



# Multi-stakeholder framework for interventions in RT&B seed systems

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RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Roots, Tubers  
and Bananas

# Purpose of the multi-stakeholder framework

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To help understand seed systems before or after starting an intervention (planning, or M&E)

To improve seed system interventions with better design and analysis of seed system interventions

Identify stakeholders, coordination breakdowns (where things go wrong ... and how to avoid them), bottlenecks

Rapid assessment of seed security: seed availability, access, and quality



# Level and uses of the multi-stakeholder framework

**Level.** Entire seed system

**Users.** Seed intervention designers, implementers, evaluators, practitioners, researchers, donors and policy makers



Photo: K. Ogero, CIP

# Output and audience of the multi-stakeholder framework

**Output.** Qualitative description of a seed system, including an overview of anticipated constraints. A snapshot of the state of knowledge about the seed system and seed security (availability, accessibility, quality)

**Audience.** Similar to the users (seed intervention designers, implementers, evaluators, practitioners, researchers, donors and policy makers). Lobbyists are also part of the audience



# Minimum sample size for the multi-stakeholder framework

There is no minimum sample size. As many stakeholders as possible should be consulted, depending on your time and budget



Photo: I. Navarrete,  
CIP-WUR

# Resources for using the multi-stakeholder framework

***Number of people:*** 1-3 people to collect and analyze information. Plus a larger group to meet and outline the seed system



***Equipment:*** internet, vehicle. Venues and stationery for workshops and focus group discussions (FGDs). A blank framework table to fill in

***Expertise:*** biophysical and social science, including gender expertise (a good mix of agronomists and social scientists who are familiar with seed systems)

# Timing and duration for the multi-stakeholder framework

Since the framework can be used for planning, it can be used just before an intervention, which is what we hope one of the country teams will do with it

For M&E, the framework can be used after a seed system intervention, or during one

One to 8 weeks, for all the steps

A workshop with key stakeholders can be held in a single day



# The multi-stakeholder framework



Stakeholder	Availability/ supply	Accessibility			Quality	
		Delivery channel features	Affordability/ profitability issues	Info to create awareness & demand	Variety (incl. biodiversity)	Health, genetic purity, physiological age, & physical quality <sup>1</sup>
Policy makers						
National research						
International research						
Traders (local markets)						
Specialized seed producers						
Farmer organizations						
NGOs & national extension						
Private food sector						
Seed users						



# Steps for using the multi-stakeholder framework



**Step 1.** Identify stakeholders and analyze the context with a literature review, & field visits

**Step 2.** Semi-structured interviews, focus group discussion (FGD), workshops with stakeholders

**Step 3.** Draw the framework matrix and define the role of each stakeholder for each function (e.g. what is the role do policy makers play for seed availability?)

**Step 4.** Identify information gaps and bottlenecks

# Steps (continued)

**Step 5.** Analyze the data as a chart, & a narrative, using literature review, interviews and workshop sessions

**Step 6.** Draft publications can be shared with some stakeholders for comments. Results can be published as working papers, journal articles, on websites ...



# Methods that can be combined with the stakeholder framework

***Literature review.*** Project reports (grey lit). Books & articles on the agriculture & seed systems of the region

***Semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions.*** 5 or 7 questions to start a chat with individuals or small groups from one group of stakeholders (e.g. plant breeders, seed traders, extension, processors, seed multipliers and users). Take notes. Write up results

***Workshops.*** Reps of different stakeholder groups meet and fill in the table



# Gender



Photo: J. Bentley

Framework allows gender information to be disaggregated.  
E.g. separate FGD with women for seed users



Some stakeholder groups are mainly of one gender (e.g. most traders of informal seed may be women). Recognize this in the analysis

# Limitations of the multi-stakeholder framework

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Not used to gather quantitative information

Workshops to fill in the table should challenge assumptions from researchers and project staff. This may require expert facilitation to avoid becoming a mechanical exercise



# Main advantages of the multi-stakeholder framework

A fast method for a qualitative, big picture of a seed system or an intervention. Brings in the topic of seed security

Understanding root, tuber, and banana seed systems and coordination breakdown: A multi-stakeholder framework. *Journal of Crop Improvement*, 32(5). [HERE](#)



Recent cases:

- Identify participants and design key informant interviews and FGDs to explore regulations for potato and cassava seed in Vietnam, Nigeria and Kenya [HERE](#)
- Estimate seed security of teff and wheat in Ethiopia [HERE](#)

# Thank you

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**User guide:** Bentley, J.W.; Mudege, N. and Andrade-Piedra, J.L. 2020. User guide to the multi-stakeholder framework for intervening in root, tuber and banana seed systems. Lima (Peru). CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB). RTB User Guide. No. 2020-2. [HERE](#)

**Description sheet** Bentley, J.W.; Mudege, N. and Andrade-Piedra, J.L. 2021. Description sheet to the multi-stakeholder framework for intervening in root, tuber and banana seed systems. Lima (Peru). CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB). [HERE](#).

