

## THE REAL SEED PRODUCERS

Small-scale farmers save, use, share and enhance the seed diversity of the crops that feed Africa

# ANNEX

### Research Design and methodology

This report employed qualitative research methods to interrogate farmer-managed seed systems in six African countries. A range of qualitative methods were used, including participant and non-participant observation, focus group discussions, informal interaction, questionnaires and in-depth interviews with farmers and other key actors in relation to FMSS (Bernard, 2006; Newing, 2011; Puri, 2011a).

Once the primary data was collected from communities and other stakeholders, the country partners analysed it and wrote a country report. This summarized version has been written as a synopsis of the country reports.

Country	Regions included
Zimbabwe	<b>Agroecological region 3:</b> Mutoko District, Ward 12. <b>Agroecological region 4:</b> Masvingo Rural district Ward 6. <b>Agroecological region 5:</b> Runde Rural District, Ward 18
Ethiopia	<b>Tigray region:</b> Three specific kebeles <sup>4</sup> were selected in Raya Azebo wereda, <sup>5</sup> Tigray region: Tsegea, Gereb, Aba Hagos and Hadis Adi. <b>Amhara region:</b> Two kebeles selected from Mekdela wereda, Amhara region: Tebi and Bazura. <b>Oromiya region:</b> One kebele has been selected: Kara.
Uganda	<b>North:</b> Gulu, Amuria. <b>West:</b> Hoima. <b>East:</b> Iganga.
Zambia	<b>Chikankata</b> <b>Rufunsa</b> <b>Shibuyunji</b>
Mali	Douentza and Mopti in Mopti region.
Senegal	<b>Southern:</b> Bounkiling. <b>Northern:</b> Guédé. <b>Central:</b> Ngueye Ngueye.

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4 The smallest administrative unit.

5 Equivalent to a district, and further divided into a number of kebeles.

## **Data Analysis**

The data was collected in interviews in the local languages. The transcripts were then translated into French and English so that the data could be analysed for key issues and themes.

### **How local organisations strengthen farmers' seed systems**

From the six country case studies, it is evident that there are some initiatives/organisations working in support of farmer-managed seed systems. The methods they are using include: working with farmers to influence seed-related policies; distribution of seed to farmers; capacity building for smallholder farmers in the areas of seed multiplication and quality management; empowering smallholder farmers in local seed business; carrying out research on seeds; building linkages between seed-related government institutions and smallholder farmers, and facilitating farmer-to-farmer knowledge and seed sharing.

#### *Zimbabwean farmer seed extension*

Farmer's seed management practices have been transferred to other farmers through farmer-to-farmer extension and training, farmer exchanges, and farmer visits to centres of excellence. National outreach is done through the organization of regional clusters of local smallholder farmers' organizations (SFOs). In each cluster, households are organized in groups or clubs, forming a community of agroecological practices in each SFO, a number of which form a cluster. There are four clusters with over 19,000 members: the Central Cluster, covering Masvingo and Midlands Provinces; the Eastern Cluster, covering Manicaland Province; the Northern cluster, covering Mashonaland East, West and Central provinces, and the Western Cluster, covering Matebeleland North and South. Each cluster has an average of 15 SFOs with varying membership ranging from one hundred to one thousand. Through these, farmers have learnt about seed diversification, sustainable soil management, and seed sharing.

#### *Zimbabwe*

The Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Programme (ZSSP), an alliance of seven Zimbabwean civil society organisations, is working towards greater seed sovereignty in Zimbabwe. ZSSP places strong emphasis on being farmer-led and strengthening women farmers' voices at the regional level, through collaboration with farmers' organisations, civil society organisations, research institutions and academia in Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

#### *Uganda*

The National Associations for Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) helps local communities revive their seeds; to this end, it organises farmer dialogues to discuss seeds and compare the current status with earlier decades. As farmers realized that their traditional seed varieties are resistant to pests and diseases, they started working to revive and use them. Those who still had desired seed varieties in the community began freely sharing them with others, starting a cycle of seed multiplication.

NAPE also facilitates exchange visits between Hoima and Bulisa districts; they learn from each other and also exchange seeds and related knowledge. During exchange visits, discussions are held on different seeds varieties and on the use of seeds for cultural and medicinal purposes. NAPE is also pushing for a bylaw to protect indigenous seed.

Farmers have been encouraged to register their community-based organizations at the sub-county and district levels. These groups facilitate the exchange of seeds and related knowledge, share information materials and provide some funding to locate and regenerate indigenous seed

varieties.

### *Ethiopia*

Ethiopia Biodiversity is an institution with extensive facilities, including ventilated and cold rooms and freezers. It is involved in seed work at the national level and has been conserving germplasm of diverse local seeds for the last 50 years. As part of the conservation process, the institute set up cooperative community seed banks under farmers' control in twelve weredas/districts of six agro-ecological zones in Tigray, Oromiya and Amhara regions. These cooperative community seed banks are helping communities to store and multiply diverse local seeds through a mechanism by which individual farmers borrow local seeds from farmers' cooperative community seed banks and return a larger quantity of quality seeds after harvest.

### *Zambia*

In Zambia, PELUM is an association that works with local seed companies on community seed multiplication and building capacity for setting up community seed banks. The Golden Valley Research Trust, a partnership between the government of Zambia and the National Farmers Union, undertakes research on sustainable production systems. GVRT conducts research on conservation agriculture, development of smallholder livestock systems and production systems for local crops, including indigenous vegetables.

### *ESAFF*

In Uganda, organisations such as ESAFF (Eastern and Southern Africa Farmers' Forum) have supported the formation of groups where farmers come together to select quality seeds for planting. The groups choose one of their number to serve as a quality assurance person.

These associations are also promoting farmer field schools to increase access to seed diversity. Through field-based experiential learning, farmers are able to make their own observations, analyse them, and use the results. The farmers use this knowledge to set up their own community seed banks, where they can preserve and share seeds. They have also collectively worked on selecting and breeding local varieties with desired traits.

In spite of the various efforts by local institutions and initiatives and by civil society organisations to support and promote farmers' seed systems, studies from all countries point to the insufficient support for these efforts, which is evident from the policies and laws put in place by governments. Smallholders are still being taken advantage of by research institutions and exploited by companies for commercial gain.

## Research partners/organisations

**Mali:** CEFROD (Centre d'études et de formation pour le développement en Afrique)

CEFROD promotes agroecology in vibrant and strong communities as well as healthy ecosystems around the world. It works on building food and livelihood security for small-scale farmers, which goes hand in hand with preserving biodiversity. Its programme Seeds of Survival works with farming communities in 12 countries, two of which (Mali and Burkina Faso) are in West Africa. Its collaborative model provides for the sharing of experiences so as to continue recognising the importance of, and building, indigenous knowledge and practices that are resilient, sustainable and recognise women's role in seed saving.

**Zambia:** Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT) and Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity Conservation (ZAAB)

CTDT is a member of ZAAB and has expertise and experience in FMSS. It is a not-for-profit NGO registered in 2009 with the objective of contributing to the livelihoods of rural communities through interventions aimed at promoting biodiversity conservation and natural resources management in food production practices. CTDT promotes the management of agrobiodiversity to enhance sustainable livelihoods through intervention strategies aimed at facilitating restoration and enhancement of traditional plant varieties and animal breeds.

CTDT promotes cultivation of a wide diversity of crops and varieties in order to contribute to household food and nutrition security. This involves cultivation of crops from the different nutrition groups of starches (maize, sorghum, millet, cassava), proteins (groundnut, cowpea, Bambara nut, beans, pigeon pea), minerals and vitamins (traditional vegetables such as *Amaranthus*, *Hibiscus*, *Corchorus*, and various cucurbits including cucumbers, pumpkins and gourds). For many of the programs to succeed, they will need to be supported by the right policies. CTDT is thus actively involved in influencing policy on biodiversity through policy engagement, formulation, implementation and capacity building for relevant stakeholders. CTDT engages in policy advocacy and lobbying designed to bring the voice and experience of local communities to the attention of policy makers. This includes seed policies and laws as well as seed regulations to try and bring them in line with FMSS.

**Senegal:** Senegalese Association of Farmers' Seed Producers/Association Sénégalaise des producteurs de semences paysannes (ASPSP)

ASPSP is an umbrella organization bringing together several federations involved in the valorization of farmers seeds produced under agroecological conditions. It works for community food sovereignty, contributes to the seed autonomy of the peasantry and preserves traditional and local varieties.

ASPSP works collaboratively on biodiversity preservation by organising regular regional meetings at which to share information and exhibit farmer know-how in the field of production, conservation and seed management.

The association works in collaboration with many actors in the rural world, the university sector and research, the arts, letters and communication.

One of the main activities of ASPSP is the Djimini Fair, a meeting place where rural and seed-sector

leaders can jointly capitalise the achievements of local seed promotion programs.

**Ethiopia:** Fassil Gebeyehu Yelemtu (PhD)

**Uganda:** Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF Uganda)

ESAFF Uganda is a small scale farmer-led movement formed to facilitate processes through which smallholder farmers' development concerns can be solicited, articulated and ultimately addressed through local and national policies and programs. The formation of ESAFF in 2002 was a direct response to the need to create a forum in which small-scale farmers are able to deliberate and voice their concerns. ESAFF Uganda works to enhance small-scale farmers' ability to make informed decisions and participate meaningfully in development processes through capacity building, advocacy, research and institutional development. The forum was established in 2002 to bring together small-scale farmers into a social movement to build common aspirations, learning and linkages. It brings together small-scale crop farmers, pastoralists and traditional fisher folks. ESAFF Uganda works towards a vision of an empowered self-reliant small-scale farmer. The mission of ESAFF Uganda is to nurture the participation of small-scale farmers in sustainable development processes, for self-reliance through advocacy, capacity building and institutional development. ESAFF Uganda operates in 30 districts of Uganda.

ESAFF Uganda promotes farmer-managed seed systems (FMSS) through models like community-managed seed security (CMSS). This model aims at providing farmers with a practical, harmonised, systematic approach to the promotion of community-led seed security. The model was deployed, for example, in Gulu district. It consists of eight modules designed to impart knowledge of seed rights to smallholder farmers. The main objective of CMSS is to improve the agricultural productivity and seed sovereignty of smallholder farmers through increased access to affordable, good-quality seeds of their choice from a trusted source and in a timely manner. Smallholder farmer participants go on visits to other communities, where they are exposed to seed preservation techniques with which they may be unfamiliar. The knowledge that they acquire is then used to set up their own community seed banks. ESAFF Uganda has also helped smallholder farmers engage with local and national leaders through dialogue meetings focusing on strategies to promote smallholders' seed rights; a particular emphasis has been placed on supporting women's attempts to protect their interests and assert their views in relation to seed rights.

**Zimbabwe:** Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers' Forum (ZIMSOFF)

As a voice for this constituency, ZIMSOFF promotes organic farming as a sustainable and just way forward for farming in Zimbabwe. It argues that this model addresses basic human rights issues, such as access to adequate and nutritional food and access to clean water and air. ZIMSOFF backs up its advocacy work with strong evidence from the field, with good internal information flow and a well thought-out communication strategy working with a number of stakeholders and allies at different levels from the grassroots.

ZIMSOFF is a national organisation that works in different rural areas of Zimbabwe. It is structured into regional clusters of local farmers' organizations. In each cluster, households are organised into groups or clubs. A number of these form a community of agroecological practices, also known as a smallholder farmer organization (SFO), and several of these form a cluster. There are four clusters with over 19,000 members: the Central Cluster, covering Masvingo and Midlands Provinces; the Eastern Cluster, covering Manicaland Province; the Northern cluster, covering Mashonaland East, West and Central provinces, and the Western Cluster, covering Matebeleland North and South. Each cluster has an average of 15 smallholder farmer organizations with varying

membership ranging from one hundred to one thousand.

ZIMSOFF is an active founding partner of the Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Programme (ZSSP), an alliance of seven Zimbabwean civil society organisations working towards greater seed sovereignty in Zimbabwe. This ZSSP programme places strong emphasis on being farmer-led and strengthening women farmers' voices, and so ZIMSOFF is a pivotal partner in this long-term programme. At the regional level, ZIMSOFF has become an active participant in the regional Seed and Knowledge Initiative (SKI), through collaboration with farmers' organisations, civil society organisations, research institutions and academia in Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. ZIMSOFF is a member of the Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) and La Via Campesina (LVC). As a member of LVC Southern and Eastern Africa region (SEAF), ZIMSOFF is participating in the regional collectives on climate justice and agroecology, seeds and biodiversity including the women and youth articulations. The farmers' organisation leaders are also active in the advocacy and campaigns of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). In recognition of ZIMSOFF's work on local seed systems, the United Nations (UN) Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) nominated its chairperson, Elizabeth Mpofo, as the Special Ambassador for the 2016 Year of Pulses in the African region. In 2017, ZIMSOFF was the international winner of the US Food Sovereignty prize for its role in empowering rural farmers in the struggle for seed and food.

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