



Call for Case Studies

Models for strengthening last mile seed production and distribution in fragile contexts

Has your organization or program implemented last mile seed production and distribution? Tell ISSD Africa and SCALE about your inspiring example for an opportunity to document your learnings and share with the wider seed and food security community.

Over the years, donors and humanitarian organizations have increased their investments in the development and transfer of agricultural input innovations including seeds. However, these technologies seldom reach smallholder farmers in remote locations due to constraints associated with access, availability and quality. These constraints are more pronounced in fragile contexts in which unstable operating conditions result in less effective seed systems, without the institutional capacity to produce, distribute and control seed quality. [ISSD Africa](#), through the Mercy Corps-led action learning activity *Developing the Seed Sector in Fragile states*, and the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)-funded [SCALE](#) award are interested in gathering **inspiring examples of ways programs have strengthened last mile seed production and distribution** to enhance seed systems resilience in fragile environments. We intend to collate, review and publish these case studies for an international audience, with a focus on examples that have relevant learnings for the African context.

Expression of Interest

Do you have a relevant case study to share, or an example you would like to document? Are you interested in sharing your experience and learnings with an international audience (FSN Network, ISSD Africa, [seedsystem.org](#))? If so, please fill out this [expression of interest form](#) by July 15, 2021, with a description of your model and what makes it innovative and impactful.

Note:

- *One organization/program can submit several case studies*
- *Both French & English submissions will be accepted*
- *Organizations will be responsible for writing up their own case studies. The SCALE/ISSD Africa team will provide formatting, editing and design support.*

Criteria for Selection

EOI submissions will be reviewed and scored by the SCALE/ISSD Africa technical team, according to the selection criteria (listed below). The organizations with the top 5 submissions will be requested to draft full case studies, which will be formatted and edited by SCALE/ISSD Africa and compiled into a polished technical brief. This will be circulated widely to thousands of members of the ISSD Africa community of practice, Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Network, SeedSystem.org and wider food security community.

Case study selection criteria:

- Innovative
- Impact on last-mile farmers
- Cost/time efficient (e.g. does it decrease time between variety release & farmer adoption)
- Scalable
- Fragile contexts only

Timeline

Submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis from now until **July 15, 2021**.

Phase 1 | July 15, 2021: Submissions due by **5:00 PM ET**. Organizations/programs are welcome to submit more than one.

Phase 2 | July 15 - August 16: Submissions reviewed and scored by SCALE/ISSD Africa technical team. The organizations with the five highest-scoring submissions will proceed to the next round and will be contacted to prepare full case studies.

Phase 3 | August 16 - September 30: Successful organisations will develop and submit full case studies (of approximately 3000 words).

Phase 4 | 1 October - 15 November 2021: SCALE edits, formats and finalizes case studies with support of selected organizations. SCALE compiles case studies into polished technical briefs.

Phase 5 | 30 November 2021: Technical brief published and disseminated in French & English (FSN Network, ISSD Africa, SeedSystem.org websites).

Phase 6 | December 2021: SCALE/ISSD Africa will host a webinar to share the case studies.

If you have any questions or would like additional guidance, please email wouko@mercycorps.org.

About ISSD Africa

[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. 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.

About SCALE

[The SCALE Award](#) is a USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)-funded capacity strengthening, applied research, and knowledge sharing initiative. Implemented by Mercy Corps in collaboration with Save the Children, SCALE works to strengthen the impact, sustainability, and scalability of BHA-funded agriculture, natural resource management, and off-farm livelihood activities in both emergency and non-emergency contexts.