Draft Methodology for the Access to Seeds Index 2018

Public Consultation Document

Amsterdam, September 2017
“The heart of the solution of SDG 2 is the smallholder farmer,” a seed industry leader said at the recent Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. He was referring to SDG 2 (zero hunger), one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) introduced by the United Nations to end all forms of poverty by 2030. The quote shows that raising the productivity of smallholder farmers is very much on seed companies’ agenda, a fact that was underlined by the findings of the first Access to Seeds Index, published in February 2016.

Achieving SDG 2 starts with enabling farmers to produce more food in the regions that are considered food insecure. Agriculture in these regions is dominated by small-scale agriculture or smallholder farmers, and sufficient access to quality seeds of improved varieties is one of the many challenges these farmers face. Although seed companies are increasingly responsive to this challenge, many smallholders have yet to be reached.

Creating a better understanding of how seed companies are improving access to quality seeds and, in turn, how they are contributing to the SDGs, is what the Access to Seeds Index set out to do. The Index is published every two years in order to monitor progress over time. The next Index is scheduled for release in late 2018.

The seed industry can be described as a small group of global leaders and a long tail of regional and national seed companies. The 2016 Index included an evaluation of global seed companies as well as regional companies in Eastern Africa. The Regional Index showed that regional companies play a key role in reaching smallholders and are leading the way in addressing specific challenges such as breeding for local crops or providing dedicated services to women farmers.

Following the Eastern African example, the scope of the 2018 Regional Index will be extended to include Southern Africa. Additionally, new regional indexes focusing on Western & Central Africa and South & Southeast Asia will be developed. Regional landscaping studies have already been carried out and identified 20 leading seed companies in each region whose activities will be further researched for inclusion in the 2018 Index.

Since its publication, the 2016 Index has been widely discussed with farmer organizations, seed companies and policymakers in all four Index regions. Although it seems obvious that achieving food security requires ongoing cooperation and coordination between these parties, it has become clear that this is often lacking. It is hoped that the evidence base provided by the Index will help to fill this gap.

The discussions also provided input for a thorough review of the Index methodology. There is now a greater focus on topics considered to be particularly relevant and a reduced number of indicators.

The draft methodology, which is described in this document, is now open for public consultation. Stakeholders are invited to submit their feedback before October 19, 2017 to info@accesstoseeds.org. This will be taken into consideration before the draft methodology is submitted to dedicated Expert Review Committees for final evaluation in October and November. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

On behalf of the Access to Seeds Index team,

Ido Verhagen,
Executive Director
# Table of Contents

**Introduction**  
2

**Table of Contents**  
3

1. Why an Access to Seeds Index?  
4

2. What the 2016 Index Showed  
5

3. How the 2016 Index was Received  
6

4. Review and Consultation Process  
8

5. Main Changes to the Methodology  
10

6. Outline of the Methodology  
12

7. Scope of the 2018 Index  
13
   7.1 Geographic Scope  
   7.2 Crop Scope  
   7.3 Company Scope  
13  15  17

8. Indicators of the 2018 Index  
21
   A. Governance & Strategy  
   B. Genetic Resources  
   C. Intellectual Property  
   D. Research & Development  
   E. Seed Production  
   F. Marketing & Sales  
   G. Capacity Building  
21  22  23  24  25  26  27
1. Why an Access to Seeds Index?

Hunger is a daily reality for a billion people, and two billion suffer from various forms of malnutrition. The global population is expected to grow by another two billion in the coming decades, precisely in those regions that are currently considered food insecure.

The smartest way to tackle the pressing challenges of food insecurity is to enable farmers to produce more food. Agriculture in food insecure regions is dominated by smallholder farmers, generally defined as farmers growing food on plots of land of around two hectares, equivalent to two or three football fields.

A good crop starts with quality seeds. Insufficient access to quality seeds of improved varieties is one of the many constraints smallholder farmers face. Improving access to seeds for smallholder farmers is thus an essential part of the solution to global food insecurity.

This is where the seed industry comes in. Improved varieties have enabled farmers in advanced agricultural systems to triple their yields. What is the seed industry doing to enable smallholder farmers in developing regions to achieve similar results?

The Access to Seeds Index aims to shine a light on this question. It assesses leading global seed companies – generally at the forefront of research and development – while examining the crucial role regional seed companies play in delivering industry products to the farm gate.

The Index seeks primarily to identify leadership and good practices, providing an evidence base for the discussion on where and how the seed industry can do more. Published every two years, the Index aims to monitor progress over time and to encourage the seed industry to step up its efforts.

Private sector engagement is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015. By creating a better understanding of the role of the seed industry, the Index aims to contribute to the achievement of these goals.

In this context, the Business and Sustainable Development Commission (BSDC) recommended in early 2017 introducing more industry benchmarks, like the Access to Seeds Index and related initiatives such as the Access to Medicine Index and the Access to Nutrition Index, when assessing corporate performance in delivering the SDGs. To this end, the creation of a World Benchmarking Alliance was announced in New York during the UN Assembly week in September 2017.

The Access to Seeds Index is published by the Access to Seeds Foundation, an independent, non-profit organization based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, which is dedicated to assessing the seed industry’s contribution to smallholder productivity.
2. What the 2016 Access to Seeds Index Showed

“What are you going to measure? The seed industry is not at all interested in smallholder farmers.” This was one of the reactions received when the idea for an Access to Seeds Index was first presented to a wider audience in July 2013. Three years later, the results of the first Index showed that statements like this need to be reexamined. Although there is a lot of room for improvement and many smallholders have yet to be reached, many seed companies are considering ways to service this emerging customer base. The results also showed that it is possible to implement sustainable business practices that serve the interests of both companies and entrepreneurial smallholders.

The Index assessed company efforts in areas such as breeding, distribution and adoption as well as how companies handle their intellectual property in emerging markets. The parameters for the first assessment were based on one basic question asked to numerous stakeholders in and around the seed industry: how do you expect seed companies to improve access to quality seeds for smallholder farmers?

Some of the examples highlighted in the first Index involve high-tech solutions, such as solar-powered weather stations and mobile technologies that can provide low-cost crop insurance against weather risks. Others are lower key, such as the use of mobile seed shops with agronomists providing advice in remote villages and local markets where smallholders generally buy their seeds.

Overall, the Index provided a unique insight into the seed industry’s current efforts. Company scorecards enumerated these efforts at the individual company level. Industry-level analysis revealed the industry’s coverage in countries with a smallholder presence, food security challenge and agricultural potential. Company rankings provided insight into leadership at both the global and regional level, highlighting, for instance, the important role regional companies play in reaching smallholder farmers.
3. How the 2016 Access to Seeds Index was Received

One of the main goals of the Access to Seeds Index is to provide an evidence base for the conversation on how the seed industry can support smallholder farmer productivity. Following the publication of the 2016 Index, the findings were presented and discussed at various events worldwide. The Index was also covered by more than 170 media outlets and used as a source for various peer-reviewed scientific papers. Organizations like the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Bank and African Union hosted events to discuss the policy implications of the findings.

Presentations and discussions
Four regional roundtable events were organized in Goma (DR Congo), Hanoi (Vietnam), Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and Johannesburg (South Africa) to discuss the findings with farmers and farmer organizations.

Consultations with individual companies primarily took place during the annual seed congresses organized by AFSTA and APSA. During APSA’s 2016 congress in Incheon, South Korea, the Access to Seeds Index was invited to present its plans to develop a regional index for Asia, which will include regional companies active in South and Southeast Asia.

Media exposure and scientific publications
The Access to Seeds Index was covered by more than 170 media outlets, from global platforms such as the Guardian and BBC News to the Eastern African Business Daily and national newspapers including the Swazi Observer and Nong Nghiep Viet Nam. Most articles were in English but several also appeared in French, Spanish, Italian, German and various national languages. The Index was referenced in four peer-reviewed scientific papers addressing the role of the seed industry in improving access to quality seeds for smallholder farmers.

Policy implications
Following the presentation of the Index, the FAO and World Bank organized debates that further explored the role the seed industry can play and how the Index’s findings should be incorporated into its policies and approaches.

The African Union and AfricaSeeds organized a workshop on ‘Measuring Seed Sector Performance’ for national policymakers to discuss the Index’s findings and other initiatives and implications for national policies. In Thailand, the authorities organized a workshop on how Thai seed companies can expand their role in providing access to the latest seed technologies.

The European Union identified the Index as one of the key contributions by EU member states to the 2030 SDG agenda. USAID used the finding on the currently limited activities targeting women farmers to inform its Gender and Social Inclusion Action Plan.
Presentations, discussions and consultations

1. AFSTA Congress – company consultations
   Nairobi, March 1-3, 2016

2. Agriterra Dutch Seed Debate
   The Hague, April 6, 2016

3. IFPRI Policy Seminar
   Washington DC, April 28, 2016

4. Official launch at FAO Headquarters
   Rome, June 3, 2016

5. Regional Farmer Consultation
   Goma, July 12-14, 2016

6. Regional Farmer Consultation
   Hanoi, August 6, 2016

7. Regional Farmer Consultation
   Ouagadougou, October 18-19, 2016

8. AfricaSeeds/African Union Seed Sector Conference
   Abidjan, October 24-26, 2016

   Abidjan, October 27, 2016

10. APSA Congress – industry presentation
    Incheon, November 8, 2016

11. Presentations and discussions

12. Farmer consultations

13. Company consultations

14. Regional Farmer Consultation
    Johannesburg, November 28-29, 2016

15. UN Biodiversity Conference
    Cancun, December 5, 2016

16. NSAI Indian Seed Congress – company consultations
    Kolkata, February 12-14, 2017

17. AFSTA Congress – company consultations
    Dakar, February 28-March 2, 2017

18. Bioversity International –
    AgroBiodiversity Index Consultations
    Rome, March 8, 2017

19. World Bank Food for All Talk
    Washington, April 13, 2017

20. NSTDA Seminar for the Thai seed industry
    Chiang Mai, July 3, 2017

21. UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
    New York, July 10-19, 2017

22. 2017 Borlaug Dialogue – The World Food Prize
    Des Moines, October 17, 2017
4. Review and Consultation Process

The methodology is the result of extensive stakeholder engagement and expert review and is updated after the publication of each Access to Seeds Index. The methodology – scope, measurement areas and indicators – for the 2018 Index is currently open for public consultation. This one-month period of public consultation is part of a two-year review and consultation process that started with the release of the previous Index in February 2016.

Publication of the 2016 Index
The 2016 Index, which included an assessment of global seed companies as well as leading seed companies in Eastern Africa, was published on February 25, 2016. The official presentation of the findings took place on June 3, 2016, at the FAO headquarters in Rome.

Consultations
Following its initial evaluation of the 2016 Index, the Expert Review Committee agreed on an ‘Agenda for Review’ on June 8, 2016, which identified areas where the methodology should be refined. Companies featured in the Index were consulted on an individual basis for their feedback on the findings of the first Index and on the data collection process. To discuss the findings with farmers and farmer organizations, four regional consultation events were organized in Western, Eastern and Southern Africa and Asia. One of the outcomes of these meetings was the desire to see regional indexes developed for Western Africa and Asia, following the Eastern African example.

Methodology development and landscaping
The input gathered during the consultation process was used to review the methodology in early 2017. Although the consultations resulted in proposals to introduce new parameters, the overall objective was to reduce the number of indicators used in the first Index.
Landscaping studies to determine the companies to include in the new regional indexes for Western Africa and Asia started in March 2017 and were conducted by consultants within each region. The landscaping study for the Regional Index for Eastern Africa was updated to explore the possibility of extending the scope to include Southern Africa. To gather stakeholder input on the parameters for the Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property measurement areas, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) with representatives from industry, public research and civil society convened on May 9, 2017. The main changes to the methodology were discussed and approved by the Access to Seeds’ Supervisory Board on June 28, 2017.

**Review and public consultation**

To allow a broader group of stakeholders to provide feedback on the revised methodology, this consultation document was published on September 18 for a one-month period. In the meantime, Regional Expert Review Committees (ERCs) will convene to evaluate the landscaping studies and the approach for their respective regions. The outcomes of these regional meetings as well as the public consultation process will be discussed by the global ERC on November 9. After this meeting and following the global ERC’s advice, the methodology will be submitted to the Supervisory Board for final approval in December 2017.

**Data collection**

The data collection for the 2018 Index is due to start in early 2018. Companies selected for the assessment will be informed about the data collection process in the fall of 2017. Companies will be asked to complete a questionnaire in a carefully managed process that ensures equal treatment of each company. To facilitate the process, a user-friendly online data collection platform is being developed.

**Data analysis**

The analysis of the data both at a company and industry level is overseen by the Access to Seeds Index’s lead researchers. For verification purposes, the researchers conduct an extensive quantitative and qualitative check of each indicator for each company. Scoring is carried out according to scoring guidelines approved by the Supervisory Board. For specific areas, technical experts review the analysis. Everyone involved in the data collection process has signed a confidentiality agreement.

**Publication of the 2018 Index**

The 2018 Index is scheduled for publication between November 2018 and February 2019. The global index and the regional indexes for Asia and Africa will be published on different dates during this period.
5. Main Changes in the Methodology

The outcomes of the stakeholder consultations in 2016 informed a thorough revision of the methodology. The seven main changes are described in this chapter. Any public feedback received on these changes will be taken into consideration before the draft methodology is submitted to the Expert Review Committees for final evaluation.

Stakeholders are invited to submit their comments and suggestions before October 19, 2017 to info@accesstoseeds.org.
1. **Extended coverage in sub-Saharan Africa**
   For the 2016 Index, the United Nations geoscheme was used to delineate the Index regions in sub-Saharan Africa. Following advice from stakeholders in the region, the boundaries of regional organizations or groupings such as CORAF/WECARD, SADC and EAC will be applied for the 2018 Index.

2. **Introduction of additional regional indexes**
   The regional seed industry plays a key role in improving access to quality seed, as the first Regional Index for Eastern Africa showed. For the second Regional Index, the scope will be extended to include Southern Africa. New regional indexes focusing on South & Southeast Asia and Western & Central Africa will also be developed.

3. **New category added to global seed company assessment**
   The first Index focused on leading global seed companies active in two categories: field crops (with seed revenues over $1 billion) and vegetable seeds (with seed revenues over $100 million). Stakeholders suggested adding a third category of companies to the global assessment: regional leaders with a global presence (e.g. activities on multiple continents) that do not meet the seed revenue threshold above but are too relevant to the objectives of the Index to be left out.

4. **Crop scope reviewed**
   The 2016 Index included crops like cowpea, chickpea and pigeon pea in the ‘local crop’ category. This is a category for locally important crops that are only included to a limited extent in the portfolios of commercial seed companies. As a result, these crops are sometimes referred to as ‘neglected and underutilized crops’. The 2016 Index and landscaping studies for Western Africa and Asia found that neither ‘local’ nor ‘neglected’ is a correct label for these crops as they are grown extensively in multiple Index regions and are in the portfolios of, primarily, regional seed companies. For this reason, these crops are now included in the ‘global crop’ category.

5. **Sharpened focus of measurement areas**
   Companies are assessed and ranked using a weighted scorecard approach. In a total of seven measurement areas, companies are assessed with indicators in four categories: Commitment, Performance, Transparency and Leadership. Following an evaluation of the first Index and feedback from companies and stakeholders, some of the measurement areas will be regrouped and reprioritized. Genetic Resources & Intellectual Property will be split into two separate areas in order to sharpen the focus on each one. In addition, Local Seed Sector Advancement will be renamed Seed Production, which was the most important topic in this area. Due to significant overlap, Governance & Strategy and Public Policy & Stakeholder Engagement will be merged.

6. **Indicator category Innovation renamed Leadership**
   The indicator category Innovation, intended to reward seed company activities that go a step further than their peers or introduce new approaches to reach smallholder farmers, has been renamed Leadership. It became evident from company feedback that the ‘innovation’ label led to the results in this category being misinterpreted.

7. **Reduced number of indicators and questions**
   The results of the first Index also enabled an evaluation of the added value of each indicator. Although stakeholder feedback produced several new indicators, the number has been reduced by 15, for a total of 57 indicators. The number of questions per indicator has also been reduced.
6. Outline of the Methodology

The Access to Seeds Index is a relative ranking, comparing companies with each other rather than against an absolute, ideal state. As such, companies set and raise the bar. The Index focuses on seed companies with an integrated business model, from breeding, testing and production through to marketing and sales. For benchmarking purposes, companies are grouped according to whether they operate globally or regionally.

Research scope
To ensure a fair and meaningful analysis and comparison, the research scope delineates the areas that the Index takes into account. The company scope ensures that the Index focuses its research on companies that can reasonably be considered peers. The geographic scope and crop scope define the countries and crops for which the Index evaluates company activity.

Measurement areas
The Index matches company performance with stakeholder expectations. Based on the results of the stakeholder engagement process, seven measurement areas were identified where stakeholders expect or desire company activity. The Index uses a weighted scorecard approach, which means that every indicator in a measurement area is assigned a score according to pre-set scoring criteria. The total score is the sum of the scores in each measurement area.

Indicators
Indicators address specific topics within the measurement areas. There are four categories of indicators. Commitment indicators focus on strategies, policies and targets; Performance indicators assess actual activities, programs and products; Transparency indicators evaluate whether companies disclose information through their own communications channels; and Leadership indicators reward activities or approaches that stand out or can be considered innovative in the industry.
7. Scope of the 2018 Access to Seeds Index

7.1 Geographic scope

The Access to Seeds Index measures seed companies’ efforts to improve access to quality seeds in countries with (1) a significant smallholder farmer presence, (2) a food security challenge and (3) agricultural potential. The countries that meet all these criteria determine the geographic scope. The main changes compared to the 2016 Index are in Africa. Following advice from regional experts, Western Africa has been expanded to include countries in Central Africa, and Eastern Africa has been extended to include Southern Africa.

**Latin America**

The countries in Central America, the Caribbean and South America that meet the criteria for Index country selection are combined in one Index region: Latin America. As a result of its improved score on the Global Hunger Index, Belize is excluded from the scope of the 2018 Index.

*Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru*

**Western & Central Africa**

All the countries in this Index region meet the criteria for Index country selection. Following advice from regional experts, the boundaries of this Index region are based on membership of CORAF/WECARD. For the 2016 Index, the United Nations geoscheme was used to delineate the region. Consequently, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Republic of the Congo are now part of the 2018 Index scope. CORAF/WECARD member Mauritania did not meet the criterion for agricultural potential.

*Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Togo*
Eastern & Southern Africa
This Index region includes all SADC and EAC member states plus Ethiopia and Somalia. All countries in this region meet the criteria for Index country selection, with the exception of Botswana and Angola. These countries were added to the scope following advice from AfricaSeeds that the Index would be more relevant for policymakers if all the countries in sub-Saharan Africa were included.

Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

South & Southeast Asia
This Index region includes all the countries that meet the criteria for Index country selection. Although Indonesia scored above the yield gap threshold, it was included following advice from external experts. Sri Lanka is a new addition to the scope as it meets all the criteria. Due to incomplete data, it was not included in the 2016 Index.

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam

Criteria for Index Country Selection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Challenge</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food insecurity</td>
<td>Global Hunger Index (IFPRI, 2016)</td>
<td>&lt;9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yield gap ratio</td>
<td>Global Agro-ecological Zones (IIASA/FAO, 2012)</td>
<td>&lt;55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smallholder farmers growing target crops</td>
<td>Spatial Production Allocation Model (IFPRI, 2005)</td>
<td>Subsistence and low-input management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potential</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop suitability</td>
<td>Global Suitability Index (IIASA/FAO, 2006)</td>
<td>&gt;20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of cropland</td>
<td>World Soil Database (IIASA/FAO, 2008)</td>
<td>&gt;5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market accessibility</td>
<td>Travel time to major city (IRC/LRM, 2008)</td>
<td>&lt;4 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.2 Crop scope

The Access to Seeds Index focuses on access to field crop and vegetable seeds for smallholder farmers. In addition to activities in global crops – as defined by FAOSTAT – the Index also evaluates company activities in local crops, sometimes referred to as neglected and underutilized crops. Although other crops are relevant for smallholder farmers – such as cotton and fodder crops – the Index’s focus remains on food crops for direct consumption. The Index utilizes this data to evaluate whether companies have specific crops in their portfolios of value to smallholder farmers, and where companies see opportunities to develop suitable varieties tailored to regional conditions and preferences. The global crops were selected based on total area of cultivation according to FAOSTAT (2014). In addition, only crops that featured in at least two of the top 20 lists of major crops for each of the four Index regions were selected.

### Global Field Crops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Crop type</th>
<th>Area harvested (ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice, paddy</td>
<td>Cereals</td>
<td>121,317,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>Cereals</td>
<td>59,330,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>Cereals</td>
<td>46,700,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorghum</td>
<td>Cereals</td>
<td>27,185,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millet</td>
<td>Cereals</td>
<td>26,370,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans, dry</td>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>22,538,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundnut</td>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>18,404,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybean</td>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>18,242,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowpea</td>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>12,282,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickpea</td>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>11,767,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato</td>
<td>Roots &amp; tubers</td>
<td>5,129,675</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Global Vegetable Crops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Area harvested (ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Onion</td>
<td>2,608,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td>1,975,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okra</td>
<td>1,751,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper (hot)</td>
<td>1,489,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pumpkin</td>
<td>879,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squash</td>
<td>840,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gourd</td>
<td>744,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggplant</td>
<td>609,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>599,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper (sweet)</td>
<td>596,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cauliflower</td>
<td>571,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green bean</td>
<td>334,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green pea</td>
<td>308,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucumber</td>
<td>208,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watermelon</td>
<td>175,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce</td>
<td>174,988</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Local crops**

Due to their geographic specificity, several local crops are currently not included or included only to a limited extent in the scope of commercial seed companies. This list of important local crops was composed following expert consultation. The list is non-exhaustive and only provides an indication of the kind of local crops on which seed companies could focus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop type</th>
<th>Sub-Saharan Africa</th>
<th>Asia</th>
<th>Latin America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cereals and pseudo-cereals</td>
<td>Fonio</td>
<td>Triticale</td>
<td>Quinoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tef</td>
<td>Buckwheat</td>
<td>Cañihua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Triticale</td>
<td>Job’s tears</td>
<td>Kiwicha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>Lablab</td>
<td>Mung bean</td>
<td>Chocho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Long bean</td>
<td>Fava bean</td>
<td>Lupine bean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bambara groundnut</td>
<td>Adzuki bean</td>
<td>Jicama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roots &amp; tubers</td>
<td>Yam</td>
<td>Taro</td>
<td>Yakón</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sweet potato</td>
<td>Konjac</td>
<td>Ulúco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cassava</td>
<td>Purple yam</td>
<td>Cassava</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Amaranth</td>
<td>Kangkong</td>
<td>Papalo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jew’s mallow</td>
<td>Purslane</td>
<td>Cahhua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spider plant</td>
<td>Palak</td>
<td>Tomatillo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Non-exhaustive list of local crops in the Index regions.
7.3 Company scope

The Access to Seeds Index assesses the efforts of the world’s leading seed companies to improve access to seeds for smallholder farmers. The Global Index focuses on the activities of global seed companies operating in all four Index regions. The Regional Index, meanwhile, assesses the role of regional and national seed companies in a specific region. For the 2018 Index, the geographic scope of the Regional Index for Eastern Africa will be extended to include Southern Africa. New regional indexes for Western & Central Africa and South & Southeast Asia will also be developed.

Global Index

The Global Index focuses on leading seed companies with an integrated seed business model (breeding, production, distribution) that operate on a global scale. Companies selected for inclusion fall into three categories. The first category is made up of global companies with a field crop seed segment in their portfolio and revenues over $1,000 million. Some of these companies are currently involved in mergers or acquisitions, the progress of which will determine whether these companies are assessed separately or as a new, combined entity. The second category is made up of companies with only a vegetable seed segment and revenues over $100 million. In the third category are regional leaders with a global presence and revenues over $100 million. The inclusion of this third category in the Global Index is the result of advice from stakeholders and the Expert Review Committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Seed portfolio</th>
<th>Seed sales 2016* ($ mln)</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Advanta</td>
<td>ARE</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>Listed</td>
<td>III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bayer**</td>
<td>DEU</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>1592</td>
<td>Listed</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bejo</td>
<td>NLD</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 DowDuPont***</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>7428</td>
<td>Listed</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 East-West Seed</td>
<td>THA</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Enza Zaden</td>
<td>NLD</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Groupe Limagrain</td>
<td>FRA</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>2347</td>
<td>Cooperative/ Listed</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 KWS</td>
<td>DEU</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>1216</td>
<td>Listed</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Monsanto**</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>9988</td>
<td>Listed</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Rijk Zwaan</td>
<td>NLD</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Sakata</td>
<td>JPN</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Syngenta****</td>
<td>CHE</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>2657</td>
<td>Listed</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Takii</td>
<td>JPN</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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Regional Access to Seeds Indexes

The regional indexes evaluate the activities of seed companies in a specific region. The company lists are the result of landscaping studies in each region performed by regional consultants and research firms. The selection criteria are (1) an integrated seed business model, (2) regional presence or a dominant position in one country, (3) physical presence and business activities in the region and (4) peer recognition as a leading company.

### Regional Index for Eastern & Southern Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Seed portfolio</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darusalam Seed Co</td>
<td>SOM</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demeter Seed</td>
<td>MWI</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DowDuPont**</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East African Seed</td>
<td>KEN</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East-West Seed</td>
<td>THA</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopian Seed Enterprise</td>
<td>ETH</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>State-owned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equator Seeds</td>
<td>UGA</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FICA Seeds</td>
<td>UGA</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrotech</td>
<td>ZAF</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya Seed Company</td>
<td>KEN</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>State-owned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klein Karoo Seed Marketing</td>
<td>ZAF</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monsanto*</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASECO</td>
<td>UGA</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop Vriend Seeds</td>
<td>NLD</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed Co</td>
<td>ZWE</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Starke Ayres</td>
<td>ZAF</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syngenta***</td>
<td>CHE</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technisem</td>
<td>FRA</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Seeds</td>
<td>UGA</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zamseed</td>
<td>ZAM</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Kenya Highland Seed was removed from the list, due to lack of activities in research and production.
**Regional Index for Western & Central Africa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Seed portfolio</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGRIPLUS</td>
<td>MLI</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AINOMA</td>
<td>NER</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BILOFH</td>
<td>CIV</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Da-AllGreen Seeds</td>
<td>NGA</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DowDuPont**</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East-West Seed</td>
<td>THA</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faso Kaba</td>
<td>MLI</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAWAL</td>
<td>CHN</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Seeds</td>
<td>GHA</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monsanto*</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAFASO</td>
<td>BFA</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop Vriend Seeds</td>
<td>NLD</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Seed</td>
<td>NGA</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed Co</td>
<td>ZWE</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDAB</td>
<td>SEN</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMAGRI</td>
<td>CMR</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syngenta***</td>
<td>CHE</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technisem</td>
<td>FRA</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropicasem</td>
<td>SEN</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value Seed</td>
<td>NGA</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Regional Index for South & Southeast Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Seed portfolio</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanta</td>
<td>ARE</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annapurna Seeds</td>
<td>NPL</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayer*</td>
<td>DEU</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bioseed</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAC</td>
<td>BGD</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Intl. NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charoen Pokphand</td>
<td>THA</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DowDuPont**</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East-West Seed</td>
<td>THA</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalash Seeds</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Known-You Seed</td>
<td>TWN</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lal Teer Seed</td>
<td>BGD</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahyco</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monsanto*</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Seeds Corporation</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>State owned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nongwoo Bio</td>
<td>KOR</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuziveedu Seeds</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab Seed Corporation</td>
<td>PAK</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>State owned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rallis India</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syngenta***</td>
<td>CHE</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinaseed</td>
<td>VNM</td>
<td>Field crops &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>Listed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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8. Indicators of the 2018 Access to Seeds Index

A. Governance and strategy

This measurement area highlights the way in which companies include smallholder farmers in their core business strategies by assessing the governance structures, targets, budgets and programs in place to do so. More broadly, the measurement area aims to identify the extent to which companies are dedicated to achieving the targets set out in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sustainable Development Goals
The SDG framework comprises 17 goals with 169 targets aimed at mobilizing companies to invest in sustainable development. For example, seed companies can contribute to achieving specific goals such as zero hunger (SDG 2), gender equality (SDG 5), climate action (SDG 13) and life on land (SDG 15).

Access to Seeds for Smallholder Farmers
Seed companies can contribute to enhancing smallholder farmer productivity in a sustainable way by increasing their access to knowledge, technologies, varieties and seeds. A clear commitment and strategy articulates how companies will contribute based on their portfolios, assets and capabilities.

Governance and Accountability
Clearly formulated goals and targets within company governance structures improve implementation and assessment. Introducing incentives and assigning responsibility to the board or senior executives ensures that a company’s commitments to access to seeds are integrated into its business practices.

Support for an Enabling Environment
Building an enabling environment is essentially a government’s responsibility. However, companies can contribute to this, for instance through their lobbying activities, in-kind support and participation in public dialogue.

A.I Commitment

A.I.1 Sustainable Development Goals
The company has a policy statement that articulates a commitment and strategy to incorporate the SDGs into its business practices, or formulates in general terms how it aims to contribute to global food and nutrition security.

A.I.2 Access to Seeds for Smallholder Farmers
The company has a commitment and strategy to contribute to improved access to seeds for smallholder farmers in Index countries.

A.II Performance

A.II.1 Governance and Accountability
The company has assigned executive responsibility and incentivized management to implement and measure its programs and activities related to SDG targets and access to seeds for smallholder farmers in Index countries.

A.II.2 Company Resources
The company has allocated resources to ensure a strategic and proactive approach to meeting the SDGs and access to seed targets in its core business.

A.II.3 Enabling Environment
The company actively contributes to building a supportive, enabling environment for access to seeds for smallholder farmers in Index countries, for instance through its lobbying activities and in-kind support.

A.II.4 Participation in Public Dialogue
Senior executives are actively involved in public dialogue on the SDGs and access to seeds in order to share knowledge and insights that enrich the public debate.

A.III Transparency

A.III.1 Transparency in Governance and Strategy
The company reports publicly on its commitments, strategies and outcomes related to the SDGs and improving access to seeds for smallholder farmers in Index countries.

A.IV Leadership

A.IV.1 Leadership in Governance and Strategy
The company has established innovative strategies and approaches to improve smallholder farmers’ access to seeds in Index countries.
Genetic resources are fundamental to sustainable food production. However, agricultural practices can impact existing genetic diversity. This measurement area seeks to clarify how companies support the conservation of genetic resources and how they share the benefits resulting from the use of publicly available genetic material.

### Conservation of Genetic Resources

The growth of the formal seed sector can reduce local crop diversity currently conserved on farms and in communities. Seed companies can help conserve local crop and genetic diversity, for instance by supporting public gene banks and community seed initiatives.

### Access and Benefit Sharing

Access and benefit sharing (ABS) refers to the way in which companies obtain genetic resources and how they share the benefits that result from their use, thereby contributing to international efforts to promote the conservation and use of genetic resources. This requires having a ‘track and trace system’ in place that demonstrates the origin of genetic resources used by companies. Benefit sharing includes monetary and non-monetary contributions to the Global Crop Diversity Trust and adherence to multilateral agreements like the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

### B.I. Commitment

#### B.I.1 Policy on the Conservation and Use of Genetic Diversity

The company has a policy in place that demonstrates its commitment to the conservation and use of genetic diversity in Index countries.

### B.II. Performance

#### B.II.1 Conservation of Genetic Resources

The company is involved in programs and/or initiatives that encourage the conservation of a diverse set of crops and genetic resources used by smallholder farmers in Index countries, such as supporting international, national and/or community gene banks.

#### B.II.2 Track and Trace System

The company has a system in place that demonstrates the origin of and the way in which the genetic resources used in its breeding programs and commercial portfolio were obtained.

#### B.II.3 Benefit Sharing

The company contributes monetary and/or non-monetary forms of access and benefit sharing as outlined in international treaties such as the ITPGRFA.

### B.III Transparency

#### B.III.1 Transparency in Genetic Resources

The company discloses its policies and practices regarding access to genetic resources.

### B.IV Leadership

#### B.IV.1 Leadership in Genetic Resources

The company has adopted innovative models or practices for the conservation and use of genetic resources.
C. **Intellectual Property**

Intellectual property (IP) protection allows companies to generate a return on research and development investment. IP protection can, however, restrict established practices such as further breeding by other actors and on-farm seed saving. Because national IP regulations differ and many emerging economies still lack IP laws, this measurement area seeks to clarify and assess the positions of companies regarding IP, including patents, how companies provide access to their products in countries where regulations are still under development, and how companies regard farm-saved seed practices.

**Pricing**

To ensure that IP protection does not affect affordability, companies can apply differentiated pricing or market segmentation strategies when setting the price of products for smallholder farmers in Index countries.

**Licensing**

Tailored or royalty-free licensing strategies can improve access to patented varieties, traits, methods and technologies for national agricultural research institutes and private plant breeders, thereby promoting the development of new varieties appropriate to the needs of smallholder farmers.

**Breeders’ and Farmers’ Rights**

The long-established breeders’ exemption makes commercial varieties available for further breeding, while the farmers’ privilege allows on-farm seed saving. This access can be restricted, for instance through the use of contractual clauses and patents not just on plant varieties but also on traits, methods and technologies.

---

**C.I Commitment**

**C.I.1 Policy on IP Protection**

The company has a policy in place that clarifies how it handles intellectual property rights in Index countries, including its position regarding farm-saved seeds and the use of its commercial varieties for further breeding.

**C.II Performance**

**C.II.1 Pricing**

When marketing IP-protected products in Index countries, either directly or indirectly, the company applies market segmentation and differential pricing strategies.

**C.II.2 Licensing**

The company offers royalty-free licensing of protected material for use in Index countries.

**C.II.3 Breeders’ Exemption**

The company allows the use of commercial varieties for further breeding and refrains from using restrictive measures such as contractual clauses in Index countries.

**C.II.4 Farmers’ Privilege**

The company allows the saving, use, exchange and sale of farm-saved seeds by smallholder farmers and refrains from employing restrictive measures such as contractual clauses in Index countries.

---

**C.III Transparency**

**C.III.1 Transparency in IP**

The company discloses its policies and practices regarding access to IP for the benefit of smallholder farmers.

**C.IV Leadership**

**C.IV.1 Leadership in IP**

The company has adopted innovative models for providing access to its IP for the purposes of supporting smallholder farmer activity.
D. Research & Development

This measurement area focuses on companies’ research & development (R&D) efforts, especially activities that consider local conditions in Index regions. These activities include adapting global crops for local use and breeding programs aimed at improvement of, for example, yield, pest and disease resistance and climate resilience of local crops.

Testing
Testing varieties that are already available, either in a company’s own collection or in research institutes, is a fast route to bringing new varieties to market. By conducting variety trials and on-farm demonstrations, for example, companies can test varieties in their existing portfolio for suitability in Index regions.

Breeding for Smallholder Farmers
Companies can contribute to the availability of a diverse set of varieties tailored to the needs and preferences of smallholder farmers in Index regions through their plant-breeding activities. Such activities can focus on global and local crops. This requires breeding programs informed by local knowledge and feedback.

D.I Commitment

D.I.1 Improved Varieties for Smallholder Farmers
The company commits to the development of new varieties and/or testing of existing varieties appropriate to the local conditions and preferences of smallholder farmers in Index countries.

D.II Performance

D.II.1 Testing of Existing Varieties
The company makes an effort to test existing varieties for suitability for smallholder farmers in Index countries, which includes varieties from the company’s own collection or from public research institutes.

D.II.2 Developing Improved Varieties of Global Crops
The company has a breeding program that aims to develop varieties of global crops appropriate to the local conditions and preferences of smallholder farmers in Index countries.

D.II.3 Developing Improved Varieties of Local Crops
The company’s breeding program includes the development of varieties of local crops appropriate to the local conditions and preferences of smallholder farmers in Index countries.

D.II.4 Breeding Program for Specific Traits
The company’s breeding program includes the development of specific traits useful to smallholder farmers in Index countries, such as increased crop robustness, climate change resilience and/or nutritional value.

Specific Traits for Smallholder Farmers
Dedicated programs to develop specific traits with tolerance to abiotic stresses such as heat, drought, flooding and salinization and the biotic stresses of pests and diseases can significantly improve crop yield and performance. Similarly, the development of improved varieties with specific traits that increase the nutritional value of crops can contribute greatly to food and nutrition security.

Local Collaboration
Through collaboration with local research institutes and farmer organizations, companies can leverage their technical strengths with local expertise. In some cases, local research institutes may already have developed germplasm that is available for use in breeding programs. Collaborative research is also a way to help advance local seed sectors.

D.III Transparency

D.III.1 Transparency in R&D
The company reports publicly on its R&D efforts that address the needs of smallholder farmers in Index countries.

D.IV Leadership

D.IV.1 Leadership in R&D
The company has adopted an innovative R&D approach to develop varieties and/or traits useful to smallholder farmers in Index countries.
E. Seed Production

Through local seed production, companies can address the limited availability of quality seeds while advancing the local seed sector. This measurement area seeks to identify whether companies produce seeds locally and the extent to which smallholder farmers are involved in this process.

Local Seed Production
Companies that produce seeds locally can help advance local seed sectors. By introducing new technologies and expertise to improve seed production, working with local seed growers can contribute to overall capacity building.

Labor Standards
In producing seeds within Index countries, companies should institute fair labor conditions and adhere to international labor standards. This could include addressing child labor, health and safety, and workers’ benefits.

Quality Management
Seed quality can be influenced by a variety of factors. To ensure consistent quality, seed companies or their subcontractors can implement robust maintenance programs during local seed production as well as management systems in the later phases of planting, harvesting, processing, storing and packaging.

E.I Commitment
E.I.1 Local Seed Production
The company has a clear commitment to producing seeds in Index countries and to involving smallholder farmers in these activities.

E.II Performance
E.II.1 Local Seed Production
The company engages with local seed sectors in Index countries through, for example, partnering with local companies or farmer organizations specialized in seed production.

E.II.2 Smallholder Farmers in the Value Chain
The company involves smallholder farmers in its seed production within Index countries.

E.II.3 Quality Management in Seed Production
The company has management systems in place to ensure quality throughout its seed production processes in Index countries.

E.II.4 Labor Standards in Seed Production
The company has labor standards in place to ensure fair labor conditions in the production of its seeds in Index countries.

E.III Transparency
E.III.1 Transparency in Seed Production
The company publicly reports on its seed production activities in Index countries.

E.IV Leadership
E.IV.1 Leadership in Seed Production
The company has introduced innovative approaches to its local seed production and the involvement of smallholder farmers in Index countries.
This measurement area assesses the ways in which companies make quality seeds of improved varieties available and affordable to smallholder farmers and how they promote adoption. This could include tailored packaging and building trusted distribution networks as well as offering demonstration activities that promote adoption.

Diverse Portfolio
Companies can enhance access to seeds by offering a diverse portfolio of crops and varieties. This could include offering open-pollinated varieties (OPVs) alongside hybrids. By considering the diverse needs of smallholder farmers as entrepreneurs, companies can build the resilience of their business activities.

Tailored Distribution Practices
Companies can promote improved varieties, for example by establishing distribution channels that reach remote areas and offering tailored packaging appropriate to the needs of smallholder farmers. Adoption can be promoted by creating awareness through demonstrations, and by enhancing affordability through financial services such as insurance. Companies can also ensure that smallholder farmers in Index countries have access to the necessary agricultural inputs other than seed.

Quality Assurance and After-sales Support
Companies can take steps to ensure that seed quality is maintained throughout the distribution system and that counterfeit seeds are not sold under their brand in Index countries. These steps include customer feedback and grievance mechanisms for smallholder clients.

F.I Commitment

F.I.1 Marketing Policy of Commercial Varieties
The company has made a commitment to market its varieties and seeds tailored to the needs of smallholder farmers in Index countries, and has policies and codes of conduct governing its marketing activities.

F.I.2 Quality and Safety of Varieties and Seeds
The company has policies and protocols in place in accordance with international best practices to ensure biosafety, increased product suitability and product quality when marketing seeds of improved varieties in Index countries.

F.II Performance

F.II.1 Diverse Portfolio
The company has made available, through pre-existing or emerging partnerships, licensing or other mechanisms, a diverse portfolio of seeds and varieties suitable to the conditions and preferences of smallholder farmers in Index countries.

F.II.2 Distribution Channels
The company has established dedicated distribution channels and/or agro-dealer networks within Index countries, which make its seeds accessible to smallholder farmers, including in remote areas.

F.II.3 Packaging and Labeling
The company packages its products in quantities appropriate to the needs of smallholder farmers in Index countries, and its packaging includes information in a local language, pictograms, and manufacture and expiry dates.

F.II.4 Other Agricultural Inputs
The company makes an effort to ensure that smallholder farmers in Index countries have access to the necessary agricultural inputs other than seed, and learn about their appropriate and sustainable use.

F.II.5 Quality Assurance
The company has implemented management systems to ensure that its seed quality is maintained throughout the distribution system and that counterfeit seeds are not sold under its brand in Index countries.

F.II.6 Demonstration Strategies
The company has programs, such as field days or other demonstration services, to create awareness of suitable products available for smallholder farmers in Index countries.

F.II.7 Affordability
The company is involved in programs, either directly or through partnerships, to help make seeds more affordable to smallholder farmers in Index countries. These could include financing, insurance services or differential pricing schemes.

F.II.8 After-sales Support and Stewardship
The company has customer feedback and/or grievance mechanisms available to smallholder farmers in Index countries.

F.III Transparency

F.III.1 Transparency in Marketing & Sales
The company reports publicly on its marketing and sales practices in Index countries.

F.IV Leadership

F.IV.1 Leadership in Marketing & Sales
The company has introduced innovative approaches to the testing, distribution, promotion and adoption of seed products, which may support the sustainable delivery of such products in Index countries.
G. Capacity Building

This measurement area focuses on the ways in which seed companies invest in local capacity building to ensure that farmers have the right knowledge and tools to realize the full potential of quality seeds of improved varieties. This area presents many opportunities for public-private partnerships.

Extension
Extension services are activities that build the capacity of smallholder farmers. These include not only the use of improved varieties but also the appropriate application of other agricultural inputs and sustainable business practices. Companies can offer extension services themselves or in partnership with local organizations. To engage next-generation farmers in agriculture and address the specific demands of women farmers, tailored programs can be organized for these target groups.

Information and Communication Technology
As an enabling technology, information and communication technology (ICT) and mobile services provide numerous opportunities for smallholders to grow as entrepreneurs, for instance through provisioning, agronomic support and technical information. By collecting and aggregating data from farmers, ICT also enables companies and other actors to understand the demands and needs of smallholder farmers better.

Access to Output Markets
Most farmers grow crops not only for their own use but also for commercial sale. Breeding companies can help farmers to increase their profitability by linking them to output markets and/or assisting in the development of a local or regional market. Companies can partner with other organizations to offer farmers training in areas such as post-harvest handling and product hygiene.

G.I Commitment

G.I.1 Capacity Building
The company commits to building the capacity of smallholder farmers in Index countries in order to increase their productivity, food and nutrition security, and resilience in a sustainable manner.

G.II Performance

G.II.1 Extension Services
The company offers, directly or through local public or private partners, agricultural extension services to smallholder farmers in Index countries.

G.II.2 Next-generation Farmers
The company has programs in place to engage next-generation farmers in agriculture, such as support for formal education programs and/or institutions.

G.II.3 ICT
The company supports, directly or through partnerships, initiatives that advance the use of ICT by smallholder farmers in Index countries to help build their capacity and inform their decision-making.

G.III Transparency

G.III.1 Transparency in Capacity Building
The company publicly reports on its programs to build capacity among smallholder farmers in Index countries.

G.IV Leadership

G.IV.1 Leadership in Capacity Building
The company has introduced innovative approaches to build capacity among smallholder farmers, which promote and enable the use of quality seeds of improved varieties and adjacent technologies in Index countries.