Sustainable Seed Production – A proposal

Issues for Discussion

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Many appreciated (legume) varieties have been developed but not widely utilized:

- Because in the past, many supporting institutions tended to rely mainly of formal seed channels while

- The majority of poor resource farmers do not use certified bean seed
Certified bean seed use in selected countries in the region (Annual av % of seed used)

- Rwanda: 1.2% (CIAT) 2002
- Kenya: 1% (KEPHIS) 2001
- Zambia: 1% (Danagro) 1998
- Zimbabwe <1% (Danagro) 1998
What are the challenges with regard to the use of certified seeds of bean?

- Bean seeds not profitable for commercial seed companies
- Lack of awareness of characteristics of the improved varieties
- Access
  - Limited involvement of end users in the development and release of the bean varieties so modest adoption rate
- Seed regulations and policies in some countries are not conducive to the development of local and decentralised bean seed initiatives (including seed multiplication and supply enterprises)
Substantial lessons learned in the past with regard to local seed diffusion (1988-2006)

- Use of small seed packets (Rwanda)
- Diffusion through multiple channels (markets, kiosks, health centres, etc..)
- Range of varieties on offer
- Information brochures in local languages
- Training manuals on business skills for small-scale seed producers:
  - Handbooks for small-scale seed producers
- Strategies for achieving wider impact were jointly devised with partners (NARES, NGOs, GOs, CBOs, FOs, CSCs etc..) (PABRA 19 countries)
Opportunities

- Certain crops/var highly appreciated by farmers in the region and strong demand

- Many development partners, NGOs, GOs and CBOs, Churches, FOs that support farmers to produce and access quality seeds of improved varieties
Farmer seed enterprises serving local markets through links to research and the commercial sector

Secondary groups

Local R/D service provider

Seed company or local seed traders

Research station

Farmer enterprise & research group

association

local seed sales

access to technology

free evaluation

training

feedback

wider market reach

training / promotion

feedback

free evaluation

R. Kirkby (CIAT) 2003
Our clients, co-participants

- Residents of Stress Prone Areas
  - Rural producer
  - Rural consumer
  - Intermediary traders
Target Crops

- Beans (Low P tolerant, drought/disease resistant, bio-fortified)
- Promiscuous soybeans,
- Rosette-resistant groundnuts),
- Maize (biofortified germplasm – e.g. quality-protein maize)
- Orange fleshed sweet potatoes, and others being developed under the HarvestPlus program)
Work package 2: Participatory evaluation of best-bet options

- Facilitation of seed multiplication

- By quarter 1 of year 2, seed multiplication is on-going in all action sites to satisfy the demand in the action and the satellite sites.

- Sufficient Quantities
Seed Multiplication

- Seed for initial germplasm pool
- Foundation seed for pre-release to partners (end of yr. 2)
- Decentralized multiplication (via choice of partners) (yr 3)
- (Partners limited diffusion: Project catalyzes)
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<th>Response</th>
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<td>1. Stressed Environments</td>
<td>1. Partner with orgs. based in stressed areas– who can continue seed diffusion post-project</td>
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SEED PRODUCTION MODES

- Multiplication of foundation seed of released and new improved varieties
  - Research / private seed enterprises

- Multiplication of quality seed (farm-based) by farmer groups, CBOs, local and Intl’ and private entrepreneurs

- Training of decentralized seed producers and extension agents in pre- and post- harvest management and seed business skills

- Cost effectiveness and quality of different production modes.
PROMOTING IMPACT-Oriented Seed Delivery Channels

- Consider existing and innovative bean seed delivery channels (packaging/delivery of test packets).

- Catalyzing wider availability of quality bean seed in targeted sites via range of delivery channels

- Facilitate maintenance of quality

- Demonstrations in communities within target sites and beyond
SUPPORTING SEED/ COMMODITY AGRO-ENTERPRISE AND INTEGRATED SEED SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

- Empower seed producers, dealers with skills in seed enterprise development, management and leadership

- Different farmer segments for seed and grain production.

- Multi-crop approach
ENHANCEMENT CAPACITIES TO INNOVATE AND MANAGE SEED PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY

- Informal
- NGOs
Activities / steps involved

1. Identify partners NGOs, CBO, GOs, Traders/CSCs, processors etc..
2. Expose partners to a range of improved bean varieties for their selection
3. Impart skills in the areas of quality seed production, storage, maintenance, marketing and seed business development skills
4. Facilitate sustained linkages between research and communities for exposure to new varieties