

Evidences

Study #4303

Contributing Projects:

- P1589 - Policy Support for Climate Resilient, Biodiversity-rich Seed Systems

Part I: Public communications

Type: OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report

Status: Completed

Year: 2021

Title: Protocol for collaboration between the national genebank and community seed banks launched and endorsed

Short outcome/impact statement:

Through a co-creation process with national partners in East and Southern Africa, and the Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation in the Netherlands, led by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, the protocol for collaboration between the national genebank and community seed banks was produced, disseminated through the Integrated Seed Sector Development Africa program, and endorsed by national genebanks in a number of countries.

Outcome story for communications use:

The proposal for a protocol emerged from collaborative experiences in several countries (e.g. Nepal, South Africa, Uganda) to build bridges between community seed banks and the national genebank, entities that do not by nature work together. (1)

Concrete efforts to collaborate and work towards a protocol were supported in Kenya and Uganda. In Kenya, the Seed Savers Network of Kenya initiated a national consultation process/dialogue to develop a protocol for collaboration between the national genebank and the community seed banks in the country. Such collaboration entails the exchange of seed and knowledge, joint conservation activities and the creation of synergies towards a national conservation system. (2) Led by the Seed Savers Network, Community seed bank establishment guidelines were prepared in collaboration with the Genetic Resource Resources Institute (GeRRI) and the national genebank. (3) In Uganda, the Plant Genetic Resources Centre (housing the national genebank) of the National Agricultural Research Organisation produced a community seed bank Standard Operational Procedures document to guide the establishment of community seed banks in the country in harmony with national policies. (4)

The Alliance complemented the work done in the two countries through an additional effort in collaboration the Seed Savers Network Kenya, PGRC-NARO, the Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WCIDI) of Wageningen University and Research in the Netherlands, the Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT) of Zimbabwe, and the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) in South Africa, resulting in the Protocol for Collaboration between the National Genebank and Community Seed Banks, which was published and disseminated in 2021. (5)

(1)

Vernooy, R.; Matelele, L.A.; Sema, R.P.; Mokoena, M.L.; Maluleke, N.L.; Tjikana, T.; Phora, G.; Dibiloane, A. (2019) Green shoots. Community seedbanking in South Africa: endeavours and outcomes 2016-2019. Rome (Italy): Bioversity International; Pretoria (South Africa): Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 8. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/101495>

Otieno, G., Nzuki, R. 2020. Why we save seeds in Uganda. The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT. <https://alliancebioversityciat.org/stories/why-we-save-seeds-uganda>

(2) Kimani, D.; Adokorach, J.; Munkombwe, G.; Mushita, M.; Otieno, G.; Recha, T.; Vernooy, R. (2021) Strengthening community seed banks in East and Southern Africa in times of Covid-19. Rome (Italy): Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/113388>

(3) Seed Savers Network-Kenya. 2021. Community seed bank establishment guidelines. Seeds Savers Network-Kenya. <https://seedsaverskenya.org/guides/>

(4) Standard Operational Procedures for Establishing Community Seed Banks in Uganda. 2021. <http://csb.naro.go.ug/download.php>

(5) ISSD Africa. 2021. GSST Africa. Scaling of community seed banks -Protocol launch. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljboFmrKEgs&list=PLAROYb3nEDkFfS5UIeGJeN1FNqH-2iD_B&index=18&t=3s

Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome:

- <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/111243>
- <https://tinyurl.com/yxey2vxa>

Part II: CGIAR system level reporting

Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies : Yes

Policies contribution:

- 597 - Protocol for collaboration between national and community seedbanks (guideline)

Stage of maturity of change reported: Stage 2

Links to the Strategic Results Framework:

Sub-IDs:

- Increased conservation and use of genetic resources
- Increased capacity for innovation in partner development organizations and in poor and vulnerable communities

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Too early to say

Description of activity / study: <Not Defined>

Geographic scope:

- Global

Comments: The protocol was developed based on experiences with community genebanks and national genebanks from around the world. It can be used anywhere in the world and adapted if required.

Key Contributors:

Contributing CRPs/Platforms:

- GLDC - Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals
- CCAFS - Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security

Contributing Flagships:

- FP1: Priorities and Policies for CSA

Contributing Regional programs:

- EA: East Africa

Contributing external partners:

- NARO - National Agricultural Research Organisation (Uganda)
- DAFF - Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (South Africa)
- Seed Savers' Network
- CTD - Community Technology Development Trust

CGIAR innovation(s) or findings that have resulted in this outcome or impact:

New collaborative relationships for scaling results and influencing policies.

Innovations:

- 1072 - Holistic and dynamic approach and methodology to establish and support multifunctional community seedbanks

Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:

In recent years, national genebanks of some countries (e.g. Bhutan, Mexico, Nepal, South Africa and Uganda) have started to collaborate with community seed banks on the important task of conservation of crop (and tree) varieties. This collaboration has taken place in informal ways, in the form of participation in meetings and gatherings, seed and food fairs and through a number of joint activities, including the establishment of community seed banks and related (capacity development) activities. As far as is known, no formal agreements have been made/signed to structure, monitor and evaluate the collaboration in a more rigorous manner.

Based on interactions among professionals from various countries who support community seed banks, the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT facilitated a co-creation process with international and national partners to develop a generic collaboration protocol that could help shape the collaboration process in countries where this has not yet taken place or to solidify the process in countries where this is already happening. Partners in Kenya and Uganda convened meetings with farmers/community seed bank members to discuss about the content of the protocol (goals, principles, activities). Based on these interactions and inputs, it was agreed that the protocol should promote the establishment of community seed banks at local level; promote regional, national and international cooperation; and promote knowledge management and exchange of plant genetic resources for food agriculture, on-farm seed production and marketing, and data management. The protocol applies to plant genetic resources (seed) maintained by the national genebank and the community seed banks; to the traditional knowledge associated with plant genetic resources; and to the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge. The protocol, inspired by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), includes chapters (articles) on the roles of the national genebank; the roles of community seed banks; principles of collaboration; activities that can be done together and rules and regulations for the collaboration.

The protocol was launched at the international conference on Guiding Seed Sector Transformation of the Integrated Seed Sector Africa program.

References cited:

•[1] Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT) Zimbabwe/Seed Savers Network-Kenya (SSN)/National Agricultural Research Organisation – Plant Genetic Resources Centre (NARO-PGRC), Uganda/Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen University and Research (WCDI-WUR)/Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (2021) Protocol for collaboration between the National Genebank and Community Seed Banks. ISSD Africa No. 2021-02. Wageningen (The Netherlands): ISSD Africa. 11 p. (<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/111243>)

Quantification: <Not Defined>

Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:

Gender relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **Gender** relevance: The roles of women as seed custodians and managers is recognized, and their leadership roles in community seed banks encouraged and supported.

Youth relevance: 0 - Not Targeted

CapDev relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **CapDev** relevance: Partners involved in the protocol build the capacities of farmers to establish and manage community seed bank through targeted training activities. Partners worked with community seed bank members to discuss and draft the core elements of the protocol, interact with the staff of the national genebank,, and co-create the final version of the protocol.

Climate Change relevance: 1 - Significant

Describe main achievements with specific **Climate Change** relevance: Community seed banks play key roles in adaptation to climate change. Conservation roles: conservation of a portfolio of diverse seeds of crops and crop varieties; conservation of seeds from plants that have high capacity to survive under extreme weather conditions; restoration of "lost" varieties in particular with good adaption potential. Access and availability roles: platform for multiple channels of access and availability of seeds at the community level; accessing novel diversity not conserved locally; accessing seeds from areas where plants have adapted to extreme weather conditions; provision of adapted seed to marginal communities not served by commercial seed dissemination efforts.

Other cross-cutting dimensions: No

Other cross-cutting dimensions description: <Not Defined>

Outcome Impact Case Report link: [Study #4303](#)

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