

Question/comment	Response
Any mention of cross-border issues with different seed classes (e.g. where QDS or Truthfully Labelled seed allowed in source country, but not recognised formally in seed aid country)?	As discussed in the webinar, QDS seed can commonly not be marketed outside a certain region. Not all rules mention that, by the way. They are commonly not recognised in the regional harmonized seed rules
As of October 2025; Kenya recognizes Farmer managed seed systems!	Correct; Kenya was not in our selection of countries. That said, Kenya's attention to 'Standard seed' as well as FMSS merit much discussion-- including in reference to emergency seed
FAO Madagascar have provided Seeds Aid (SQD) in the South of the country through : Seeds Fairs /Vouchers system and direct distributions	Interesting, thank you. Southern Madagascar has received aid multiple seasons. As you might know, there is now a big push to spur more resilient seed supply and delivery in the 'Grand Sud'
Could you discuss how local is "local"? E.g., is an importer bringing in seed from country x to country y where the business is based - is that local? Also, have you looked at intra-agency [UN, NGOs, etc.] policies that are oriented / mandated towards centralized, large-scale procurement in humanitarian emergencies - e.g., systems that treat seeds the same as food, NFIs, etc.?	imports are normally not considered 'local'. The policies that you mention of buying large scale are exactly one of the reasons why ISSD-Africa and others promote guidelines to diversify strategies and have a stronger needs-focus
Thank you for excellent presentation by Neils and comment by Astrid. In support, please note the cannibalization of certified seed and market distortion when only certified seed is allowed yet it is known such certified seed does not exist.....resulting in undermining certification system and rewarding malfeasance.	thanks for the question - this was discussed in the webinar
Chris mentioned AU roles. What about very specific CGIAR roles (as a research group)	Chris also mentioned some CGIAR activities; future roles not very explicitly
Do emergency seed need its own standards?	I would be cautious introducing specific (lower) seed quality standards as that might stimulate agencies to buy low-quality seed which is not in the interest of the farmers. could be
I think ESCAPE CLAUSE is enough at national level. However, at regional level we need to have clear responses as emergency affect the whole region	thank you for this remark. Indeed regional rules could look at cross-border movement of seed in emergencies
There's need to also evaluate the impact of the various seeds aid to conflict areas in countries where it's being implemented.	agree! Evaluation is key to learn for next cases. I would be particularly interested in the evaluation of the impact on existing (formal and informal) seed systems
1) In the case of grain and legume crops, how do we ensure that the seed distributed is not consumed as grain, especially during difficult times? 2) In countries where farmer managed seed systems are not permitted, how do we handle seed in humanitarian aid?	1) good point. Given the risk of consumption, seed treatment with chemicals should be avoided in my view. 2) In Africa, Farmers' Seed Systems are the backbone of seed supply for almost all crops and most farmers. I would support policy discussions in such countries on this topic, even outside seed emergencies
Incredibly important and timely paper. Would it not be important for seed aid to also talk/coordinate with "pesticide and fertilizer aids"?	thanks for the question - it was discussed in the webinar
How frequent did you find examples of not allowing local quality seed (quality controlled but not formally certified) to be procured and instead seed was procured from hundreds of miles away & often of non-adapted or preferred variety??	there are some cases in the report. We don't have quantitative data though. My own experience: in the early 1990s large quantities of Uganda certified seed was procured for distribution in Madagascar. When asked about adaptation of the (OP) variety the reply was that 'it works there'.

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<p>NOTE - Truthfully labelled seeds (recognised in India, Pakistan) are often offered in bids to other countries in South Asia, or even in Africa!</p> <p>(but was certified)</p>	<p>If the receiving country operates under a certified seed system, that would be outside the (letter of) the law. I understand though, that India is changing its seed laws to certified</p>
<p>my question- as NGOS often frequently implemented- how to best tie dialogue with Governments- a link that is not always there</p>	<p>starting a policy dialogue is commonly part of seed system support programmes</p>
<p>I am wondering how regional organizations (AU, ECOWAS, etc.) can be more propositional and play a bold role to stimulate countries to better recognize and give it all the due rights to farmer managed seed systems?</p>	<p>I understand that AU is discussing this issue with its member countries</p>
<p>Adetumbi J. A. Institute of Agricultural Research &Training, Ibadan. Nigeria. Presentations quite revealing, However, I am aware some farmers within countries also contribute to seed relief during emergencies. I do not know if any of the presentations captures this role or if any countries have any rules on if agencies can explore this source for relief.</p> <p>Thanks</p>	<p>Thanks - indeed farmers supporting fellow farmers with seed (paid or unpaid) happens, but is in most countries not supported by the national seed law. (In Nigeria it would be possible though)</p>
<p>how could it be emphasis to seeds of VPCs for policy makers to differntrly treat the seeds of these crops?</p>	<p>vegetatively propagated crops commonly have their own rules in the implementaing regulations - even when in the law itself, they are included ass 'seed'</p>
<p>Regulators struggle to monitor certified seed. Adding informal seed categories can stretch capacity further and lead to flourishing of counterfeit thus compromise food security. Do we have models on how the two systems can coexist effectively?</p>	<p>agree! Recognising the existence of farmers seed systems, does not mean that they have to be regulated , monitored and certified. Checking sales outlets for fake seed would be very useful though</p>
<p>could Niels comments a bit between policy, law and regulations levels...</p>	<p>policy provides my view the direction that a government likes the seed systems to go; law are actual rules that everybody has to adhere to and regulations commonly provide the standards and detailed procedures to implement the law</p>
<p>This is Vithal Karoshi from FAO-Ethiopia. My question is as follows: In general, there is a significant gap between seed demand the availability of quality certified seeds. Are there any experiences addressing the seeds gap in emergencies given the situation where there is already significant gap in a given country?</p>	<p>indeed - QDS is an important attempt to reduce the gap, allowing farmers/groups to produce seed with minimal official checks; Standard Seed (where the supplier is responsible for the identity of the seed (as common for vegetables) can help too. My experience is that quantities of seed produced increase when demand increases. Top down strategies (produce more - then automatically demand increase)tend to fail.</p>
<p>Its important to note that Quality Declared Seed (QDS) is described differently across many countries; in most cases, exception with Uganda, QDS does not go through any recognized quality assurance system.</p>	<p>thank you; the FAO concept of QDS includes light (one field inspection) quality supervision.</p>
<p>to what extent could well-financed, established community seed banks serve a double function as sites of emergency seed aid provision?</p>	<p>That could certainly help. In my view, CSBs have to be 'carried' by the community, so sustained outside funding would undermine that concept, and make it formal seed groups, like QDS groups.</p>
<p>Are there some lessons that can be brought to this discussion from the COVID experience where farmer managed seed systems were probably the only source of seeds during that emergency?</p>	<p>indeed; those experiences have led to some more positive views around farmers' seed systems, but in several countries not to formal policies recognising them (yet)</p>
<p>Unfortunately, in emergencies certification is too often used to favor a small set of suppliers operating at scale / well connected able to easily acquire official certification</p>	<p>Agree, as to my response to your earlier question, we see that with several agencies this is changing - but more need to be 'sensitised' - therfore our call for awareness raising.</p>

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and to exclude local suppliers / seed producers.	
In cases where other inputs/agrochemicals are bundled with seed, it's usually documented as seed aid;	It depends. Many donors have very strict regulations on agro-chemicals-- as separate from seed
As OPVs dominate in the West and Central Africa and because of insecurity the informal seed system is very strong and also most of the farmers use saved seed from their fields. What solutions do you propose to harmonise seed sector in such cases?	Most agencies already have policies to avoid hybrids (except vegetable seeds like cabbages), and GMO seed, exactly for the reason that you mention
agree Carl; also from an accountability point of view, purchasing large quantities is . . . easiest, but ease should not be leading	
next to seeds and fertilizers, often knowledge (training!) is required to make the aid become really effective	agree! This is very important in normal conditions; extensive knowledge provision is difficult in a first disaster response action
Considering the informal nature of seed markets in many humanitarian locations, how should seed law be applied to ensure seed quality when implementing cash for seed modality in emergency response?	the informal markets are characterised in normal times by a personal relation (trust) among farmers. That can also be a basis in emergency conditions, but less so with displaced farmers. Quality control in purely informal systems is not feasible; QDS (so seed from recognised seed farmers) is a big improvement
Hello Colleagues. Very great findings of the assessment and couldn't come at better time than now when many countries are reviewing their seed policies. Strengthening local seed systems is key. Ibrahim from Advanta Seeds.	Yes, we agree that this is an opportune time to review emergency seed policy and laws. The issue need to be put on governmental and intergovernmental agendas
In some context, would it not be more effective for government to introduce clauses in seed laws (in emergency situation) rather than relying on ad -hoc ministerial exceptions during crises? What about other materials such as cuttings?	agree, what we propose is to have policies that can guide responses, not to have extensive articles in the seed laws that kick in when (potentially very different emergencies) occur. Indeed ad hoc decisions can be useful at a particular moment, but come with substantial uncertainties.
Chris, to add such coordination draws back to donors enabling approaches and delivery strategies that may be counter productive.	thanks
To Eric Tegai question, Zambia is an example of where deputization of seed regulatory capacity greatly extended regulatory expansion....	thanks
As we know, we are living in an era of climate variability, and most of our daily activities are significantly affected. One of the industries most affected by climate change is agriculture, specifically the Crop Seed System. Do we have any possibilities to develop and promote proven Seed System Schemes within the wave? I think we need to discuss this in detail next time.	Under the ISSD-concept, diversified seed systems can help to make availability of seed more sustainable, and can allow different seed systems to be supported. One (new) seed system does not do the job now, and will not in the future.
Any lesson from countries that are already recognizing farmers' seed systems to improve the legal fit of seed aid in emergency	I would advise you to look at Ethiopia

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<p>Clearly there is a role for all types of organisations in addressing these challenges, INGOs are however often in the middle needing to follow donor and government guidance, while trying to meet the needs of farmers and other actors. You mentioned some solutions already, but I wondered if you could expand a little re where you think donors can help facilitate broader change, in coordination with others.</p>	<p>INGOs could (outside emergencies) press donors to think ahead (together with them) about the better responses - and jointly work on guidelines. And indeed support discussions with governments in affected countries on their seed policies with special reference to emergencies.</p>
<p>Many agricultural programmes, with substantial donor funding, have an approach labelled "certified seeds and agro chemicals". During emergencies, such as pest infestation, pesticide aid is also mobilised... I see very similar problems with seed aid and they can learn from seed aid</p>	<p>thanks. Good point that a range of inputs in emergency bear greater scrutiny. Some donors actually forbid, for instance, pesticides' in emergency phases- This 'other input' issue merits greater scrutiny.</p>
<p>What capacities needed for seed inspectorates to increase deputization of seed regulation to private entities / NGO? The future has arrived, we just need to look in the right place</p>	<p>some countries already allow private labs etc. It requires a clear policy and regulation that allows the official agencies to deputize some of their roles (and monitor them)</p>
<p>Niels do you have a response to Diane Mbanzidi, on lessons from Countries that are already recognizing farmer seed systems to improve legal fit</p>	<p>given above</p>
<p>One main challenge in seed aid for Africa is that supply normally implemented late past right planting window. This is because in Africa there's weak systems of forecasting demand and link with available stocks in country</p>	<p>agree; timing is one of the issues (next to qualities, and crops/varieties) where humanitarian agencies need to know that food aid and seed aid are very different things</p>
<p>How does impacts the Agri-ecosystem for supported country, since the exotic seeds place different where has imported?</p>	<p>indeed, importing non-adapted seeds needs to be avoided</p>
<p>To what extent are Farmer managed seed systems/ local adapted seeds/community seed banking being promoted and Financed by the actors in the seed aid space as buffer against food insecurity. There is a legitimacy question which is problematic now in seed policy and seed law as some 'actors' gain enormously from bringing seed in from external sources, owned/corporate seeds.</p>	<p>as included in the intervention by Carl Wahl, commercial interest of some stakeholders may play a role, as do accounting rules. Diversified seed systems would better be discussed in 'normal' times among stakeholders and policy makers in my view.</p>
<p>There is need to harmonize and have regional seed policies</p>	<p>there are harmonized seed policies in the three major regions with the aim to facilitate cross-border movement of seed, which is useful. Sharing experiences with additional seed policies and actions among countries is useful (and done under ASBPP of the African Union), but may not need to be fully harmonized as national sovereignty is also important</p>
<p>@Ibrahim Shiundu, you are spot on; ISSD Africa is disseminating the 10P, to try to harmonize seed aid response in crisis times; https://issdfafrica.org/2024/10/17/new-document-the-ten-guiding-principles-for-good-seed-aid/</p>	<p>thanks. Know that in several countries (Nigeria, Uganda), government officials are leading discussion on the Ten Guiding Principles for Good Seed Aid ('10 P'</p>
<p>In the case of pluralist seed systems, how is the risk of QDS getting taken on by certified seed producers being handled for crops seed multipliers perceive as less economically attractive despite the seed laws in place?</p>	<p>Personally, when certified seed production is not profitable (as with legumes in some cases), QDS could be a viable option. The question is then whether local seed companies should be allowed to produce QDS (just like farmer groups) to avoid unjust competition.</p>
<p>To Zaoro of DRC, great question, think that on ground inspection of seed on offer is critical when procuring seed on spot basis and pre-approving suppliers.</p>	<p>indeed, humanitarian seed agencies that purchase seed locally SHOULD check qualities !</p>

