



SMALL N EXPLORATORY CASE STUDY

Tool Description Sheet

1. **Purpose:** understand and describe how farm households and communities use varieties and seed, focusing on the main features and variations
2. **Level:** village level
3. **Users of the tool:** seed intervention designers, implementers, evaluators, and analysts
4. **Output of the tool:** characterization of a community seed system
5. **Audience of the output:** the users mentioned above and policy makers, lobbyists, and donors
6. **Minimum sample size:** 2 villages per region
7. **Resources**
 - a. number of people: 1-2 people, or more per research team
 - b. equipment: transport, paper and pen
 - c. expertise: basic socio-economic and agro-ecological knowledge of seeds and varieties, interviewing skills
8. **Timing:** as part of establishing the baseline, diagnosis, monitoring-&-evaluation, in combination with multi-stakeholder framework
9. **Duration:** 1 week per village
10. **Steps**
 - a. Identify representative communities for the seed system to be characterized: at least 2 for each typical seed system area
 - b. Develop a questionnaire and interview questions (max 1.5 hours per interview)
 - c. Define a farmer-selection plan: in each community identify 12-15 farmers per social category (poor, medium, less-poor; women, men)
 - d. Try out the questionnaire by validating it in the field and editing it for clarity and relevance
 - e. Plan the data collection trips
 - f. Enter the data in Excel, or similar software; analyze data

11. **Which methods can be used in combination with the tool:** focus group discussions, participatory rural appraisal, semi-structured interviews, household surveys, seed tracing and others
12. **Gender:** it allows differentiation for gender and other social aspects (gender responsiveness level 1: gender is a significant factor in this tool, but it is not the main reason for using it)
13. **User guide:** Almekinders, C. J. M. & Bentley, J. W. (2020). User guide to the small N exploratory case study. Lima (Peru). CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB). RTB User Guide. No. 2020-3. <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/110333>
14. **Research paper:** Tadesse, Y., Almekinders, C. J. M., Schulte, R. P. O. & Struik, P. C. (2017). Understanding farmers' potato production practices and use of improved varieties in Chencha, Ethiopia, *Journal of Crop Improvement*, 31(5), 673-688, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15427528.2017.1345817>
15. **Applications**

Kilwinger, F. B. M., Rietveld, A. M., & Almekinders, C. J. M. (2017). The culture of banana cultivation: An exploratory study of a local banana seed system in Central Uganda. CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB). RTB Research Report. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/89761>

Kilwinger, F. B. M., Rietveld, A. M., & Almekinders, C. J. M. (2019). A comparative study on banana seed systems in Mbarara district, western Uganda and Mukono district, central Uganda. Lima: Peru. International Potato Center. RTB Working Paper 2019-4. ISSN 2309-6586. 20 p <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/106274>

Nkengla-Asi, L., Omondi, A. B., Simo, V. C., Assam, E., Ngatat, S., & Boonabaana, B. (2020). Gender dynamics in banana seed systems and impact on banana bunchy top disease recovery in Cameroon. *Outlook on Agriculture*, 49(3), 235-244, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0030727020918333>

Pircher, T., Obisesan, D., Nitturkar, H., Asumugha, G., Ewuziem, J., Anyaegbunam, H., Azaino, E., Akinmosin, B., Ioryina, A., Walsh, S. & Almekinders, C. J. M. (2019). Characterizing Nigeria's cassava seed system and the use of planting material in three farming communities. Lima: International Potato Center. RTB Working Paper. No. 2019-1. ISSN 2309-6586. 28 p <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/106314>
16. **Communication materials:** not available.
17. **Contact persons:** Conny Almekinders Conny.Almekinders@wur.nl, Fleur Kilwinger Fleur.Kilwinger@wur.nl

Correct citation: Almekinders, C.J.M. and Bentley, J.W. 2021. Tool description sheet to the small N exploratory case study. Lima (Peru). CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB). Available online at: www.rtb.cgiar.org

ISBN: 978-92-9060-588-1 • DOI: 10.4160/9789290605881 • February 2021 • © International Potato Center on behalf of RTB



This publication is licensed for use under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

Disclaimer: This document is intended to disseminate research and practices about production and utilization of roots, tubers and bananas and to encourage debate and exchange of ideas. The views expressed in the papers are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official position of RTB, CGIAR or the publishing institution.