

Integrated Seed Sector Development in Africa: Developing Seed Sector in Fragile States.

[ISSD Africa](#) is an international community of practice guiding seed sector innovation and development by addressing Africa's complex seed systems challenges, with the aim of enhancing access to quality seeds of farmer-preferred varieties. The three-year ISSD Africa project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), seeks to address key seed sector challenges through eight action research topics. The action research topics are led by various partners within the community of practice to provide innovative solutions to the seed sector challenges. Developing the Seed Sector in fragile states is the focus of topic one led by [Mercy Corps](#).

[Fragile states](#) exhibit unstable operating conditions and are often prone to shocks. Seed systems in fragile states are often ineffective, with weakened institutional capacity to produce, distribute and control seed quality, resulting in low seed utilization and compromised seed systems resilience. Fragile states offer unique seed systems challenges and opportunities that call for appropriate interventions informed by clear contextual understanding by seed sector stakeholders.

In collaboration with various stakeholders, the Mercy Corps-led topic aims to deepen understanding of seed systems challenges

and opportunities and to develop tools to support context-appropriate interventions. These include a context analysis tool, intervention prioritization framework and seed sector road map and development plan. The tools will be developed in collaboration with seed experts and implementers; tested in a target region, reviewed, adapted, published and shared with key organizations involved in seed related interventions in fragile states.

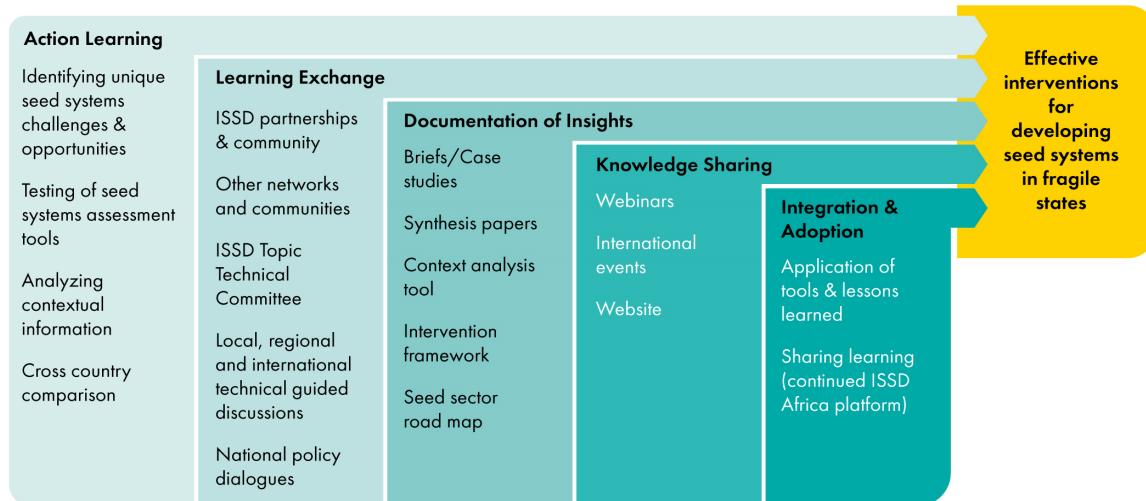


Uncertainty in fragile states can have devastating impacts on agricultural systems and on-farm livelihood sources
Photo credit: Karel Prinsloo - AP

Key questions guiding the action research

1. What are the characteristics of seed systems in fragile states and how are they affected by conflict?
2. How do we adapt assessments, interventions and learning in conflict-affected environments to promote more resilient seed systems?

PROGRAMME PHASES OF ISSD AFRICA TOPIC 1: Developing Seed Sector in Fragile States



ISSD Africa's approach:

ISSD Africa is anchored on synergy, co-creation, joint experimentation, exchange and learning from ongoing activities. The overall approach is built around: leveraging context knowledge and seeking cost sharing benefits and economies of scope; pulling together existing knowledge and curating best practices; and emphasis on communication and sharing knowledge and results.



Building home grown solutions can improve seed systems resilience in fragile states

Photo credit: Thatcher Cook - Mercy Corps

How to engage with ISSD Africa

Do you have seed systems assessment tools?

- We can jointly review and test the tools with you and other partners to maximize utilization of results

Do you have a seed-related case study focusing on fragile states?

- We can partner with you to document and publish the case study

Do you need guidance on seed related interventions in fragile states?

- ISSD Africa/Mercy Corps team has a pool of resources for sharing

Contact the ISSD Africa/ Mercy Corps team to learn more:

Wilfred Ouko: ISSD Africa thematic topic 1&2 lead

wouko@mercy Corps.org

issd-africa team@mercy Corps.org

<https://issdafrica.org/>

<https://www.mercy Corps.org/>