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Background information can be found below and may be edited as desired

1. Extension services (Mali)

East-West Seed trains Malian farmers in advanced agricultural practices such as irrigation and mulching. Extension services and agronomic training can help farmers to realize the full potential of quality seeds of improved varieties.

Photo: Meynard Tosay

2. Farmer education (India)

Agriculture students learn various agricultural skills such as sowing turnip seeds at the Bayer Ramanaidu Vignana Jyothi School of Agriculture. The school was established in 2007 in the Medak district of Andhra Pradesh, India. The school offers two six-month training courses to teenagers, and seeks to encourage them to choose a future in agriculture in their home region rather than moving to the city.

Photo: Access to Seeds Index / Anurag Banerjee

3. Local Breeding (India)

Local scientists Shakuntala and Pushpalata examine tomato crops in the greenhouse at East-West Seed's R&D center in Bangalore, India. Through plant breeding, varieties can be developed that are suitable for smallholder farmers: better adapted to low-input conditions or climate-change challenges such as drought. Breeding for extended shelf life can also ensure better storability and transportability of crops.

Photo: Access to Seeds Index / Anurag Banerjee

4. Reaching the village level (Uganda)

David Oboth and Dickson Ogot look for a good place to set up the tuk-tuk mobile seed shop in Gulu, Uganda. Smallholders generally purchase their seeds from local markets or fellow farmers. Victoria Seeds improves accessibility by using mobile seed shops to reach markets in remote villages.

Photo: Access to Seeds Index / Humphrey Odero

5. Saving or purchasing seeds (Peru)

Marcelina Chauja sells quinoa seeds at the central market in Huancayo, Peru. It is generally assumed that smallholder farmers rely on seeds saved from year to year. Recent research focusing on sub-Saharan Africa has shown that this is not the case. A majority of smallholders purchase their seeds, mainly from local markets or fellow farmers. A relatively small proportion of transactions, 2.4% overall, involve 'certified seed' produced by private sector companies and sold through farm supply stores or agrodealers.

Photo: Access to Seeds Index / Sebastián Montalvo Gray

6. Seed insurance (Kenya)

Joseph Mukopi uses his cell phone to check the weather in Kikwameti village, Kenya. The Agriculture and Climate Risk Enterprise (ACRE), majority owned by the Syngenta Foundation, facilitates access to insurance products that protect smallholder farmers against risks such as drought and excess rain. Automated weather stations monitor daily rainfall and any payouts are made directly to the farmer's mobile wallet. In 2014, an estimated 230,000 farmers were insured in Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda through products designed by ACRE.

Photo: Access to Seeds Index / Humphrey Odero

7. Seed production 1 (Uganda)

Smallholder farmer Faith checks if the maize is ready for harvesting at a NASECO seed production site in Nalweyo, Uganda. Smallholder farmers are not only end-users of seeds but can also be partners of seed companies in their seed value chain, for instance in seed production. NASECO reports that more than 90% of its seed production is carried out by smallholder farmers and farmer cooperatives.

Photo: Access to Seeds Index / Humphrey Odero

8. Seed production 2 (Uganda)

Smallholder farmer Paul Oketch, collecting samples of maize seed harvest and recording the numbers in a NASECO seed production site in Nalweyo, Uganda. farmer checks if the maize is ready for harvesting at a NASECO seed production site in Nalweyo, Uganda. Smallholder farmers are not only end-users of seeds but can also be partners of seed companies in their seed value chain, for instance in seed production. NASECO reports that more than 90% of its seed production is carried out by smallholder farmers

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