A white line drawing of a plant

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGenebanks and Seed Systems Toolkit

KII Checklist #1b – Individual Farmers engaged in Seed Systems

**Target group**: These are guide questions for individual farmers who conserve, produce, or disseminating seeds and play a significant or special rolein the local or regional seed system (e.g., seed guardians, seed producers, etc.). The aim is to understand their roles and activities within the seed system, strengths and weaknesses, and how these are affected by governance and other factors. We also aim to understand their views on seed system development.

The interview should be conducted with the farmer. The farmers should be identified in each of the research sites for the local seed system characterization.

## Introduction

1. Explain the objective and obtain interviewee consent (fill out and attach the consent form for KIIs)

## General information about the farmer

1. What is the goal of your seed-related activities?
2. When did you start these activities with seed? What motivated you to start?
3. Have you received any technical or financial support to carry out your seed-related activities? If so, what support did you receive, from whom, and when?

## Variety development and management

1. Are you involved in the collection and conservation of crop diversity, or in the selection/development of new varieties? How is this work organized?
   * Describe which crops you focus on, your activities, the farm inputs (eg land) you use, etc.

## Seed production

1. What crops do you focus on in your seed production?
2. What types of varieties of these crops do you produce (local, improved, both)?

*NB: If both, then ask the following questions separately for local and improved varieties:*

* What are the sources of the “source/base seeds” that you use to multiply?
* How do you select which varieties to produce?
* How satisfied are you with the varieties you currently produce? Do you see a need for other kinds of varieties than the ones you have today? What kinds?
* How do you get access to new varieties?

1. How much seed did you produce in the most recent season? (*fill out the table below or get seed production records if available for filling the table later*)
   * Do you produce enough quantity of these seeds to meet demand in your area?
   * What practices do you apply to ensure seed quality? Do you have any problems in seed production?
   * How do you store the seeds you produce? Do you have any challenges with storage?

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| **Year/season** (start from the most recent one) | **Crop** | **Quantity (kg)** |
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## Seed Dissemination

1. Who are the users of your seeds?
   * How do these users access your seeds? Do you sell/distribute them directly?
   * What information do you give farmers about the variety and seeds you produce/disseminate?
2. Are there farmers who have difficulty accessing your seeds?
   * Which farmers, and why is it difficult for them? (e.g., cannot afford, lack of roads/transportation, security threats, etc..)
   * Do you have strategies to help farmers/users to access your seeds (e.g., provide loan/credit etc)?
   * What are the challenges in marketing or disseminating your seeds?

## Strengths and weaknesses

1. Overall, what are the main strengths and weaknesses of your seed-related activities?

## Coordination with other actors

1. Who are the main actors you work with for your seed-related activities? *(check off all that apply)*

* Genebank
* Plant breeders
* Agricultural extension
* Financial institutions
* NGOs
* Farmers’ organizations
* Others (specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How well do your interactions/collaborations with these actors function?
   * Are there any challenges in coordinating your activities with them?
   * How do you think these interactions can be improved?
2. Do you work with the national genebank? If so, how?
   * Do you have suggestions on how the role of the national genebank can be improved?

## Contextual factors

1. Do government policies and laws support your work? If yes, which ones and how? If not, which ones and why not?
2. Are there local customs, beliefs, or cultural practices that affect your seed-related work? How?
3. How does the market/economy affect your work? Give specific examples.

## Recommendations

1. Is there anything else you would like to share about your activities or how the seed system is functioning?
2. In your view, what are the key issues related to seed in this part of the country?
3. Do you have any suggestions or recommendations on how to improve farmers’ access to sufficient, good quality seed of preferred crops and varieties?