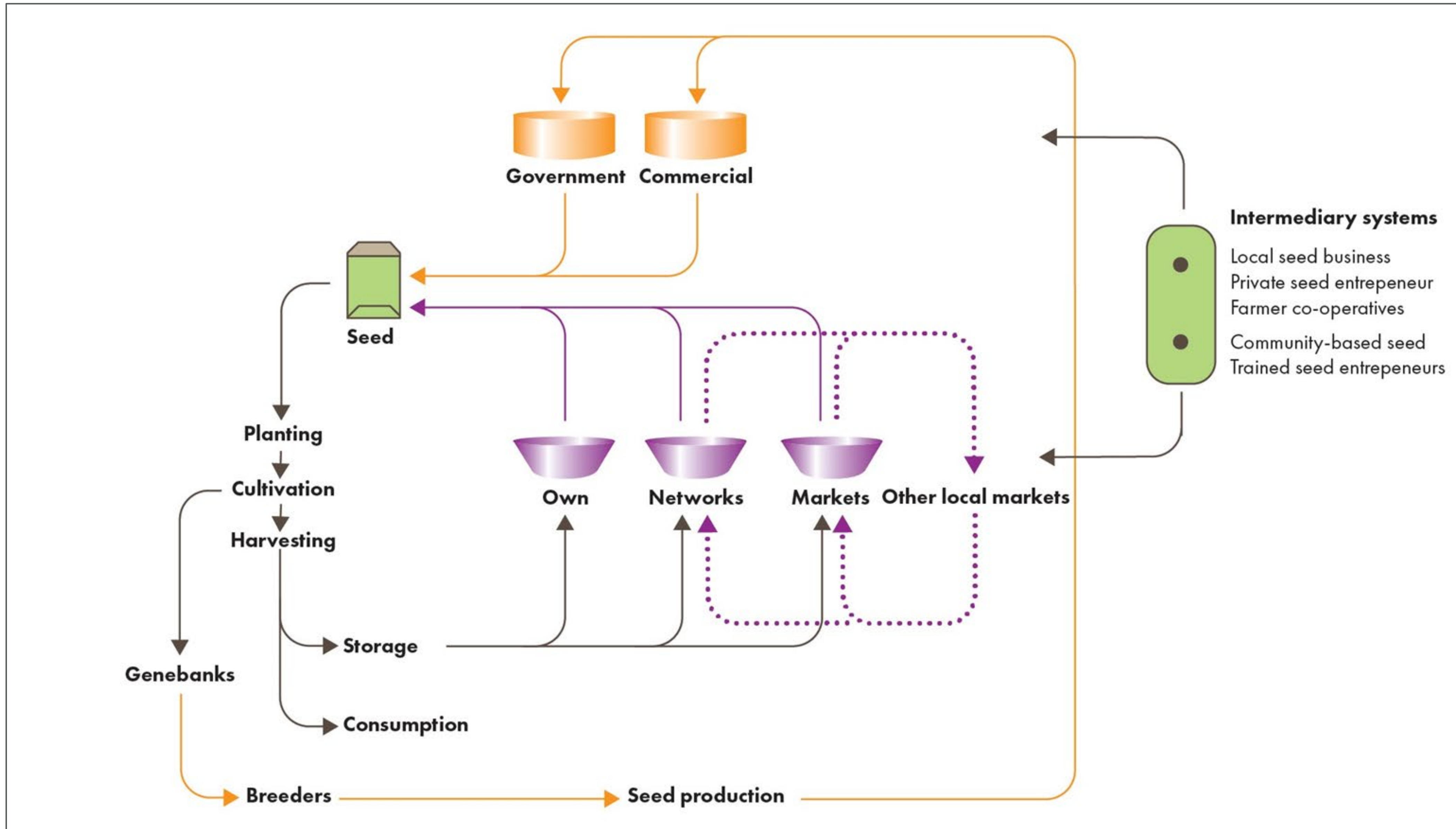
Which problem is this?

ANSWERS and DISCUSSION

	Access	Availability	Seed Health	Variety Suitability
1. Family has no extra seed money	X			
2. Modern varieties of sorghum post-drought				X
3. Cassava Mosaic Disease wiped out planting material		X	X	
4. Insects attacking cowpea in storage		X	X	
5. No agro-dealers for new maize varieties	X	X		



Channels through which Farmers Source Seed





Agro-dealers






Local Markets (grain/seed)

- Not all grain can be sown.
- But some 'grain' also is 'very good seed' (potential seed)
 - Adapted (right variety)
 - Good quality

Goal of Aid	Crop/variety issues: broad choices
Food security (classic approach)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major staple crops • Crops/varieties responsive to inputs
Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus beyond calories to include nutritive elements: • Varieties biofortified with micronutrients • Crops contributing to dietary diversity • Specialty crops: leafy vegetables, orange-fleshed sweet potatoes
Climate resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crops that tolerate abiotic stress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >Heat tolerant crops/varieties; >Water efficient crops/varieties • Crops that add value or diversity to resource base <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >Legumes to fix nitrogen >Fodder crops; Perennials
Income generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crops geared to markets ('high value crops') • Crops linked to value-added/ processing chains • Crops linked to non-food livelihood activities (e.g., fiber production)



		Typical goal of your seed aid					
Name	Organization	Food security	Nutrition	Climate resilience	Income generation	I don't know	
Abby Love	Mercy Corps	X	X	X	X		
Lemi Joseph Benea	International Rescue Committee	x	x	x	x		
RAZAFIMBELO Zoe	Catholic Relief Services	X	X	X	X		
Ina Schonberg	NCBA CLUSA	x	x	x	x		
Sadou Soumana	IRC	x	x	x	x		
Alain KY-ZERBO	NCBA CLUSA	X	X	X	X		
Joanne Cagin	Concern Worldwide	X		X	X		
Félix Dussert-Lagoute	ACTED	X			X		
Amenti Chali	CRS Ethiopia	X	X	X	X		
Koiti Betty	ACF	x	X	X	X		
Wilfred Ouko	Mercy Corps	x	x	x			
Andrew Levin	USAID/BHA	1	4	2	3	women's economic empowerment	
Alex Popi	CARE International Zimbabwe	x	x	x	x		



**SESSION TWO:
THE SEED SYSTEM
ASSESSMENT
(SSA)**



Rationale for Seed System Assessment (SSA)

Food issues \neq Seed issues

- Households can have enough seed to sow a plot, but little to eat
- Households can have adequate food, but lack access to the seed they need to make plots productive

Food insecurity \neq Seed insecurity



Websites & Major Tool Development

- SeedSystem - 2006 (ongoing)

<https://seedssystem.org/>

- FAO – 2016

<https://www.fao.org/resilience/resources/resources-detail/en/c/282218/>

- S34D - 2021 (ongoing...)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kwyfzWjsbzFUgvIR2kYckcY1XM-oSmaP?usp=sharing>



SeedSystem Tools

SeedSystem

seedsystem.org/assessments-and-e-learning-course/

seed system Strengthening smallholder farmer seed systems

Field Assessments Around the World | Assessment Tools and e-Learning Course | Seed System Support Practical Guidance | Research Resources Datasets SSSA | About Us

Assessments and e-learning course

This section shares the basic tools and practical planning aids needed to assess seed security—that is, to conduct a Seed Security Assessment (SSSA). We stress the concept of a seed 'system' since assessments of seed security go well beyond seed needs, although that may be part of the work. Attaining seed security means finding ways to support the systems that farmers ongoing access to seed of the crops and varieties they require.

The four links below allow managers and field practitioners to plan and implement an SSSA.

The *Guide* gives an overview of the SSSA approach: its rationale, where and when it can be used, key questions and checklists. The *Specific Tools* share actual forms (downloadable) that can be used in the field as well as an automated data program. The interactive e-Learning course introduces essential steps in both an assessment and choice of response, and participant through practical (and fun!) exercises using real field examples. Finally, tips give detailed insights into field plan implementation logistics.

- When Disaster Strikes: overall assessment guide
- Seed System Security Assessment: specific tools
- Seed System Security Assessment & Response: an e-Learning course
- Tips for Planning & Implementation

SeedSystem is a collaboration among diverse national and international organizations aiming to improve seed security in vulnerable and high-stress areas of the world. More about us

Allyance
Biodiversity CIAT
USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
ICRIS
PABRA

FAO

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Seed Security Assessment A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE

S34D

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

Rapid Seed System Security Assessment (R-SSSA) Pilot Evaluation Report

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE | ICRIS



SSA Content: Overview

- **Assess Seed System Functioning**
 - Demand side/need (Community/Household)
 - Supply channels
- **Identify if/type of problem**
 - Problem: Short-term (Acute)
 - Problem: Longer-term (Chronic)
 - Opportunities?
- **Recommend Response(s)**



Assessing Demand

**Key Technique:
Reasons for
'Planting less'
(subset)**

→ Large range of possible reasons!!

CONSTRAINTS THAT ARE SEED RELATED

Seed availability

- 1= no seed available in market
- 2= no seed/cuttings available from neighbors

Seed access

- 3= no money to buy seed/poor finances or seed price too high

Seed quality

- 4= seed available is not good quality or the variety is not liked

NON-SEED FACTORS OF PRODUCTION (limits)

- 5= no/insufficient labor
- 6= illness/health problems
- 7= no/insufficient land or land not appropriate/sufficiently fertile
- 8= lack of tools/tractor/ other machinery to farm
- 9= plant pests/diseases make production not possible

OTHER PRIORITIES/STRATEGIES

- 14= markets for crop or crop products not well-developed
- 15= other priorities than agriculture (e.g. have shop)
- 16= Changing crop priorities or changing agricultural practices



Assessing Supply

Breakout Group 2 | Activity 1: Seed System Functioning (Supply Side)

Instructions: Imagine your team has been tasked with assessing how well seed channels are functioning. Discuss as a group how you would do this assessment. For example, consider:

- Which seed channels would you assess?
- Which sources/types of actors would you talk to? What info would they have? What kinds of questions would you ask them?
- How are you going to do it? (i.e., elements of the process).
-what else?

Come up with 5-10 issues/suggestions and record them in the box below.

Choose **3 main ideas** to feedback to the bigger group

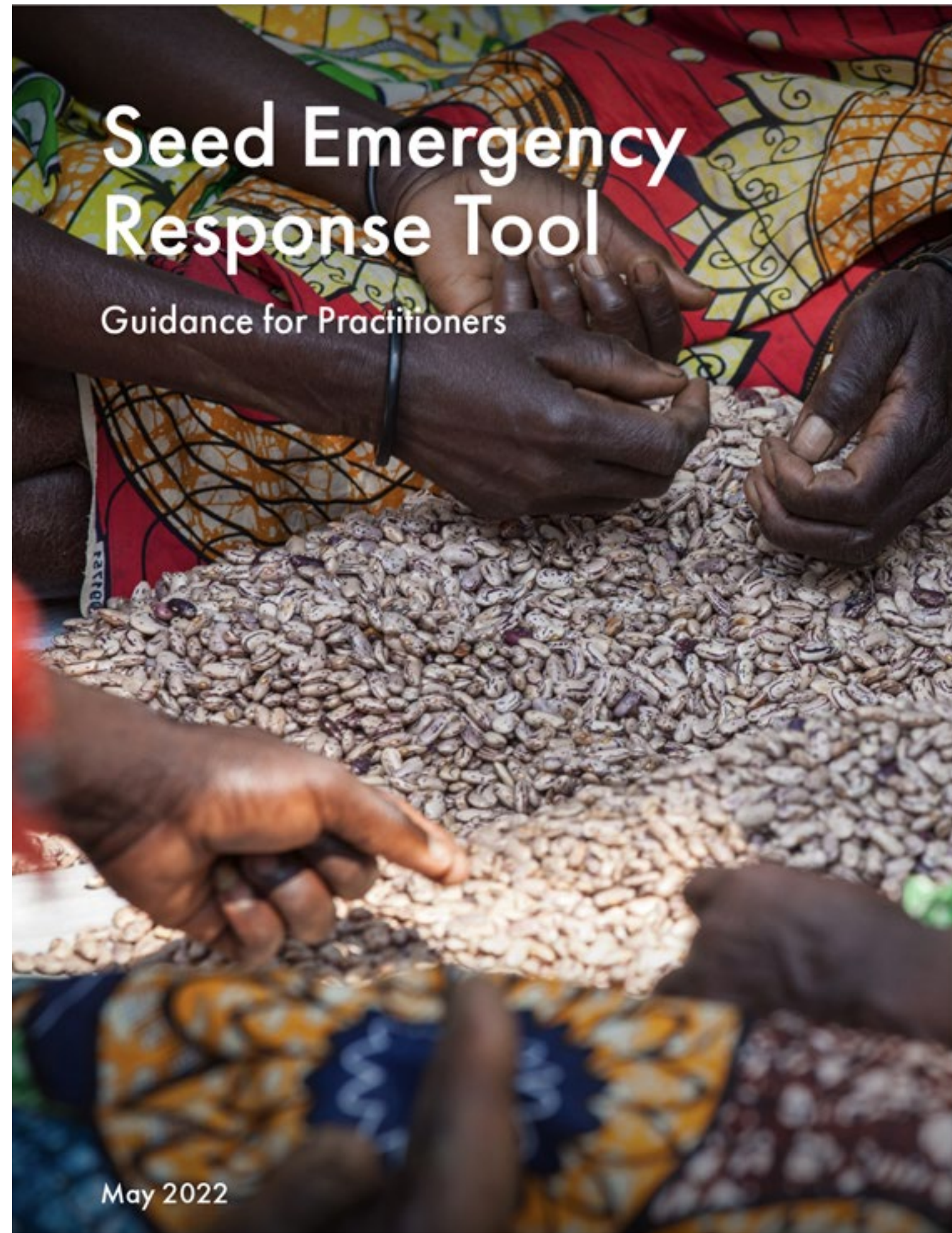
SEED CHANNELS

- Agro-dealers
- Local markets
- Farmer's own seeds
- Cooperatives/groups
- Borrowing from family / social networks
- Humanitarian aid

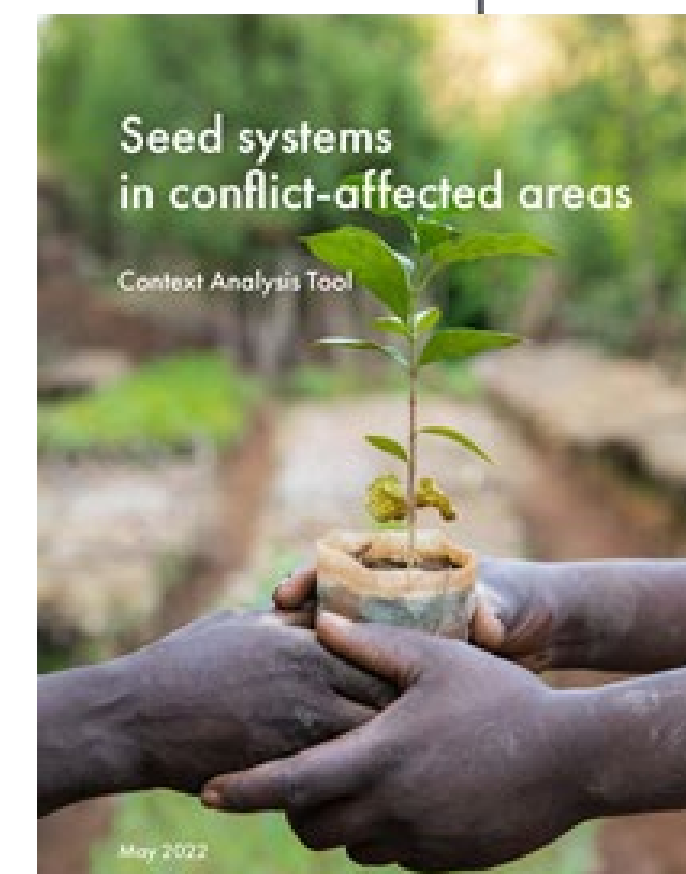
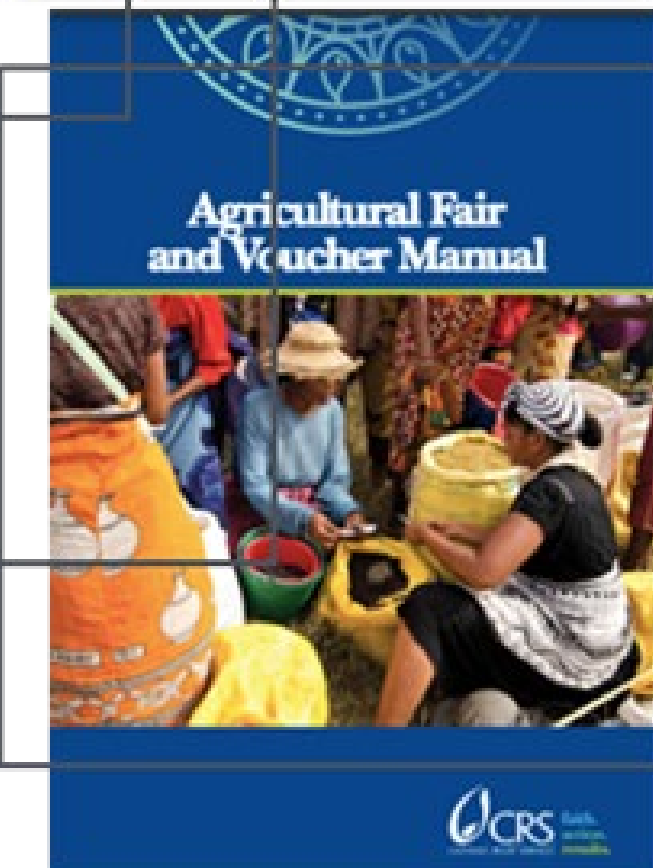
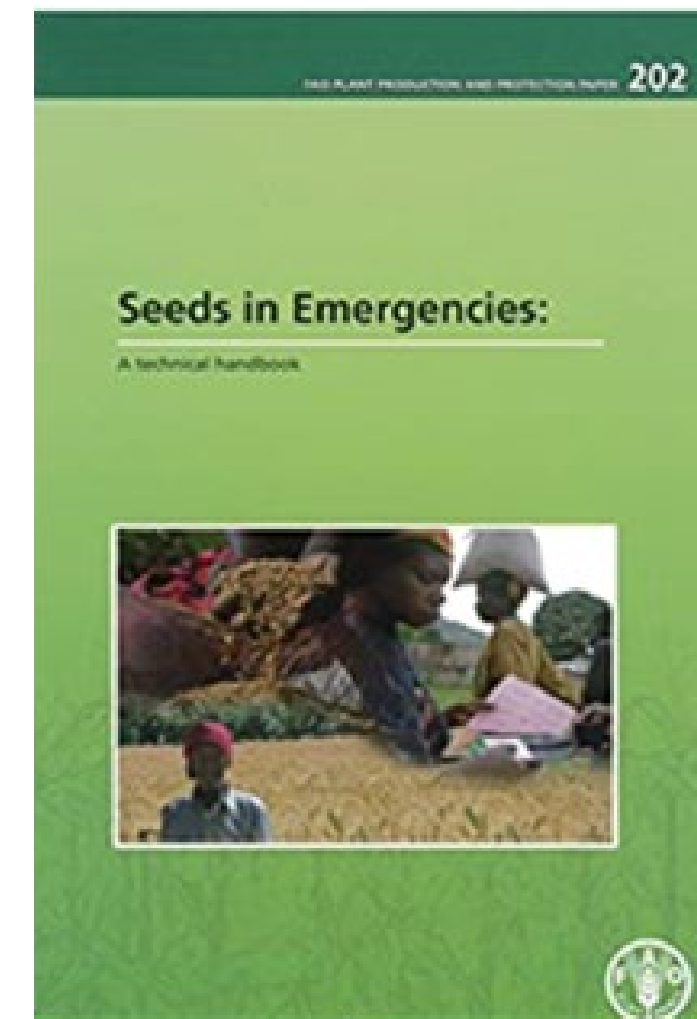
SOURCES / ACTORS TO INTERVIEW



Responses: Many recent developments



May 2022



May 2022



Specialized advice



Range of Response Interventions from SERT

Approach	Strengths	Weaknesses
<i>Direct distribution</i>		
Direct Seed Distribution (DSD)		
Local procurement and distribution of seed		
Provision of modern varieties		
Food aid to serve as 'Seed protection ration'		
<i>Market-based approaches focused on clients (demand)</i>		
Seed fairs, combined with vouchers		
Cash		
Vouchers		
<i>Market-based approaches focused on suppliers</i>		
Market-based support to supply side (agrodealers/traders)		



Correct Responses: Tied to specific problems

Acute Problem 1: Farmers need more seed but cannot access (buy)

Breakout Group 1 Activity 2: Response Options				
Instructions: Review the acute problem below. Discuss as a team which of the response options listed are appropriate/possible to respond to this problem. Mark YES or NO for each response. For the ones you mark YES, discuss the advantages and limitations (disadvantages) of that response. Record your ideas in the table below.				
Acute Problem 1: Farmers need more seed but cannot access (buy)				
Response options	Yes, this response is appropriate.	No, this response is not appropriate.	If Yes, what are the key advantages?	If Yes, what are the key disadvantages / limitations?
Vouchers tied to seed or input fairs	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vouchers would solve problem of access, which is the key issue • Gives farmers a choice on which type of seed(s) they want • Restricts farmers to purchasing seeds with voucher • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must ensure seed companies have stock, appropriate varieties • Restricts farmers to purchasing seeds with voucher • May disrupt local market system
Vouchers tied to <u>agrodealers</u>	x		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimizes disrupting existing seed system • Can ensure seed quality • More sustainable; farmers in contact with <u>agrodealers</u> • Can speed up seed distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential issues with pricing • If farmers' priorities are different from seeds this could be <u>restricting</u>. Consider opening to anything <u>agrodealer</u> sells so they choice



**SESSION THREE:
PITFALLS AND MINIMUM
STANDARDS**



Examples of common pitfalls

- 1. Assuming farmers have no seed at all**, in all channels
- 2. Choosing crops for DSD that are linked to easy procurement** (i.e., “get what’s easy”)
- 3. Overestimating seed needs:** calculating them at 100%, resulting in applicants requesting too much seed
- 4. Assuming that all seed must be certified** and that all farmer seed is poor quality
- 5. Always doing DSD**, no matter what the problem.
- 6. Responding late with seed**, often after farmers have planted
- 7. Addressing low access to new varieties almost exclusively via DSD or vouchers** as opposed to small packs/small quantities
- 8. Low recognition that farmers are also good seed managers** and building on their skills



Activity 1: Common Pitfalls

Instructions: Read through all 8 pitfalls. Think about your own work and put an "X" in the column that represents your experience. Have you **rarely** or **often** seen this in your work?

Pitfalls	Have you seen this pitfall happen in your work?	
	Often	Rarely
1. Assuming farmers have no seed at all, in all channels	XxxxxXxxx	xxxxxxx
2. Choosing crops for DSD that are linked to easy procurement (i.e., "get what's easy")	Xxxxx	xXXxxxXx
3. Overestimating seed needs: calculating them at 100%, resulting in applicants requesting too much seed	XxxxxxxxxXx	xX
4. Assuming that all seed must be certified and that all farmer seed is poor quality	XxxxxXxxXx	xxxx
5. Always doing DSD, no matter what the problem.	XxxxxXxX	xxxxxxxx
6. Responding late with seed, often after farmers have planted	XxXxxxxxxxxXxx	xx
7. Addressing low access to new varieties almost exclusively via DSD or vouchers as opposed to small packs / small quantities	xxxxxxxXXx	Xxxx
8. Low recognition that farmers are also good seed managers and building on their skills	xXxxxxxxxxXxx	xXx



Pitfall # 2: Inferior crop choice for DSD

Why this happens

- Crops are often chosen if they are linked to easy procurement (i.e., “get what’s easy”)

Moving forward

- Do crop profiling
 - Determine major crops for upcoming season
 - Determine crop use (community’s prime focus—not ‘yours’)
- Determine seed availability and map seed sources
 - Assess all seed channels: local market, formal sources, social networks, etc.
- If seed is not available, calculate seed needs according to preferred crops



Tools Comparison (broad brush)

	<u>SeedSystem</u>	FAO	S34D
Actor-Based	X	X	X
	Community (women's group) Household Interview Markets: Formal, Informal, Seed producers Key Informants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Govt and ag officers Gender and vulnerability experts		
Process	All conducted in teams (no current individual expert format)		
Languages	English French (Limited) Arabic	English French Spanish	English
Tool availability	Online E-course	Printed, CD and online	Google drive
Sample sizes	60-80	60-80	12
Formats	Paper Tablet (test)	Paper	Paper Tablet (test)
Country reports in public domain	Routine <u>(SeedSystem)</u>	A few (FAO)	Future? (UN Food Security Cluster)



Your Tool Choice?



Minimum Technical Standards for Seed System Assessment (SSA) in Emergencies
USAID/OFDA, SeedSystem and UN/FAO consultations

→ Any tool set that meets
Minimum Standards!!!

2020 - to be updated in Session 3



Reviewed minimum standards document



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Minimum Technical Standards for Seed System Assessment (SSA) in Emergencies

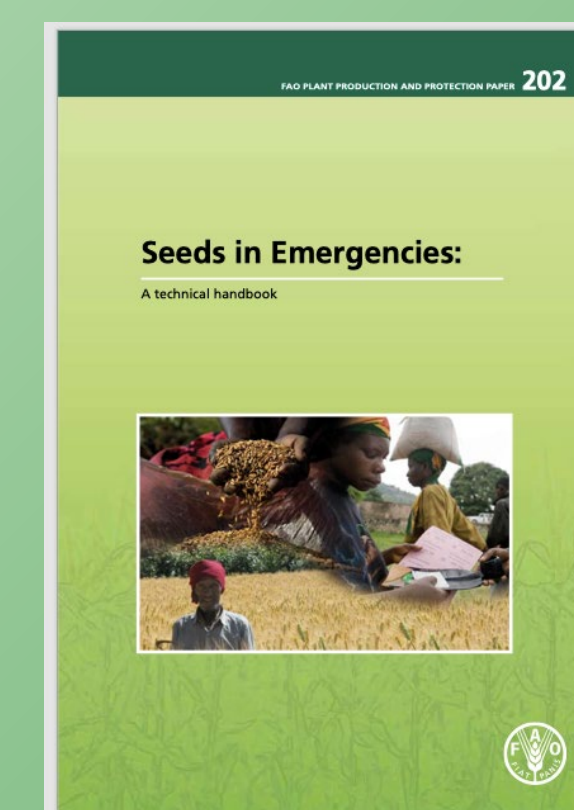
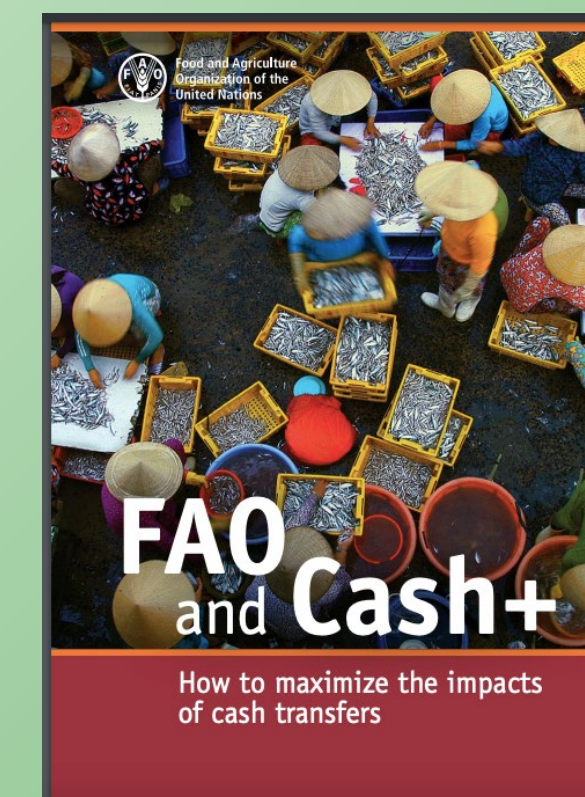
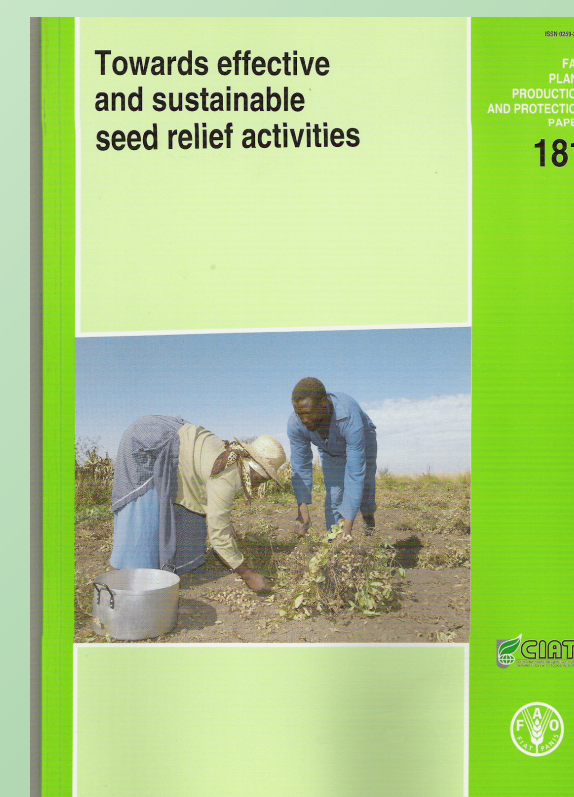
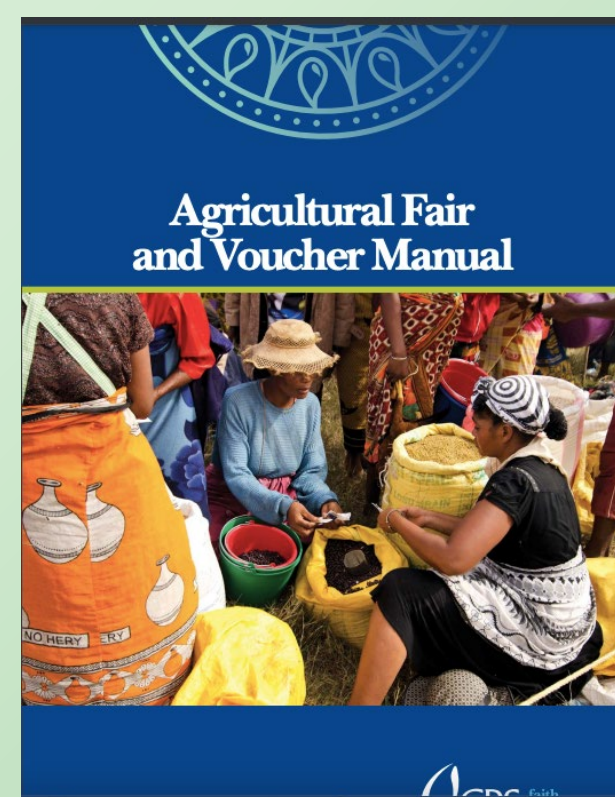
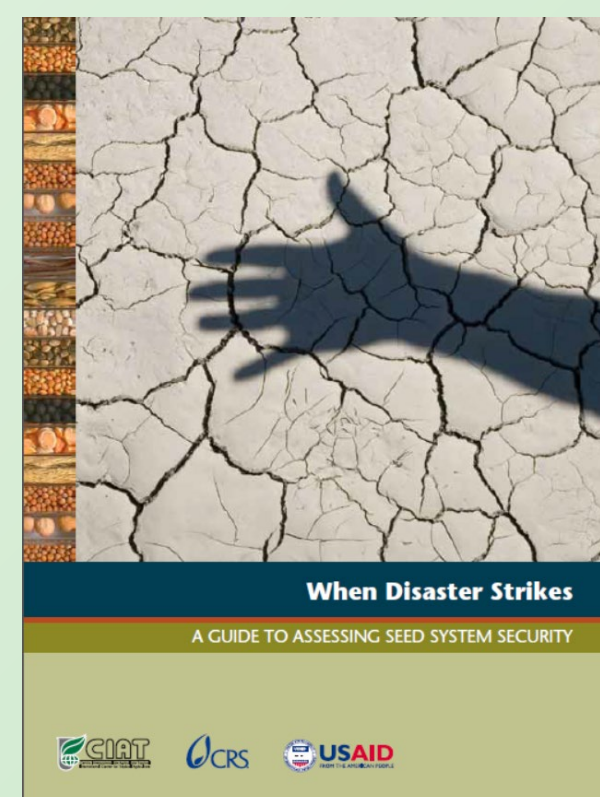
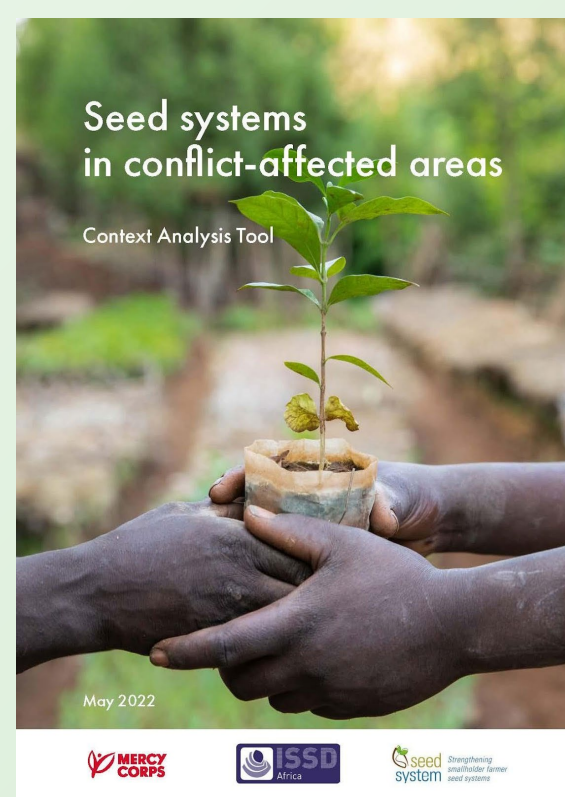
USAID/OFDA, SeedSystem and UN/FAO consultations

Seed system assessment minimum technical standards/critical elements

All agreed that minimum standards are needed (basic standards)



Resources



Seed System Security Assessment e-Course

This e-Learning course walks participants through the Seed System Security Assessment (SSSA) process and then focuses on targeted responses, depending on the key constraints identified.

The 8 modules are highly interactive: participants explore how to: collect key data, decide if farming households are stressed (the demand side), and assess if seed markets are adequately functioning (the supply side). Throughout, hands-on exercises and frequent



More to come today!

- Planning an SSA: Key features (and future strategy)
- Your SSA plans
- Constraints and support needs



Questions?



Planning a Seed Security Assessment (SSA)



Tools are rapid (How 'rapid')?

SSA-----SSSA (seedsystem.org)

- Training
- Fieldwork – actual data collection
- Full data analysis
- Action Plan

3-5 days by site/region



Timor Leste SSSA – Timing in 2013

- Background work, well-before field assessment

- Fieldwork: 9-20 October
- Site-by-site action plans:
 - 12 Oct: Aileu
 - 19 Oct: Ermera, Baucau, Ainaro

- Public Report back: 25 October

- Formal report: December



SSA – Key features

- Desk-based and field-based
- Best done by 'teams'
- Has been done by single experts but there is no established methodology (???) (gap area)



Facilitated 'Teams'

- Facilitators: introduce tools
 - train on SSA use
 - help organize desk assessment
 - manage field process
 - ensure public feedback
 - ensure concrete workplans
 - facilitate final report (put in the **public domain!**)



Facilitated 'Teams' cont...

- Teams: implementers (who WILL follow-up)
 - Some farming systems expertise
 - Seed specialists
 - Economists (M&E)
 - Gender and vulnerability specialists
 - Ministry/Policy leaders
 - Translators
 - Data entry people
 - Drivers...
 - ...



Programming capacity building in assessment has trade-offs

- Assessments by 'experts' are quicker
- Assessments which are extractive are quicker

But...

- Capacity building assessments may have more longer-term benefits...people understand seed systems and think about diverse response options, make 'smarter' decisions



Question: For your routine assessments (any kind)
do you prefer **single experts** or **teams**?



Specific Process Guidance: On seedssystem.org

- Workplans overall (by country/region)
 - Workplans day by day (per site)
 - Budgets
 - Equipment
-
- Concept note/introduction
 - Launch program
 - Background consultancies
 - (no overall process guide for any SSA, RSSSA, SSSA, ...)



seed system *Strengthening smallholder farmer seed systems*

Field Assessments Around the World | Assessment Tools and e-Learning Course | Seed System Support Practical Guidance | Research Resources Datasets SSSA | About Us

SeedSystem.org provides practical ("how-to") guidance. We aim to foster productive, resilient, and market-oriented assistance.

When Disaster Strikes: overall assessment guide
Seed System Security Assessment: specific tools
Seed System Security Assessment & Response: an e-learning course
Tips for Planning & Implementation

Policy Analysis & Awareness Raising
State-of-the-art research and reviews exploring myths and highlighting opportunities for sustainable, resilient and profitable seed systems advances.
I learn more

photo credit: Laperling/ciat

Latest Blog Posts

- ✓ Informal Seed Traders: The Backbone of Seed Business and African Smallholder Seed Supply
- ✓ COVID-19 and Seed Security Advice: Feedback on Resources
- ✓ COVID-19 and Seed Security Guidance: STORAGE
- ✓ Minimum Technical Standards for Seed System Assessment (SSA) in Emergencies
- ✓ Seed System Security Assessments in time of the Coronavirus

COVID-19 and Seed: Emergency Guidance

- 📄 COVID-19 and seed security response now and beyond
- 📄 Seed Security Response to Covid-19: now and beyond
- 📄 UN Food Security Cluster: emergency seed guidance and COVID-19
- 📄 COVID-19 + Seed Security

COVID-19 and Seed: Developmental Guidance

Tweets from @SeedSystemOrg

SeedSystem @SeedSystemOrg · Dec 1, 2020
COVID-19 and Seed Security Response Now and Beyond
authors.elsevier.com/a/1c5aF15oGp6T...

sciedirect.com
Viewpoint: COVID-19 and seed security response now and ...

12:44 PM 8/24/2022



A few unique features of SSSA



SSSA software automates data analysis, generating instant result tables

Box 2: Data in...

template for SSSA individual interviews_V14 - M

	F	G	H	I	J	AS	AT	AU	AV	AW	AX	AY	AZ
1	age	gend	Hhtype	Hhsize	Areacult	CrCuA kgTot	CrCuA NrSow	CrCuA ActSo w	CrCuA MLS	CrCuA MLWh y	CrCuB	CrCuB1 Srce	CrCuB1 Ac
2	40	m	1	8	1	13	12	13	m	25	2	4	d
3	20	f	1	6	2	6	8	6	l	2	1	1	a
4	60	m	1	4	3	8	8	8	s	3	2	4	d
5	30	m	1	8	1	7	6	7	m	21	1	1	a
6	20	f	1	12	2	12	3	12	m	23	2	4	d
7	32	m	1	2	3	12	12	12	s	3	1	4	d
8	45	f	1	4	1	12	4	12	m	28	2	4	d
9	44	f	1	2	2	11.5	6	11.5	L	2	1	6	d
10	52	f	3	3	3	14.2	3.4	14.2	M	30	2	6	g
11	18	m	2	4	1	2.5	0.2	2.5	m	30	1	6	g
12	12	f	1	6	3	26	11	26	M	30			
13		m	1		1	72	60	72	m				
14		m	2		2	50	30	30	m				

.....Analysis and tables automatically out

Women-headed households - responses

1) Women-headed HHs - CURRENT/MOST RECENT SEASON: MORE,

	Crop	Number of farmers	% of households			Change in se
			MORE	SAME	LESS	mean %
8	Maize	16	37.5	25.0	37.5	72.32
9	Sorghum	23	43.5	17.4	39.1	29.65
10	Millet	8	25.0	25.0	50.0	-7.01
11	Sweet potato	2	50.0	0.0	50.0	25.00
12	Irish potato	3	0.0	33.3	66.7	-38.89



Ex. from Timor-Leste, 2013 cont...

Average Expenses per farmer, last Season 2013

Key crops	N growing this crop	Spending (\$)				
		Local market	Neighbors	Ag-input shops	all purchases	% of total
Maize	58	2.55	0.42	0.00	2.97	32.5%
Rice	36	1.92	0.73	0.00	2.65	29.0%
Peanuts	11	3.24	0.28	0.00	3.52	38.5%
Total		\$ 7.71	\$ 1.44	\$ 0.00	\$ 9.15	100.0%

Ainaro

Next season:
\$11.09



Summary: SSA process and tools

1. Evidence-based data
2. Concrete action plans
3. Tools appropriate for diverse scales
4. Tools geared to different informants (on supply & demand)
5. Durable results (assessment linked to action over multiple seasons)
 - o Immediate: emergency
 - o Short-term planning: 1-2 seasons
 - o Medium-term: 3 seasons+



Future work (gaps)

- Refining & adopting minimum standards
- Adding Seed Security to General Food Security Assessment (like CFSAM)
- One person(s) 'Expert Assessment' (**Surge teams for quickly-developing emergencies**)
- Tablet (android...)-based data collection for all forms
- Remote technical support capacity?



Questions on SSA Planning



Future planning, needs & constraints



Needs/constraints from consultations (2021) & SLG (2022)

- Staff capacity
 - Not having trained staff to lead the assessment
 - Lack of basic seed system knowledge
- SSA format requires too much time / resources
- Not knowing BHA minimum requirements
- Not having minimum standards with an assessment
- Didn't know where to find tools, resources



Future Planning Activity Instructions - in plenary

- Go to Google doc **Activity 1: Future planning, needs/constraints**
- Each person should take a separate line (even if from the same organization).
- Take 10 minutes to fill out the table individually.
- Indicate whether you plan to conduct an SSA
 - Where?
 - When?
- Add **constraints** with conducting an SSA. Be as specific as possible.
- Add **support needed** for moving forward (e.g., from SCALE, BHA, others)



What is the SCALE Award?

- USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)-funded
- **5 years:** 2018 - Nov 2022
- Implemented by **Mercy Corps** in partnership with Save the Children
- **Technical areas:** agriculture, NRM, off/non-farm livelihoods
- **Aim:** To improve the impact, sustainability, and scalability of USAID/BHA's activities in agriculture, natural resource management, and livelihoods in emergency and non-emergency contexts



How SCALE Supports Implementing Partners

Technical tools and training guides

- Ex. [Make Me a Change Agent](#)
- [Seed Emergency Response Tool](#) (*review + translation*)

Capacity strengthening

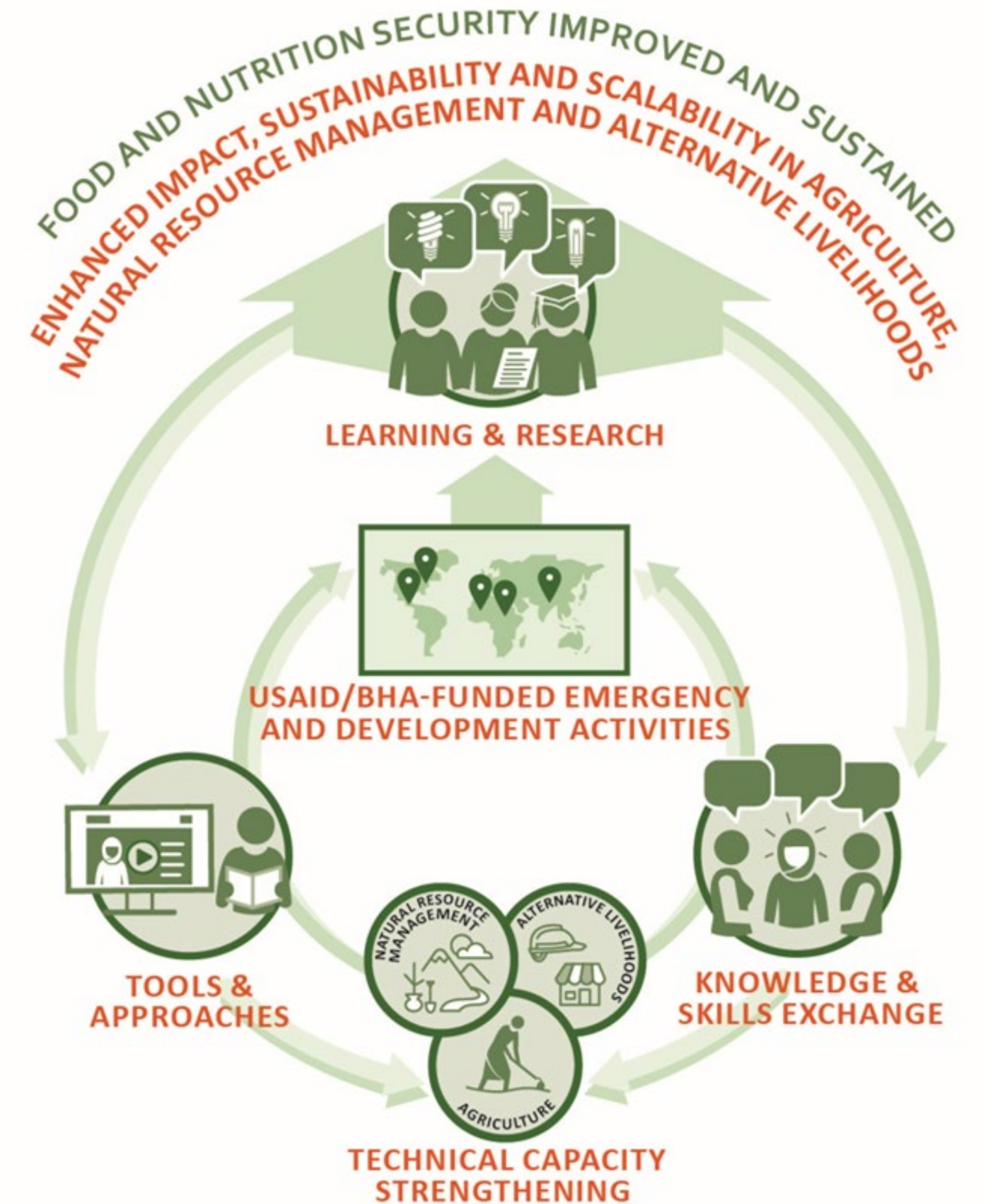
- Ex. in-person and remote trainings
- Seeds Learning Group!

Knowledge sharing & skills exchange

- Ex. [Seed COVID webinar](#) & Regional Communities of Practice

Learning & Research

- Ex. [Models for Strengthening Last Mile Seed Production and Distribution in Fragile Contexts](#)





Discussion/questions



Expressed recommendations



Participant recommendations

- Emergency programs should be explicit (clearly state) their goals.
 - the proposals would indicate the specific design element that will work towards meeting those goals
- Seed System Assessments should be written up and shared in the public domain
- Minimum standards should be just the essentials—should be revised to clarify:
 - what are the very basics
 - how little is enough



Participant recommendations

- SCALE write up the common pitfalls, why it happens & moving forward (maybe 5-page Information sheet–pithy)
- Resources list should come with an assessment on the specific components that are most useful or can be pulled to supplement related inquiries and information gathering
- Need for further training on seed systems and the SSSA
 - implementing SSA/SSSA quite daunting!



Learning Group Evaluation



Final remarks & Certificates

