



INITIATIVE ON
Seed Equal

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.

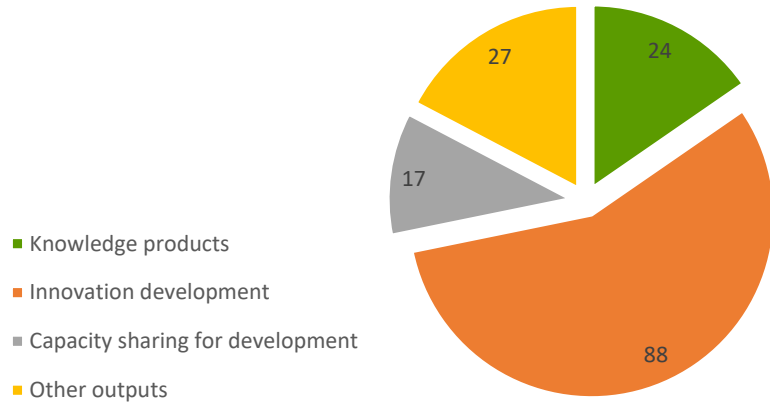
Policies for varietal turn-over, seed quality assurance, and trade in seeds

WP6.

Scaling equitable access to quality seed: reaching the unreached with quality seed and traits

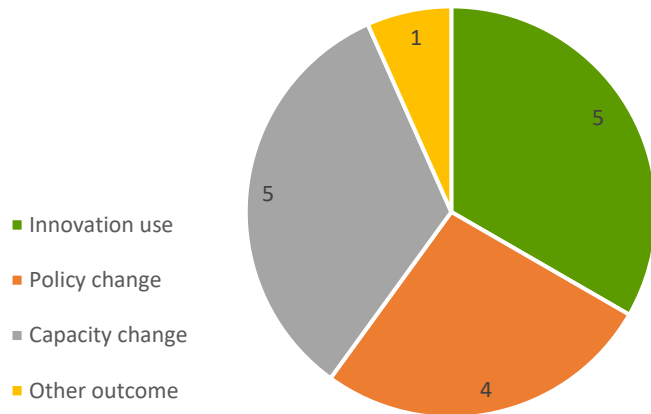
Seed Equal – 2022 key results

Output Result Categories



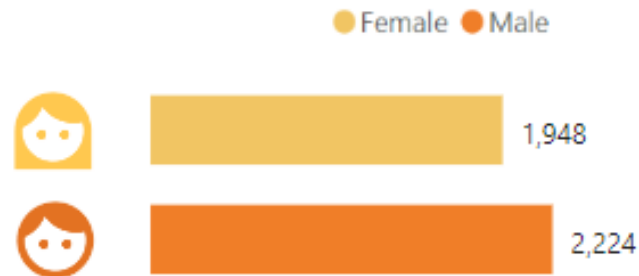
Out of 88 innovations, 25 (or 28%) are reported at readiness level 9

Outcome Result Categories

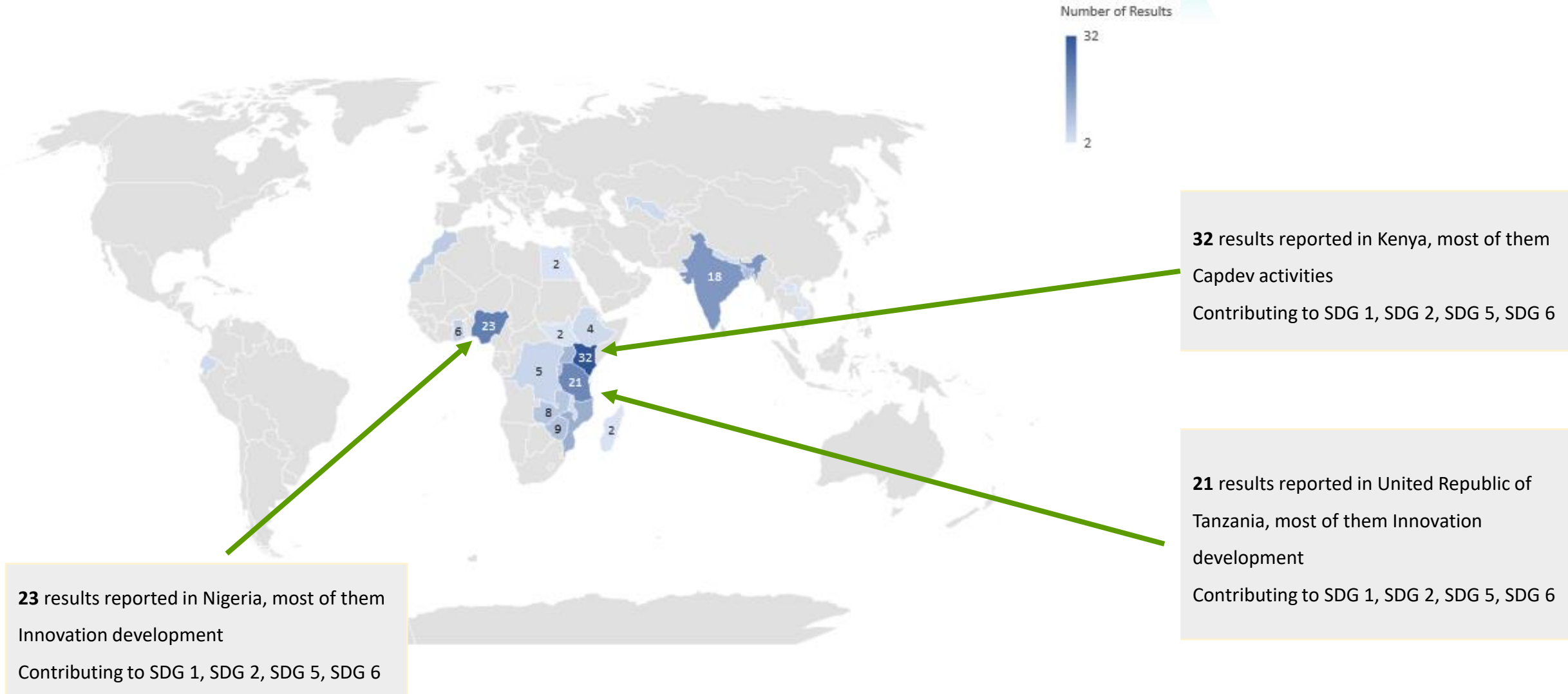


TOTAL of 171 results

In total, 4,172 people trained



Seed Equal – geographic focus of 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



WPI (Cereals): Pivot to wheat?

- Afghanistan – rebuilding the wheat seed sector.
Collaboration between CIMMYT, SOAS University of London, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, FAO Afghanistan, The HALO Trust, Afghanaid, Agricultural Research Institute of Afghanistan.
- 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)



Field with direct-planted LBCs



Plants from direct-planted LBC 14 WAP



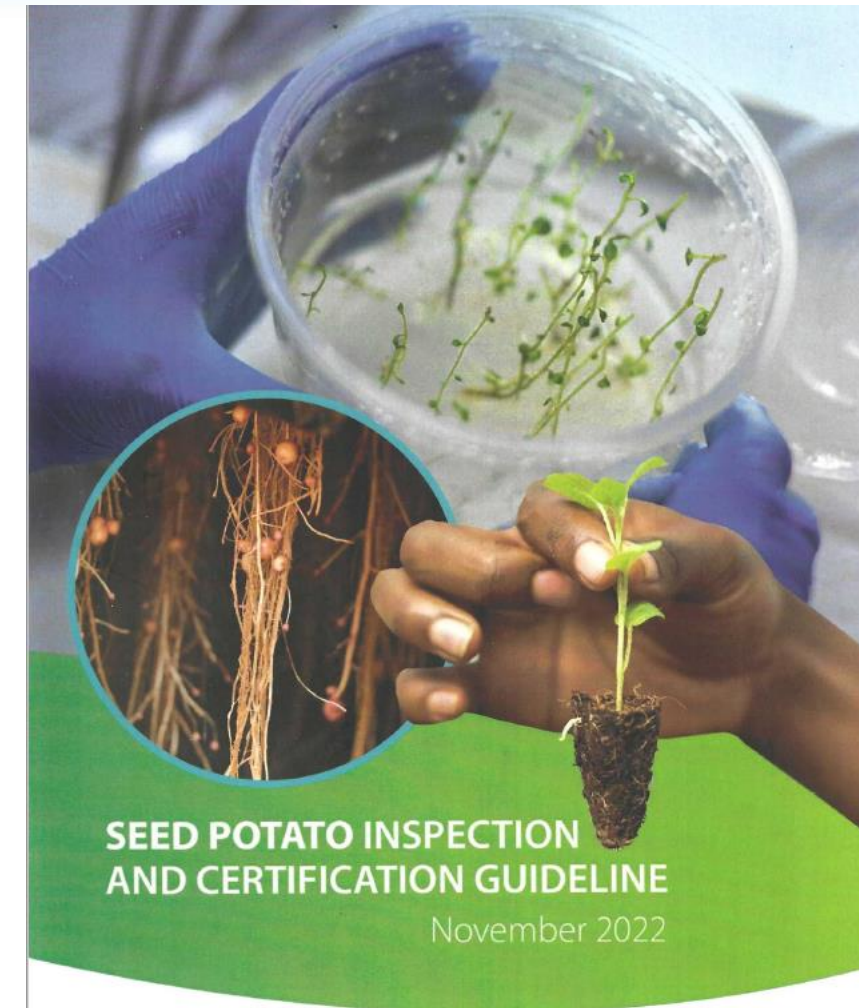
Leaf-bud cuttings



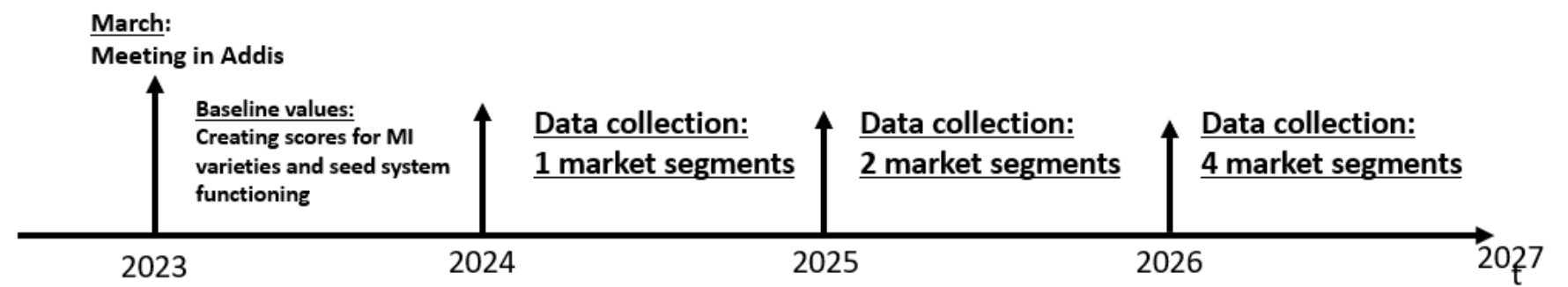
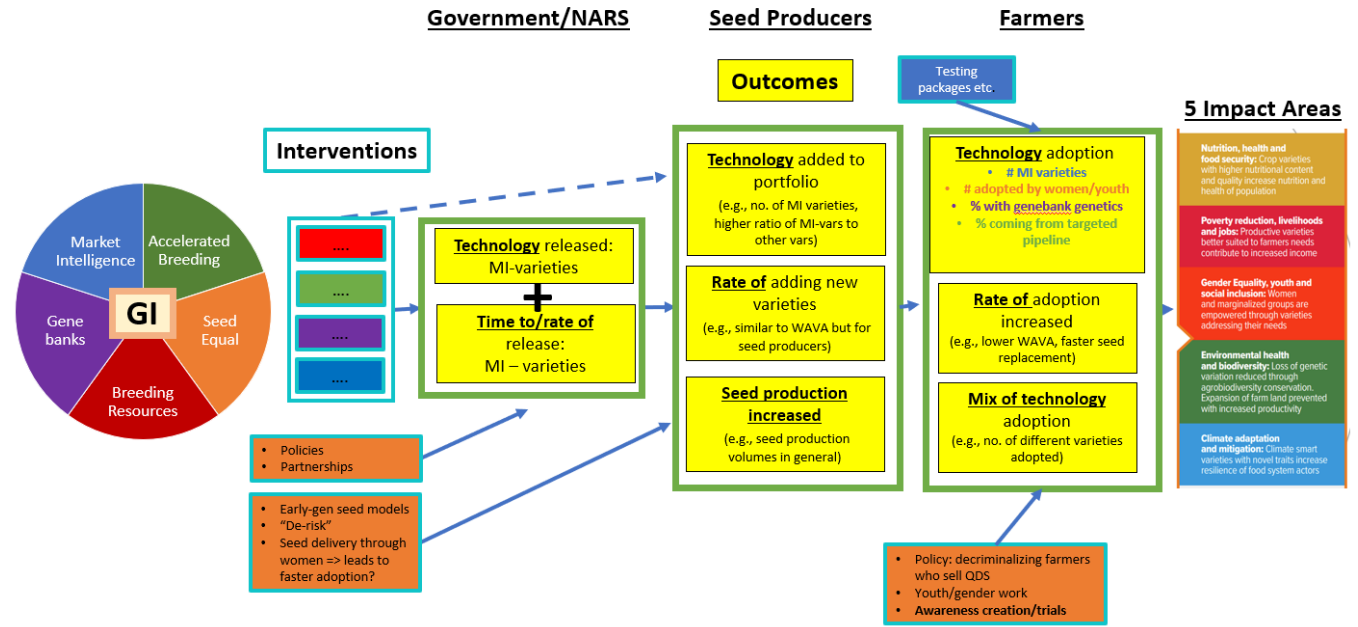
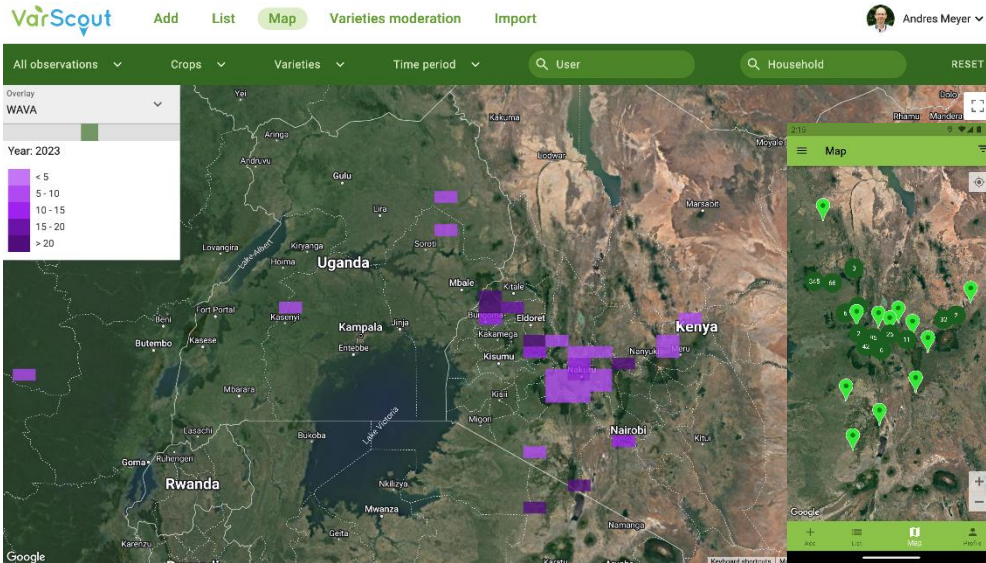
Rooted leaf-bud cutting

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



Thank you



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