



Increasing the effectiveness of emergency seed programming in humanitarian contexts in Nigeria

International conference

Abuja, February 17-18

COLLABORATIVE
SEEDPROGRAMME
Nigeria-Netherlands



Our objectives for this conference

1. Build connection between Nigerian and international organisations working in the seed sector in the fragile regions of Nigeria
2. Facilitate exchange on good seed aid practices and market-based intervention approaches and strategies
3. Learn about approaches to support community-based seed production and build resilience across farmer-managed seed systems
4. Inform the action learning agenda of ISSD Africa with Nigerian experience and expertise

Programme: Monday 17 February

Time	Session title	Content
09:00 – 10:00	Welcome and opening remarks	Remarks NASC & Sahel Consulting. Programme overview, ISSD Africa
10:00 – 10:30	Keynote: 10 Principles for Good Seed Aid	Presentation: SeedSystem.org / Mercy Corps / ISSD Africa
10:30 – 11:15	Seed emergency response strategies in Nigeria's fragile regions	Panel discussion: NASC, SEEDAN, VR Committee, FAO Nigeria, Mercy Corps Nigeria
11:15 – 11:45	Refreshment break	
11:45 – 13:15	Overcoming barriers to applying principles for good seed aid	SeedSystem.org / Mercy Corps. Interactive group discussions
13:15 – 13:30	Refreshment break	
13:30 – 15:00	Market-based responses for seed system sustainability and resilience	Mercy Corps. Presentation, group discussions, Nigerian representative panel discussion
15:00 – 15:30	Key takeaways day 1, and introduction to day 2	Plenary sharing of key takeaways
15:30 – 16:30	Networking lunch	

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Programme: Tuesday 18 February

Time	Session title	Content
09:00 – 09:30	A deeper understanding of the impact of conflict on seed systems	Presentation: SeedSystem.org / Mercy Corps / ISSD Africa
09:30 – 11:00	Strengthening Nigeria’s Institutional Seed Markets	CSP-Nigeria: Presentation, panel discussion, plenary debate
11:00 – 11:30	Refreshment break	
11:30 – 13:00	Resilient and diverse Farmer-Managed Seed Systems	CSP-Nigeria, Oxfam Nigeria, Sasakawa Africa Association, Alliance Bioversity & CIAT – presentations, table discussions.
13:00 – 13:15	Refreshment break	
13:15 – 14:15	Pathways for new evidence-based strategies for innovation	Panel discussion and plenary sharing
14:15 – 14:30	Closing remarks and farewell	Sahel Consulting & ISSD Africa
14:30 – 15:30	Networking lunch	

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Advancing the Humanitarian, Development and Peacebuilding Nexus in Africa's Seed Sector

Community of Practice on Integrated Seed
Sector Development in Africa

2023 - 2027



ISSD

Africa

Enabling Partners

Main funding



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

Complementary initiatives



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Ethiopia-Netherlands
SEEDPARTNERSHIP



ISSD
Sahel



CGIAR



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



COLLABORATIVE
SEEDPROGRAMME
Nigeria-Netherlands



PRO-WASH
Practices, Research and Operations
in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



SCALE
Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture
Livelihoods and Environment

Collaboration

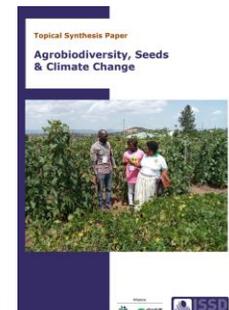
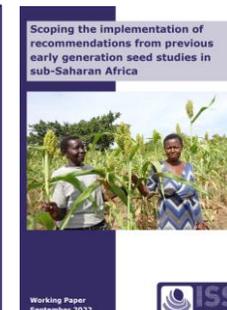
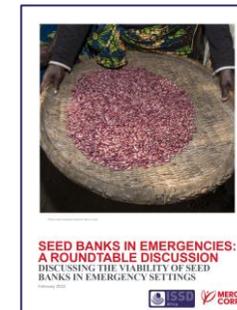


**African
Union**

ISSD Africa contributes to the aims of the
African Seed & Biotechnology Programme of
The African Union Commission

The ISSD Africa Community of Practice

- Since 2012: Action research for African-grown solutions
- Addressing common bottlenecks toward improving access to quality seed
- True CoP: visibility for all members, diverse leadership and funding
- A structure for co-creation, joint experimentation and exchange
- Support embedding with governments, projects and programmes



(ISSD Africa 2019-2023)

A Community of Practice working on commonly experienced challenges across Africa's seed sector:

Topic 1: Developing the seed sector in fragile states

Topic 2: Effective seed insecurity response

Topic 3: Agrobiodiversity, seeds and climate change

Topic 4: Enabling seed policies

Topic 5: Enhancing seed quality assurance

Topic 6: Business models for early generation seed

Topic 7: Creating demand for quality seed

Topic 8: Gender dynamics in seed systems



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and Cooperation SDC



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



ISSD Africa HDP-Nexus 2023 - 2027

Advancing the Humanitarian, Development and
Peacebuilding Nexus in Africa's Seed Sector



Kick-off Conference, Addis Ababa, April 2024

ISSD Africa HDP-Nexus focus

Advancing the Humanitarian, Development and Peacebuilding Nexus in Africa's Seed Sector

- How can humanitarian interventions in seed emergencies be more effective, market oriented, sustainable, boosting longer-term seed security?
- How can seed sector development approaches better deal with the complexities and urgencies in conflict- and disaster-affected contexts?
- How can seed system strengthening and peacebuilding be mutually supportive?



Targeted impact

Women and men smallholder farmers in fragile and conflicted-affected areas have improved access to sufficient, high quality, affordable, seed of diverse locally adapted varieties that farmers prefer.

This will result in increased resilience, higher farm income, improved food and nutrition security and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity.



A CoP built around 4 Action Learning Projects

- Community of practice engaging in national and international action research and knowledge-sharing events
- Four distinct ALPs, each with specific learning outcomes, knowledge products and events
- Each ALP comprises African and international partners shaping and implementing an action agenda

Action Learning Projects

ALP 1: Resilient & diverse seed systems

ALP 2: Humanitarian seed response in fragile and conflict-affected states

ALP 3: Seed business development in fragile contexts

ALP 4: Seed governance & peace

Activities in:

Burkina Faso, CAR, DRC, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somaliland, South Sudan, Sudan

Action Learning Projects & Lead Partners

ALP 1: Resilient & diverse seed systems



ALP 2: Humanitarian seed response in fragile and conflict-affected states



ALP 3: Seed business development in fragile contexts



ALP 4: Seed governance & peace



Welcome to the community!



Learn more and register for our newsletter:
www.issdafrica.org

Ten guiding principles of Good Seed Aid ('10P')



Ten guiding principles of Good Seed Aid ('10P')

Development- to date: Mercy Corps & ISSD Africa, SeedSystem, input from USAID, FAO, AU, private seed sector, many implementers.

Audience: policy makers, program managers + field staff engaged in emergency and early recovery agricultural response



LOGIC: Emergency seed aid

- ❑ Give farmers means to produce their own crops for food or sale (sustainable..)
- ❑ Limit food aid
- ❑ Get 'good' return of investment
1 kg sorghum seed= 100 kgs food !! (at least)



UN-FAO 'SEED' Funds: Emergency and Early Rehabilitation programs (rising!)

- 1996-7 US\$ 51 million
- 2002-3 US\$ 349 million
-
- 2008-2010 Plans for 48 countries (food crisis)
- 2020 50 countries, c. 186 projects
- 2023 > 200 projects, \$ 470 million +

USAID- Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)

Emergency seed assistance projects funds 2021

FY 2021 Applications

- 185 agricultural applications including 121 with seeds and seedling components
- Totaling US\$ 234.7 million (all funded!)

Repeated seed aid in many countries

Site	Extent of Seed Aid
Burundi	36+ seasons: since 1995.....
Eastern Kenya	92-93; 95-97; 2000-2002, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011.....
Zimbabwe	Near continuous since 1991 (food aid, seed aid or both) 2016??
Malawi	15 seasons or more, since 1992
Ethiopia	Since 1974 : 42+ years
Nigeria (different regions)	???

FAO- Nigeria Seed Aid (last six years)

Table 1: Number of Households (HH) Reached and Quantity of Seeds Distributed, 2018 – 2024 Rainy Season

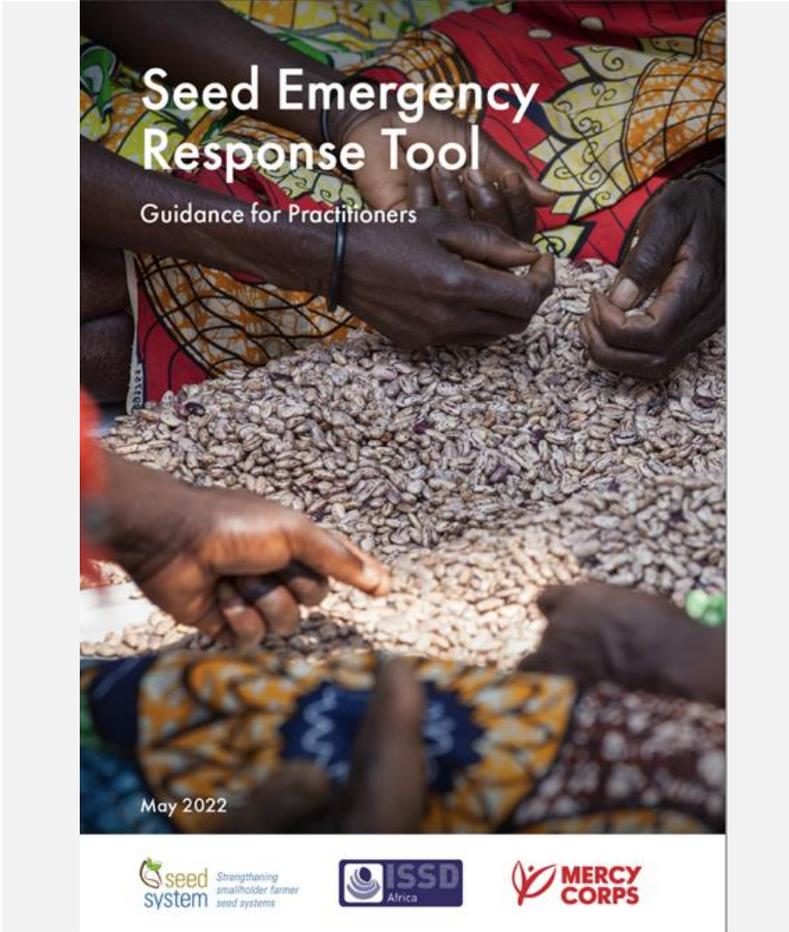
Year	Number HH Reached	Quantity of Seeds Distributed (kg)							
		Maize	Millet	Sorghum	Cowpea	Groundnut	Sesame	Okra	Amaranth
2018	10,265	6400	161720	38080	256150	0	0	0	0
2019	98,400	273880	179952	136944	670000	78000	11550	2120	1696
2020	63,300	99500	127360	55040	337500	53000	10215	1744	1679.2
2021	65,800	80400	46000	16400	158400	23000	11580	1632	1088
2022	47,400	234650	71572	66444	307170	153250	7987.5	3105	2070
2023	11,100	0	0	0	64290	0	0	753.3	502.2
2024	26,750	115275	21925	19455	103125	17187.5	2578.13	1031.25	687.5
Total	323,015	810,105	608,529	332,363	1,896,635	324,438	43,911	10,386	7,723

**Emergency seed aid:
novel developments/insights**

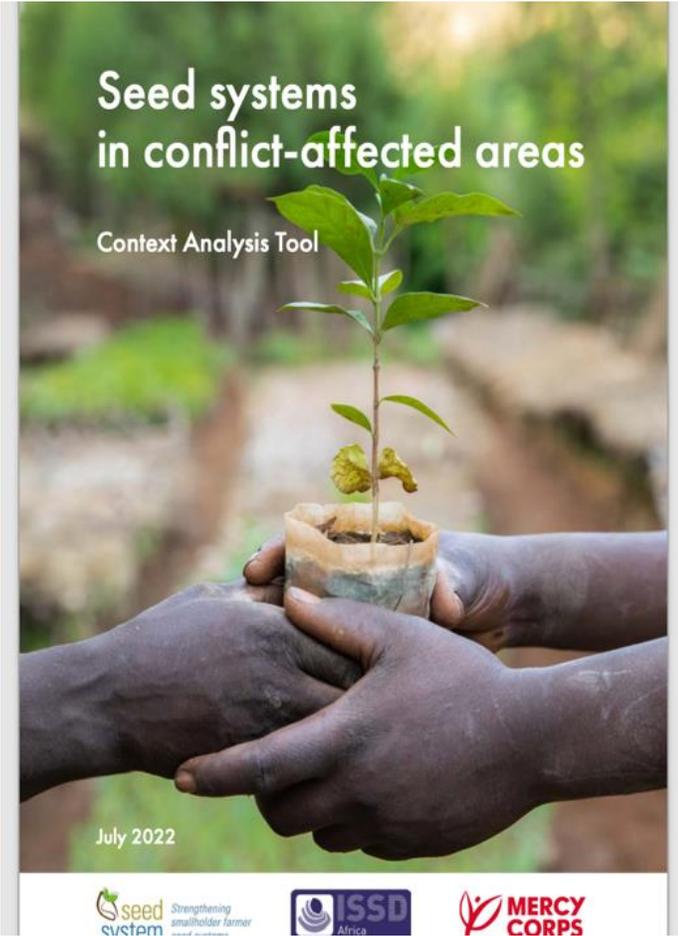


RESOURCES- Overview guides (2022)

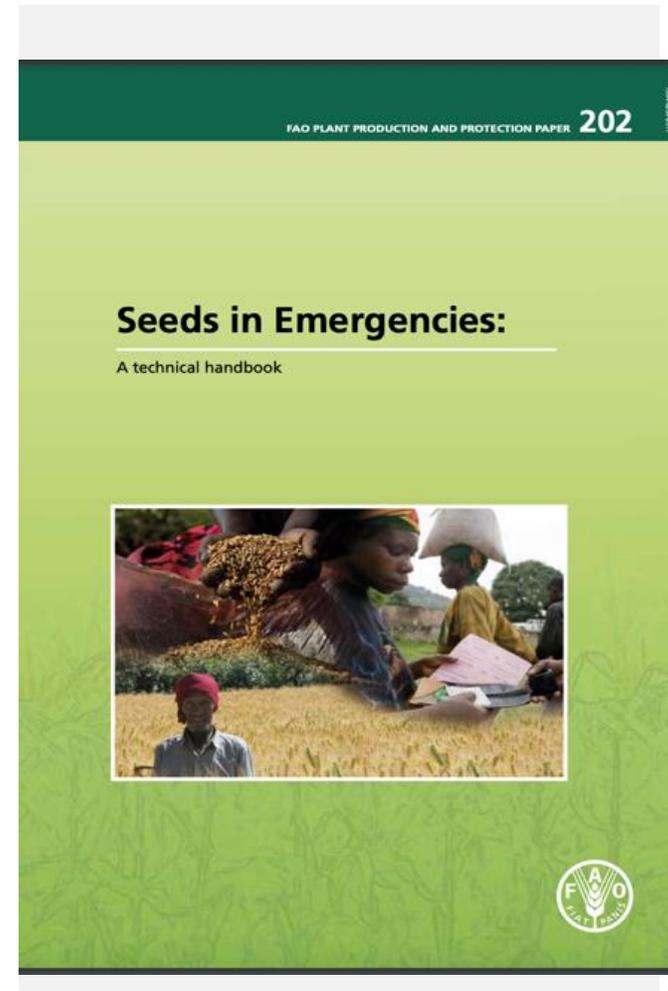
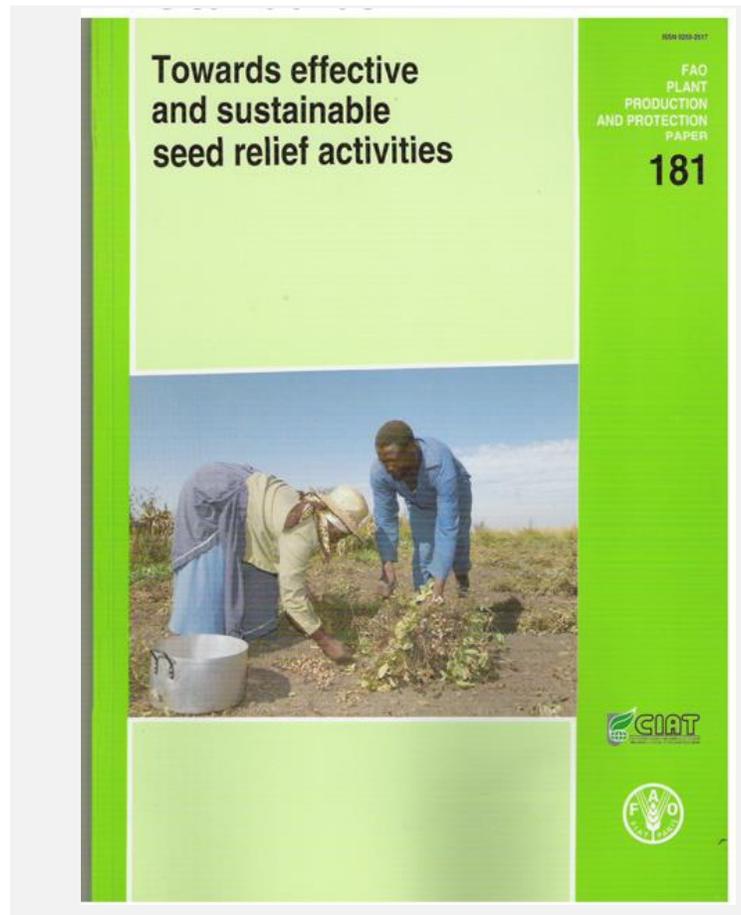
SERT



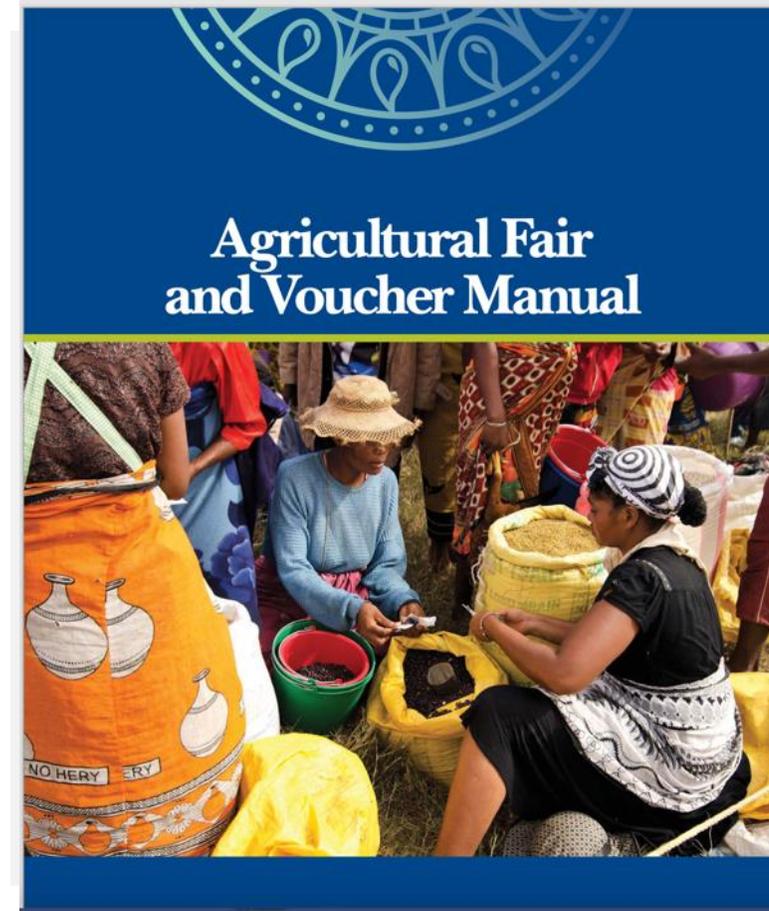
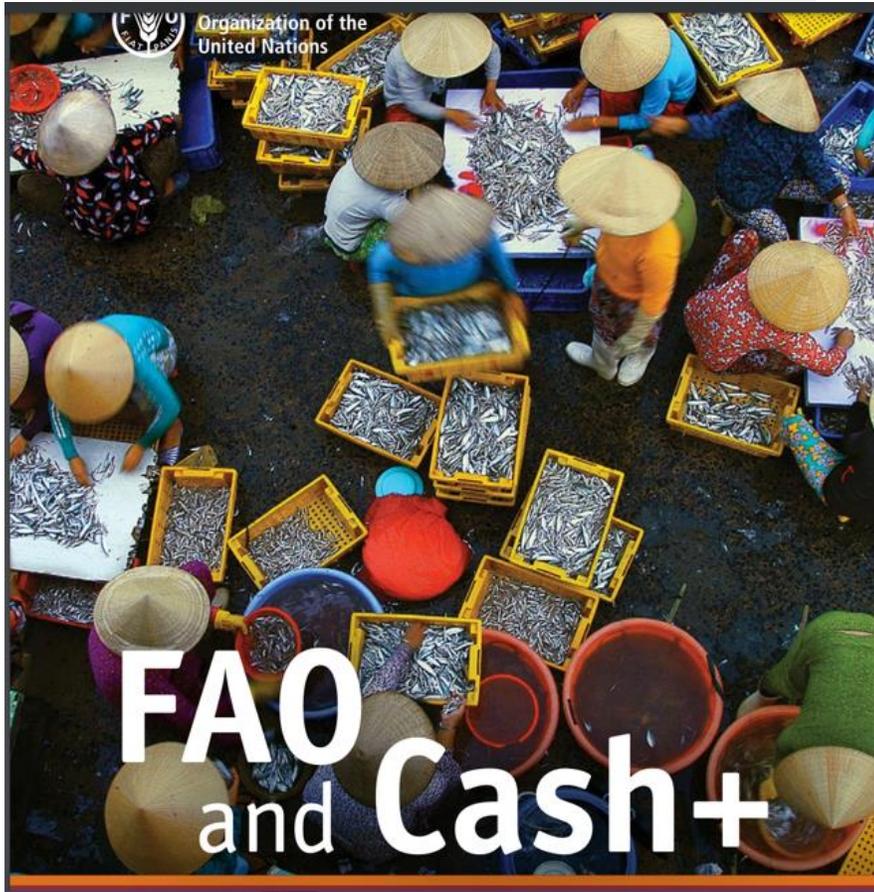
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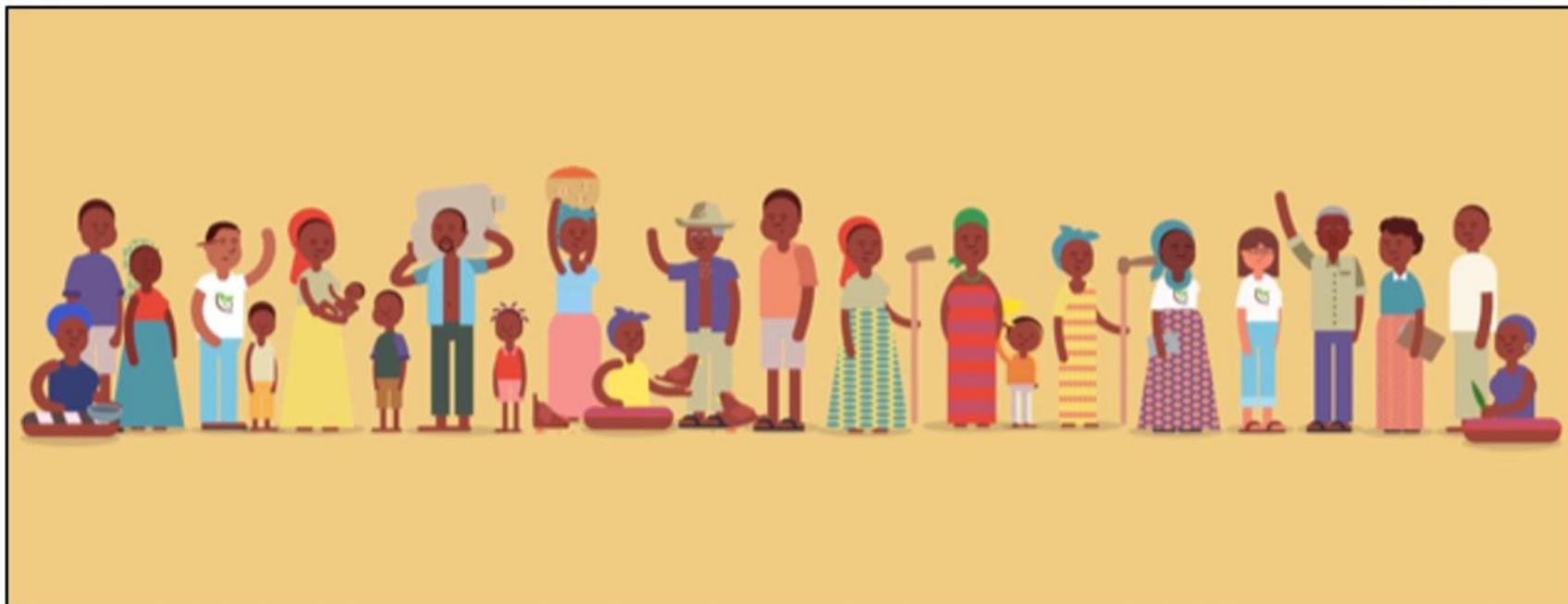
RESOURCES: Standards (from FAO)



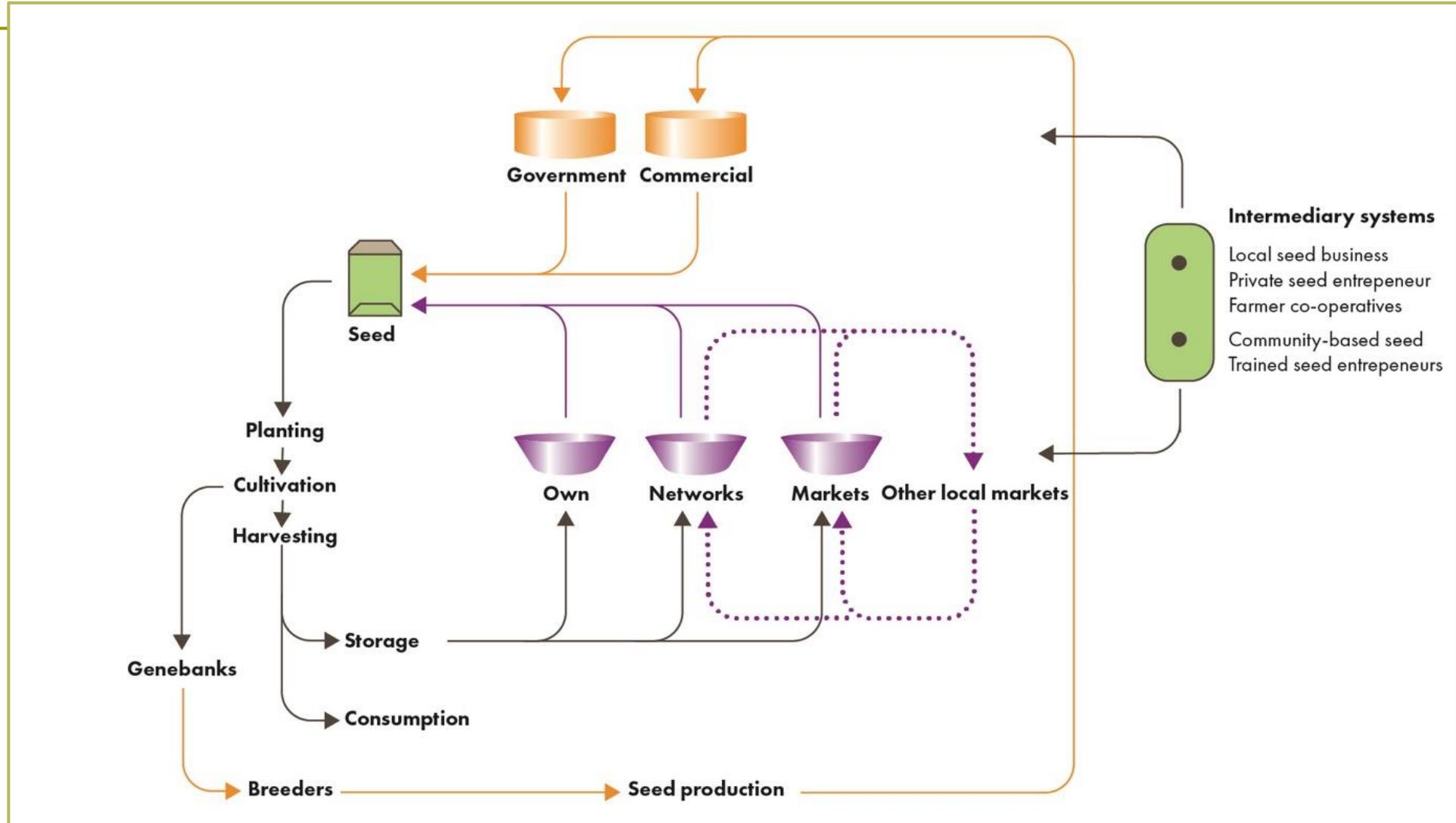
RESOURCES: Market-based approaches



RESOURCES: Assessment



Seed Systems Farmers Use



RESPONSES: many approaches

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 (<u>agrodealers</u> /traders)		

Potential market-based seed interventions: Supply



<u>Seed Security parameter</u>	<u>Market-based intervention (supply)</u>	
	<u>Formal sector</u>	<u>Informal seed sector</u>
<u>Availability</u>	Specific orders to companies to multiply select seed Institutional purchases from companies (existing seed)	Advocacy for relaxed quality restrictions- allowing for more supplies – to be scouted out by traders

Access	Transport vouchers to formal sellers to move supplies to remote areas-- under both availability and access Incentives to companies to pack small (reduce price) Digital payments (in advance) to formal sellers to stock	Transport vouchers to traders (to move supplies to remote areas) Digital payment to traders- to seek out high quality local seed
<u>Quality</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Seed Health</u> • <u>Crop /Variety Quality</u> 		Work with traders to improve seed storage facilities, or use PICS use
	Incentives to companies to expand varieties on offer	Work with traders to move new varieties (to recognize them)



Emergency seed responses

Direct distribution



Seed fairs/vouchers



Cash transfer



Support to diverse seed markets

Informal seed markets



Many crops: cereals , legumes

Agrodealers/seed companies



Maize, vegetable seed

Ten principles guiding Good Seed Aid Practice



Ten principles guiding Good Seed Aid Practice

Themes

1. Seed System Security Assessment (SSSA)
2. Response type
3. Goal of the intervention
4. Context
5. Timeliness
6. Market-based assistance
7. Crop and variety choice
8. Seed quality
9. Farmers' choice
10. Feedback at multiple key stages

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#7 Crop & Variety Choice

The crops and varieties selected for the intervention should suit the context and user needs

Technical notes

- a. Seed and intervention goal
- b. Traditional versus modern varieties
- c. Varietal preferences, including those related to gender
- d. Crop preferences, including those related to gender
- e. Realistic management conditions
- f. Self- and open-pollinated varieties
- g. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
- h. No suitability, no intervention



9. Farmers' choice

Wherever possible, farmers should be given choice among crop and variety options

Not all farmers sow the same set of crops and varieties. Male and female farmers should have the opportunity to plan and tailor assistance to their immediate household needs and overall cropping strategy

TECHNICAL NOTES

- a. Diverse crops and varieties
- b. Access to different seed channels

Some initial feedback on 10P

These principles are clear and concise and focus on areas of seed aid design and delivery that really can affect the quality and impact of aid. The 10P are a good starting point for practitioners to discuss improving seed aid. “

Shawn McGuire, Agricultural Officer (Seed Security), FAO

Bad seed aid does damage to vulnerable farmers and also to emerging seed business. Aid organizations and governments need to take the 10P to heart !

Niels Louwaars, Managing Director at Plantum

Seed emergency is, unfortunately, growing --especially in the context of climate change. Getting seed aid right and giving farmers choice are complex but absolutely essential. The 10P offer a valuable starting point for discussion, learning and action.

Gigi Manicad, Founding Member, Seed for Food Coalition

Nigerian policy 2014

7.1.3 For all intent and purposes, seed should be sold on the basis of cash or on credit as appropriate. Agencies can only engage in free distribution of seed in the case of emergency or relief with the approval of NASC and the intended beneficiary communities and farmers have to be identified in collaboration and agreement with the FMARD.

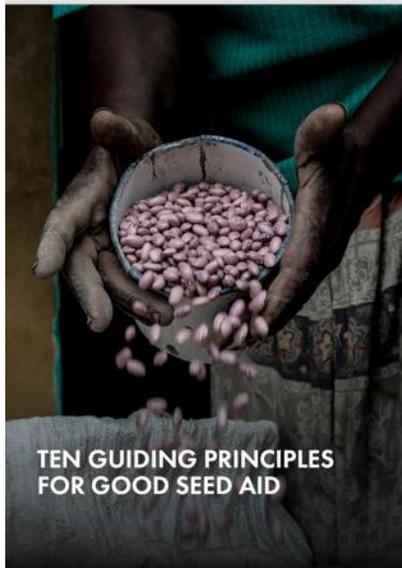
7.1.4 No attempt should be made by agencies to distribute free seed that could undermine commercial sales of seed. This excludes small quantities of seeds meant for promotional purposes.



Search words: seed aid, disaster, crisis, relief

Process forward (generally)

1. Widespread consultation of 10P (Int'l, Nat'l, Regional) (Eng/Fr/Arabic)
2. Analyzing HOW to USE: any barriers ?
3. Tailoring of 10P to your specific organizational needs



- Question 1

Is there a need for guiding principles in emergency seed aid?

- Question 2

Is there official emergency seed aid guidance in existing Nigerian policies?
(what should we be building on?)



Seed emergency response strategies in Nigeria's fragile regions

Panel discussion

Breakout Groups

Activity: Review and provide feedback on the 10P for Seed Security Response in Emergency Situations

Discussion Questions:

1. Confirm: Are Guiding Principles for Seed Aid needed. Yes or No? What are the Pros and Cons?
2. Taking the two Principles (A, B) assigned to your group in the table below, share your expert advice on the following:
 - a. What might be the barriers and to your implementing Principle A and recommendations to overcoming them?
 - b. What might be the barriers to your implementing Principle B and recommendations to overcoming them?

Groups	Principle A	Principle B
Government	5 Timeliness	7 Crop + variety choice
Private sector/Seed companies	6 Market-based Assistance	8 Seed Quality
Community Based Seed Producers	8 Seed Quality	9 Farmers' Choice
NGOs	1 Assessment (SSSA)	6 Market-based Assistance
Research and Academics	7 Crop and variety choice	10 Feedback

Tasks:

1. Please choose a facilitator.
2. Please identify a notetaker for the flipchart. Breakout Group notes will be very important for formal record of meeting and to guide future actions! Please take close notes...
3. Identify someone to present in the plenary read-out.
4. Discuss the questions above assigned to your group.

Breakout Groups

- What might be the barriers to your implementing each principle?
- What are your recommendations for overcoming these?

Groups	Principles
Government	5: Timeliness 7: Crop & Variety Suitability
Private sector/Seed companies	6: Market-based Assistance 8: Seed Quality
Community Based Seed Producers	8: Seed Quality 9: Farmers Choice
NGOs	1: Assessment 6: Market-based Assistance
Research and Academics	7: Crop & Variety Suitability 10: Feedback

Are Guiding Principles for Seed Aid Needed?

Sector	Yes	No	Comments
Government	X		Because it promotes sustainability and coordination
NGO	X		Gives a positive framework for decisionmaking. A simple and clear pathway to seed aid delivery in emergency. Sustainable and well-coordinated response to needs of farmers. Coordination with other stakeholders. Clear vision of ethical conduct based on value
CBSP	X		Helps to address seed insecurity. Reduces dependence on external aid b/c farmers can produce own seed. Poverty reduction. Farmers will have more seed that will improve yield and LLH. Ensure seed given has necessary nutrients
Private Sector	X		Quality seed ensures food security. If humanitarian supply is not checked it disturbs business of seed companies
Research / Academia	X		Will help seed system in terms of availability, accessibility and will ensure farmers have seed to produce

7. Crop & Variety Suitability	Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness of varieties • Economic and financial barriers • Cultural barriers – sensitivity to certain crops • Enviro barriers – climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness creation of crop varieties, Shep approach • Access to credit/support • Community engagement and gender inclusion • Climate smart ag
	Research & Academia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient seed • Adaptability of variety to ecology • Packaging size – too large, not affordable • Lack of awareness of varieties • Lack of storage facilities • Many landraces not certified so can't be available for emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage community seed production • Information on the variety and suitability before deploying • Smaller/suitable packaging size • Enhance farmer awareness of available varieties • Improved storage • Need for good advocacy about seeds • Need for landraces certification
8. Seed Quality	Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High cost of certification – which is passed on to farmer \$\$ • Test delays for seed companies and other agencies • Traceability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy re fixing the cost of certification • Need for harmonized quality check • Better awareness for farmers to be aware of what they're purchasing, how to benefit from traceability
	CBSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have to look at source of seed • Climate change challenges (ex. Drought) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish seed tracking systems • Climate resilient varieties
9. Farmers'	CBSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of landrace consideration • Lack of awareness of farmers of crop variety and seed behaviors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the farmers' preferences re varieties • Policy: consider landraces as well in emergencies



Market-based responses for seed system sustainability and resilience

Increasing the effectiveness of humanitarian seed responses in Nigeria

Abuja, Nigeria

Meseret Getahun, Mercy Corps

February 2025

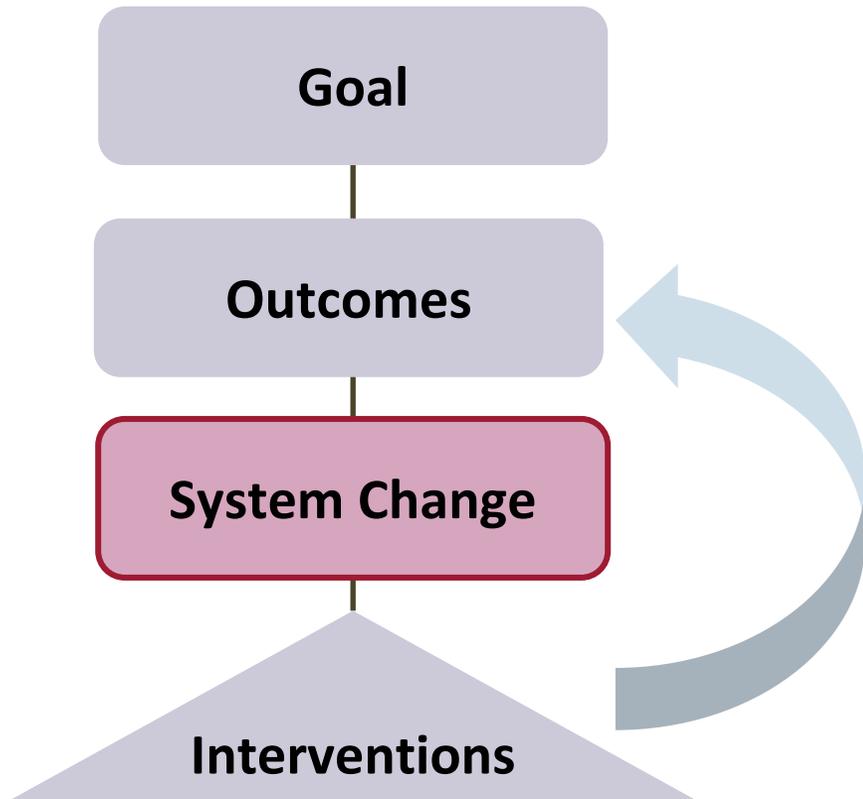


ISSD

Africa

Basic concept of Market Systems Development (MSD)

System change is key



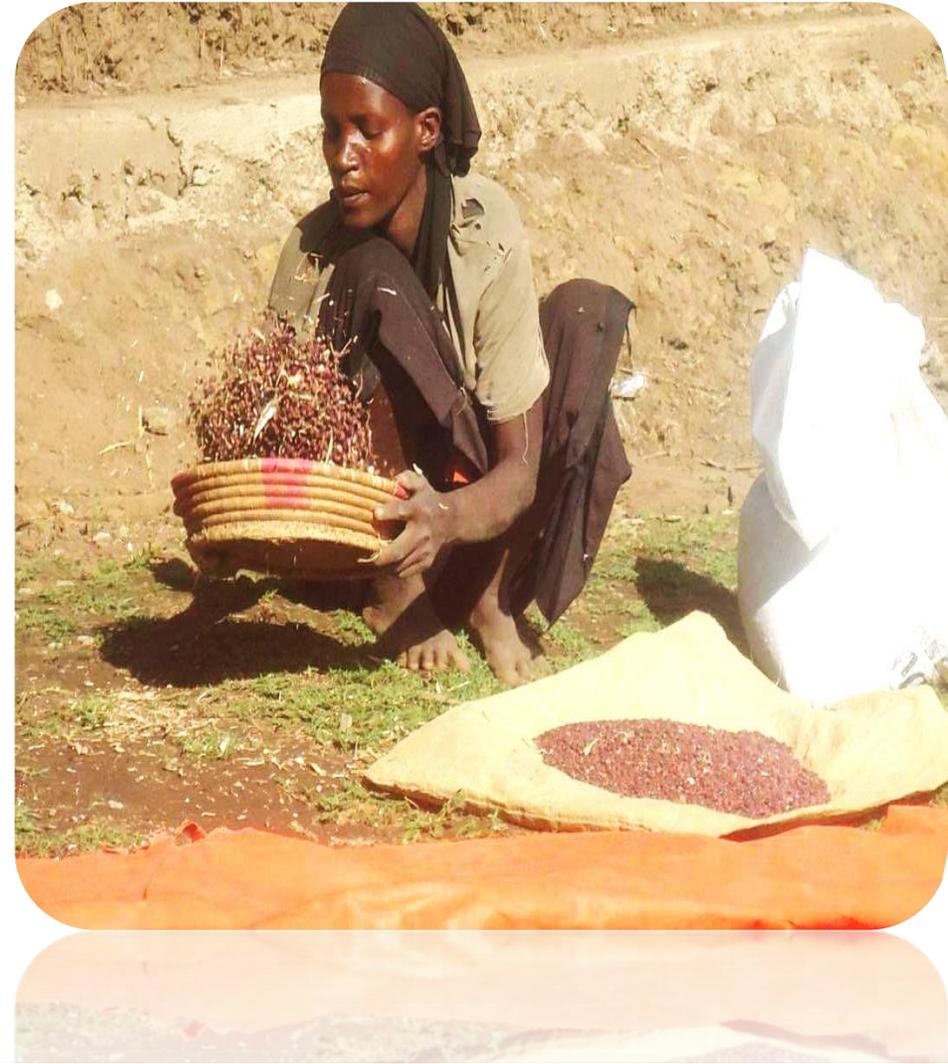
Seed system

- Core market function
 - Research - breeding/ source seed production and supply
 - Private basic seed supply system
 - Certified seed producers - private/public
 - Informal/semi-formal seed multipliers
 - Agrodealers
- Support function
 - Extension
 - Access to finance
 - Transportation
 - Seed education
 - Seed quality control
 - Market information
 - Storage
 - Climate info
- Rules and norms
 - Policies, gender norms. . .
 - e.g., Variety release, QDS, seed marketing...

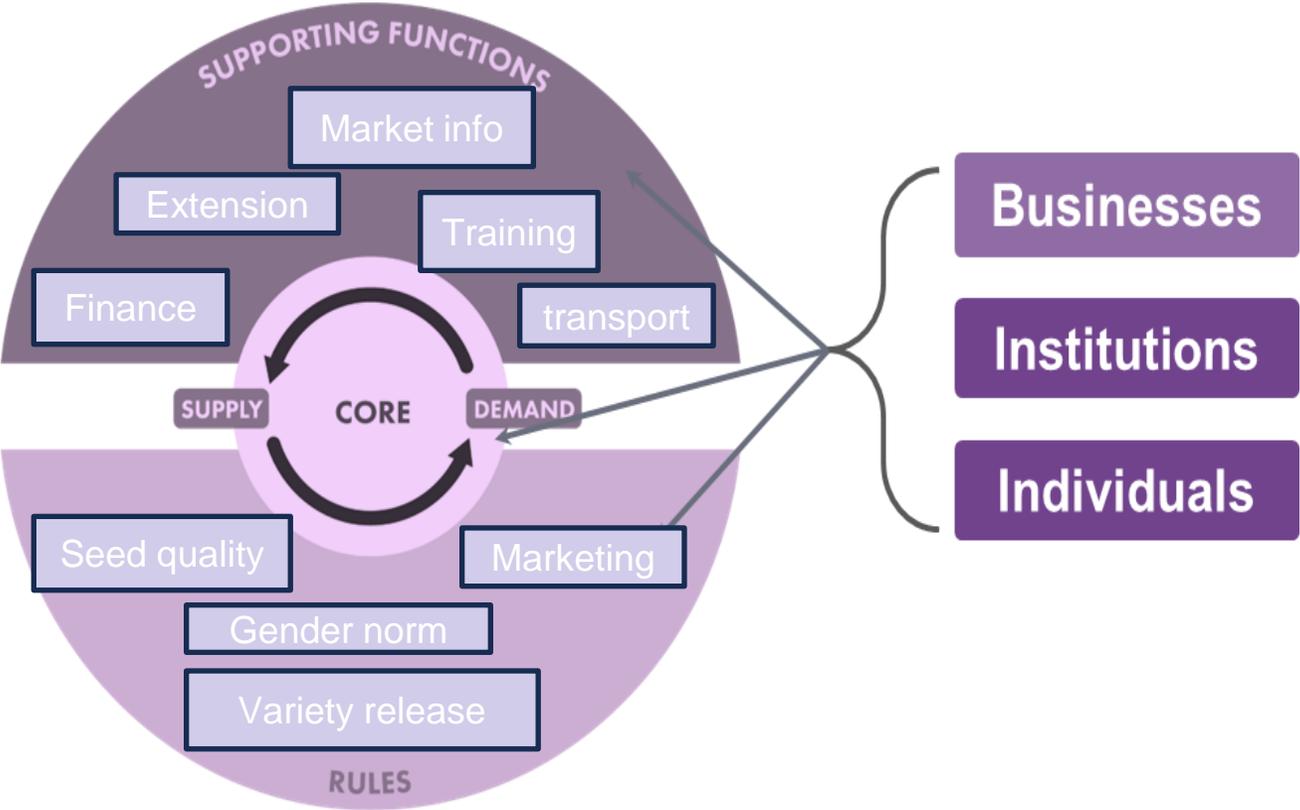
Why take a market-based approach?

Direct seed aid

- Becoming repetitive e.g., Ethiopia 42+ years in a row and Burundi 38 seasons since 1995
- Results of SSSAs not showing change/improvement year after year
- Sometimes increases farmers vulnerability (arrival time, aid dependency. . .)
- Distorts markets, undermines new markets
- Limited scale
- Unsustainable



Cont'd



The effect of crisis and shock is not only for farmers rather it also affects businesses and institutions/rules

Raise your card- per table

Which crisis has the greatest impact on Nigerian seed system?

- Drought
- Flood
- Conflict
- Input cost/inflation
- Pests/diseases

Raise your card- individual

How familiar are you with market-based approaches in seed system interventions in crisis situations?

- High

- Limited

Raise your card- individual

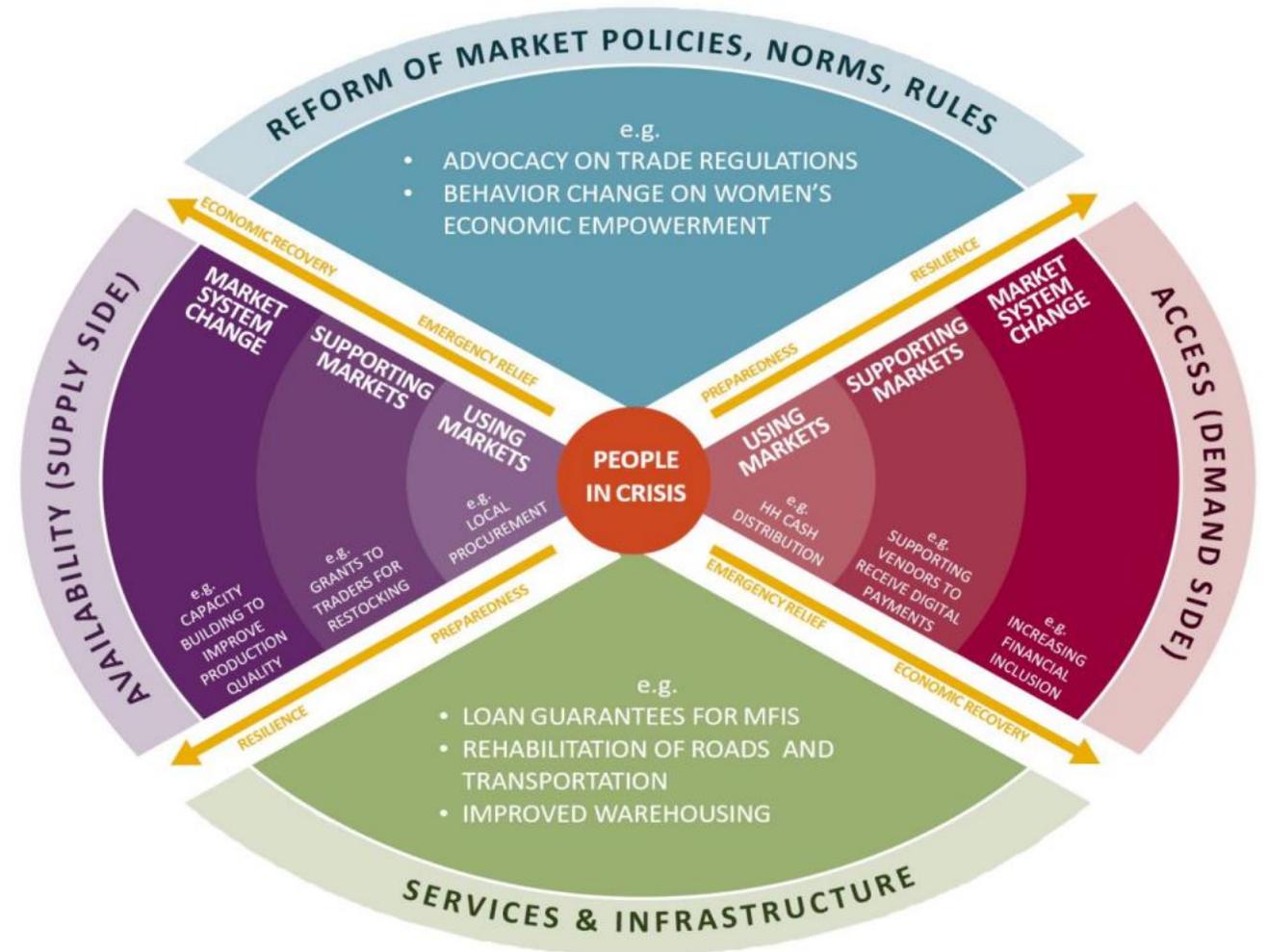
Have you ever incorporated a market-based approach into your seed responses during a crisis?

○ Yes

○ No

Market based programming: which options do we have

- Using markets
 - E.g voucher for seeds, smart subsidies
- Supporting markets
 - E.g support seed laboratories that lost/damaged their equipment's due to conflict
- Market system change
 - E.g EGS production system and linkage with seed multipliers



Market based approaches- seed security interventions



Suppliers

- **Advance payment** before sowing for punctual seed multiplication and time response
- **Business stimulation grant** e.g Covid 19 support agro dealers who shut down the business to re operationalize
- **Smart subsidy:** e.g Cost sharing with seed company for sale of seed with smart subsidy



Farmers

- Seed fairs:** facilitating ad hoc marketplace for seed- where necessary with subsidy/voucher
- Cash:** Giving farmers more purchasing power
- Voucher:** paper or electronic card to increase purchasing power and linkage with supplier or promotion of new seeds



Support actors

- Subsidies:** e.g for transport agencies to buy down risk of transporting seed to the affected area
- New ways of working:** advanced extension system in a way that fit in the crisis situation. E.g IVR
- Rehabilitation:** e.g re building seed laboratories that lost equipments and infrastructures due to crisis

Practical experiences

- **DRC- Seed Fairs**

- Complex humanitarian Crisis
- Widescale internal displacement and the disruption of markets
- Local markets still function
- Seed fairs in Eastern DRC which served in total more than 8,000 farming households in three different locations
- Seed traders that participated in the fair were selected following an open tender process overseen by SENASEM

- **Uganda- Credit to agro dealers**

- Ongoing conflict resulting in market disruption and population displacement, recurring drought
- Agro-dealers capacity to stock was an issue
- Seed companies in the Ugandan capital were provided credit guarantees worth 60% of the stock they provided to agro-dealers.
- Nine agro-dealers participated and were required to pay 10% of the cost of the seed which they stocked, had 90 days to pay for stock or return it to seed companies
- Coupled with 50% voucher

Practical experiences

- **Kenya: small packs for legume**

- Prolonged drought and farmers limited capacity to afford seeds
- a climate-smart agriculture business model and produce and sell drought tolerant and early maturing crops and varieties.
- Sales are primarily through agro-dealers
- they establish demonstration plots and carry out field days to market their seed to farmers.
- Seed is packed in affordable small packs ranging from 100 grams to one or two kilograms.
- Small packs are a useful market-based approach to help seed companies **expand their customer based and increase farmer access to seed.**

Experience Spotlight



Dr. William Mafwalal

A development professional specializing in seed security, livelihood resilience, and market-based interventions.



Dr. Afolabi Samson

Director of research and production Premier seed Nigeria limited



Alhaji Garba Ubale

Curoman Taura Barba Waliyi
Team Leader, Wale Taura
Seeds and Sons Limited

Breakout session

Groups: Government, Private, Research and University, NGO, CBSP

Discussion questions:

- Which of the market-based approaches have you applied before? Max 3
- What role have you played in supporting the above market-based approaches for seed systems particularly in times of crisis? Max 4
- What are the main barriers likely to face in applying Market based approaches? Max 3
- What measure do you suggest to mitigate/address the barriers? Max 3

Time allocated: 25 min

Reflections from the groups

Seed interventions in crisis context

- **Acknowledge:** the role of existing approaches that provide direct support to individuals and households, where needed but in ways that don't undercut local actors
- **Vision:** the aid sector to engage more deeply with the systems where individuals rely on most, to increase the durability and reach of our work
- **Do Not** undermine markets and support and strengthen systems for scale and sustainability

Next Steps

- **ISSD ALP3: Market-based approaches in seed security response**
 - o Desk Reviews (underway) --> development of tools/resources
- **Opportunities for collaboration:**
 - o Case studies
 - o Tools/Resources
 - o Piloting materials
 - o Knowledge sharing – interviews!

Contact:

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Thank you

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www.issdafrica.org



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