



Workshop

on

“Best Practices in Farmer-led Seed Enterprise Development for Improving Seed Quality and Enhancing Revenue Generation”

8-9 November 2016, Mandalay, Myanmar

CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

Access to good quality seed is the primary need for farmers around the world and seeds form the backbone of crop production systems. Over 90 percent of the crops in developing countries are still planted with farmers’ traditional varieties and farm-saved seeds. Public sector entities, universities, governmental organizations and international research organizations have emerged as the major source of new varieties and quality seeds of food crops, particularly for the smallholder farming community. In recent years, there has been a shift in focus from predominantly public sector led seed production to a business model based on private sector led seed production. However, private seed companies tend to concentrate on production of hybrid seeds, especially of high-value crops for large scale farmers who could financially afford higher prices. In many countries, small holder farmers receive little attention from the private sector due to low profit margins for these companies. Creation of effective and efficient small scale, farmer-led seed enterprises is essential for ensuring access

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to good quality seeds for smallholder farmers as well as to provide a functional linkage between the formal and informal seed sectors. The formal seed sector is the primary source of new crop varieties. The informal sector is the primary link to farmers' and traditional knowledge, especially requirements for new varieties, inputs and services¹.

In the case of Myanmar, more than 90% of the seeds used for most crops are farm saved seeds, while many improved varieties have been developed by research for a large number of crops. A more advanced private production and marketing system has been developed only for vegetables and hybrid maize while for most other crops the performance of the seed value-chain is rather limited². Most of the Development Partners, (I) NGOs and government projects focus on the public seed system. The public-private seed system is much less developed in Myanmar. In addition, there are limited interventions in improving the informal and intermediary seed systems which still provide around 95% of seed to farmers for most crops, and are crucially important for conservation and use of plant genetic resources and climate adaptation strategies³. For crops like hybrid rice, hybrid maize, (hybrid) vegetables and ornamental seeds, and to a lesser extent seed potatoes there are very good business opportunities for seed production and sales in Myanmar. There is an urgent need to establish and nurture efficient farmer-led seed enterprises that can cater to the needs for good quality seeds for smallholder farmers while providing an additional source of rural employment as well as revenue generation.

Background

This workshop is one of the activities under the project titled '*An Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar*', funded through the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) and co-implemented by the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in partnership with the United Nations Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA-ESCAP), the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
(<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1839e/i1839e00.pdf>)

² Pathways for Developing the Seed Sector of Myanmar: A Scoping Study, Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen UR (CDI) (<http://edepot.wur.nl/363488>)

³ Ibid

(CSAM) and the Network Activities Group (NAG). The Department of Rural Development of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development (DRD-MLFRD) of Myanmar is the focal government agency to collaborate in the implementation of the Project. The workshop theme has been identified based on intensive consultations with a range of stakeholders at the inception stage of the project.

The objectives of the proposed workshop to be conducted by the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and Network Activities Group (NAG) on “Best Practices in Farmer-led Seed Enterprise Development for Improving Seed Quality and Enhancing Revenue Generation” scheduled to be held from November 8 - 9, 2016 are as follows:

- To understand the challenges and constraints in farmer-led seed enterprise development especially in the dry zone of Myanmar
- To identify solutions for overcoming challenges as well as to learn best practices in establishing effective and efficient farmer-led seed enterprises in the dry zone of Myanmar.

Target Group

Lead farmers, farmer association representatives, NGOs and LIFT implementing partners involved in seed production, key nodal agencies of the government including Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) and the private sector (entrepreneurs as well as representatives from seed farms).

Organization and Programme

The workshop on “Best Practices in Farmer-led Seed Enterprise Development for Improving Seed Quality and Enhancing Revenue Generation” will be conducted in a participatory mode. During the workshop, the constraints in farmer-led seed enterprise development in the dry zone of Myanmar will be brainstormed with the participants through interactive discussions to identify key challenges and technical barriers encountered during various stages of seed enterprise development. Based on the observations, a few best practices and solutions for overcoming those challenges and barriers in seed enterprise development will be shared with

the participants. This workshop will also involve reviewing the case study of a successful farmer-led seed enterprise model implemented elsewhere and explore options for replicating this business model in the dry zone of Myanmar.

For further information, please contact:

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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Day 1: Tuesday, 8 November 2016

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
8.30 – 9.00 am	Registration	Registration of participants
9.00 – 10.00 am	Session 1: Inaugural session	<p>Inaugural Address – Department of Agricultural Research (DAR), Myanmar</p> <p>Opening Remarks – Mr. Harald Kreuzscher, Programme Officer, LIFT Fund (tbc)</p> <p>Background to the Workshop – Dr. Krishnan S. Raghavan, Coordinator, Technology Transfer, APCTT-ESCAP</p> <p>Self-introduction of participants and a brief discussion on expectations from the workshop</p> <p>Group Photo</p>

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TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
10.00– 10.20 am	Coffee break	
10.20 am – 12.00 pm	Session 2: Constraints to seed enterprise development	<p>Topic 1: Setting the stage : JP Yadavendra and AV Poomurugesan</p> <p>Topic 2: Seed production system India : Formal and informal pathways to bridge the demand and supply gap</p> <p>Topic 3: A. Background: Farmer Producer Organization</p> <p>B. Cooperative v/s Producer company</p> <p>C. Characteristics of a producer company</p> <p>Resource Person: Dr. JP Yadavendra, Former Senior Scientist and ICAR-Unit Head, Anand</p>
12.00 – 1.00 pm	Lunch	
1.00 – 2.30 pm	Session 3: Farmer-led seed enterprises: Opportunities and challenges	<p>Topic 4:</p> <p>A. Vision, mission, Objectives and principals of farmer enterprise</p> <p>B. Activities, outputs and outcomes</p> <p>C. Economic and social impacts</p> <p>Resource Person: Dr. JP Yadavendra, Former Senior Scientist and ICAR-Unit Head, Anand, India</p> <p>Topic 5:</p> <p>A. Establishment of SPC and development of business and marketing plans</p> <p>B. Challenges, conflict management and risk mitigation</p> <p>Resource Person: Mr. A.V. Poomurugesan Executive Director - Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers Federation (KKFF), Tamil Nadu, India</p>
2.30 – 3.30 pm	Seed quality control	<p>Topic 6: Techniques for Improving Seed Quality</p> <p>Resource Person: Mr. A.V. Poomurugesan Executive Director - Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers</p>

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
		Federation (KKFF), Tamil Nadu, India
3.30 – 3.50 pm	Coffee break	
3.50 – 5.00 pm	Open forum on constraints to farmer-led seed enterprise development	Discussion on various constraints to seed enterprise development
5.00 – 5.15 pm	Session 5: Wrap up of the Day	Key Learning Points Resource Person: Dr. JP Yadavendra, Former Senior Scientist and ICAR-Unit Head, Anand

Day 2: Wednesday, 9 November 2016

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
8.30 am – 10.00 am	Session 6: Best practices in farmer-led seed enterprise development	Topic 7: Jagannath Crop Producer Company, Mayurbhanj, Odisha, India ; Rice Seed production – An example Resource Person: Dr. JP Yadavendra, Former Senior Scientist and ICAR-Unit Head, Anand, India
10.00– 10.20 am	Coffee break	
10.20 – 12.00 pm	Session 7: Case Study of Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers Federation, Tamil Nadu, India	Topic 8: Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers Federation, Tamilnadu, India –An example of a farmer-led seed enterprise Topic 9: Seed Marketing Opportunities and Challenges Resource Person: Mr. A.V. Poomurugesan Executive Director - Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers Federation (KKFF), Tamil Nadu, India
1.00 – 3.00 pm	Session 8: Group Exercise	Development of a farmer-led enterprise development model for the dry zone of Myanmar and presentations Resource Persons: Dr. JP Yadavendra & Mr. A.V. Poomurugesan
3.00 – 3.20 pm	Coffee break	

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
3.20 –4.50 pm	Session 8: Open Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A on Best Practices in farmer-led seed enterprise development • Summary of workshop outcomes • Follow up actions <p><i>Moderators: Dr. Satyabrata Sahu, Coordinator, Technology Intelligence, APCTT / Dr. JP Yadavendra</i></p>
4.50 – 5.00 pm	Session 10: Closing remarks	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr. Krishnan S Raghavan, APCTT-ESCAP</i> - Mr. Harald Kreuzscher, Programme Officer, LIFT Fund - Mr. Bobby, CEO, Network Activities Group (NAG)
5.00 – 5.15 pm	Evaluation	Meeting Evaluation