Genebanks and Seed Systems Toolkit

KII Checklist #10 –National authorities engaged in seed policy formulation and coordination

**Target group**: These are guide questions for national authoritiesresponsible for coordinating the seed-related policy formulation process, designating a government agency with responsibility for implementation; supporting the translation of policy provisions into an operational plan and guidelines; and coordinating operations and resources among relevant agencies to achieve the intended policy objectives. These authorities and agencies may include a policy unit under the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for seed policy, seed trade, and intellectual property rights issues and/or the focal point(s) for international agreements related to seed such as: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Nagoya Protocol, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the Trade‐Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

The aim is to understand the agencies’ roles and activities in national seed policy development and implementation, assess their strengths and weaknesses, and how these are affected by seed governance or other factors. We also aim to understand their views on seed system development.

The interviewer should interview a policy expert or leaders who know the agency’s roles and activities within the national seed system.

## Introduction

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

## General information about the organization

1. What is the goal of your organization/agency in general? And specifically in relation to seed?
2. Can you explain the institution’s organizational structure and current mandate
	* Organizational structure
	* Mandates/responsibilities

## Variety development and management

***PGRFA conservation, access, and sustainable use***

1. What are the main policies and regulatory frameworks relating to PGRFA conservation, access, and use?
	* National conservation strategies/plans (in-situ, on-farm, ex-situ)
	* National access policy and laws
2. Can you explain how these policies and regulations were formulated, including the stakeholders that participated and those that are excluded? If some are excluded, which ones and why?
3. What institutional arrangements exist among actors involved in PGRFA conservation, access, and use at the local and national levels?
	* What actors play which role in PGRFA conservation
	* How well are actors’ conservation, access, and use activities coordinated
4. To what extent are existing policies on conservation, access, and use implemented? What national-level programs exist on the ground, and how are they funded?
5. How do the country’s policies and governance arrangements support or constrain the conservation, access, and sustainable use of crop diversity?

***Plant breeding, variety trials, selection, registration, and release***

1. What are the main policies and regulatory frameworks relating to plant breeding, variety trials, selection, registration, and release? Explain constraints and opportunities regarding the impacts of these policy frameworks on:
	* Crop prioritization for plant breeding
	* The efficiency of new plant variety releases and registration
	* Governing farmers’ and breeders’ rights
	* Registration of farmers’ varieties (if allowed and why, if not)
2. To what extent are these policies and regulatory frameworks in plant breeding, variety registration, and release implemented? Explain institutional arrangements among actors involved and how well it is coordinated.
3. How do these policies and governance arrangements support or constrain the development of suitable varieties meeting farmers’ preferences and needs?

## Seed production, quality assurance and storage

1. What are the main policies and regulatory frameworks relating to seed production, quality assurance, and storage?
2. What are the institutional arrangements among actors involved in seed production, quality assurance, and storage at the local and national levels?
* How well are activities coordinated among them?
1. To what extent are these policies and regulatory frameworks implemented? Explain how the policy framework and coordination support or constrain
* Seed production in farmers’ seed system
* Seed production in the formal seed system
* Seed production in the private sector
* Seed production in the public sector
1. What are your policies on early-generation seed (EGS) production and access by different seed producers? Are there any challenges in implementation?

## Seed dissemination

1. What are the primary policy objectives and implementation practices in relation to:
	* Seed pricing and subsidies
	* Seed import and export
	* Dissemination by public institutions, e.g., agricultural extension
	* Dissemination by farmer organizations, e.g., cooperatives
	* Dissemination by agro/seed dealers and their networks
	* Famer social seed networks in seed saving, re-using, exchanging, and selling
	* Loans and micro-finance
	* Infrastructure –seed storage facility (centralized or localized), transportation, etc.

## Contextual factors

1. Are there conflicts or difficulties in harmonizing national policy instruments with international agreements such as the CBD, ITPGRFA, WTO’s TRIPs, and UPOV? Please explain.
2. How is the national seed policy/law related to the agriculture policy of the country? Are there any inconsistencies or conflicts?
3. Are there local customs, beliefs, or cultural practices that affect your work related to the formulation and implementation of seed policy/law? How?
4. What are the effects of the seed market/trade regulation on the policies you promote? 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 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?