Seed Equal: Equal access and improved choice (2022 progress)

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The Initiative aims to support the delivery of seed of improved, climate-resilient, market-preferred, and nutritious varieties of priority crops, embodying a high rate of genetic gain to farmers, ensuring equitable access for women and other disadvantaged groups.
Seed Equal Initiative Work Packages (WPs)

WP1. Demand-driven cereal seed systems

WP2. Boosting legume seed through a demand-led seed approach

WP3. Scaling and delivery of VPCs

WP4. Partnerships and capacity building to ensure uptake of public-bred varieties

WP5. Policies for varietal turn-over, seed quality assurance, and trade in seeds

WP6. Scaling equitable access to quality seed: reaching the unreached with quality seed and traits
Seed Equal – 2022 key results

Out of 88 innovations, 25 (or 28%) are reported at readiness level 9

TOTAL of 171 results

In total, 4,172 people trained
Seed Equal – geographic focus of results

32 results reported in Kenya, most of them Capdev activities
Contributing to SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 6

23 results reported in Nigeria, most of them Innovation development
Contributing to SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 6

21 results reported in United Republic of Tanzania, most of them Innovation development
Contributing to SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 6

Map displays countries with 2 or more results
Key Partnerships

More than 22 NARS and SROs (ABI Aide Memoir Group + Asian NARS)

More than 500 SME seed companies; seed trade associations and ISF

NGO linked FPOs and other FMSS seed producers
WP1 (Cereals): Pivot to wheat?


- Key publications
  - Near- to long-term measures to stabilize global wheat supplies, and food security. *Nature Food*  
    https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-022-00559-y
  - Broken bread – avert global wheat crisis due to invasion of Ukraine. *Nature*  
    https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-022-00789-x
  - Sowing the wheat seeds of Afghanistan’s future. *Plants, People, Planet*  
    https://doi.org/10.1002/ppp3.10277
WP2 (Legumes): Role of off-takers

- Strong partnerships established with NARS, and other critical stakeholders in bean and cowpea seed value chains, including for the first time, grain off-takers
  - 10 NARS, 42 Seed companies, 23 NGOs, Extension agents, services providers, agro-dealers,
  - 45 grain off-takers/traders

- Partners, willing to collaborate and commit resources to compliment seed production and variety promotion activities.
  - 2190 demonstrations with
  - 51 varieties (<10 years) promoted in Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Burundi, Ghana, and Nigeria.
  - 1465 farmers (m:795; f:670) trained in seed value chain
  - 22 tons of breeder seed, 137 tons of foundation seed and 2,104 certified/QDS seed produced in five countries (Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Mozambique, and Rwanda)
WP3 (VPC)s: Yam seed leaf-bud cuttings

- LBCs can be rooted before transplanted or planted directly in the field.
- Direct planting yielded 2.7 times more than transplanting rooted cuttings.
- Research underway to better understand the optimal agronomic requirements for seed yam production using LBCs

Yam in Nigeria serves:
- 4,836 K people less than 2.15 usd/day
- 4,282 K undernourished people
- 1,070 K people in areas exposed to climate variability (GloMIP)
Seed Policy – key outcome stories

• Support to consultations and drafting on new VPC QA regulations for Kenya completed and accepted in principle by MoA. To be scrutinized in summer 2023 by key Kenya Constitution cross-government committee, in preparation to altering seed law

• Regulatory seed maps for Uganda developed and findings, highlighting gaps in seed laws and policies that justify amendments, presented to the Office of the Prime Minister
Towards a GI MEL + IA plan

Government/NARS

Seed Producers

Farmers

Interventions

- Policies
- Partnerships
- Incentive seed models
- “Outreach”
- Seed delivery through women = back to faster adoption

Technology released: MI varieties + Time to rate of release: MI – varieties

- Technology added to portfolio (e.g., no. of MI varieties, higher rate of MI var. to other var.)
- Rate of adding new varieties (e.g., similar to work for seed producers)
- Seed production increased (e.g., seed productivity volume in generally)

Outcomes

- Technology adoption increased
- Technology adoption increased

5 Impact Areas

March: Meeting in Addis

Baseline values: Creating scores for MI varieties and seed system functioning

Data collection: 1 market segments

Data collection: 2 market segments

Data collection: 4 market segments

2023 2024 2025 2026 2027
Thank you