## **Cultivating Knowledge for Farmer Managed Seed Systems**

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## EDITOR'S BRIEF

#### **Unmasking the Potential of Farmer Managed Seed System (FMSS)**

Once again ESAFF Uganda is delighted to present to you the 5th edition of the seed gist, a quarterly publication that delves into diverse issues on farmer managed seed system (FMSS. Recognizing seed as the most crucial factor influencing the livelihoods of small scale farmers who depend on agriculture for livelihoods and food security. In this issue, we bring you a diversity of stories aimed at exploring the potential of the FMSS in addressing small scale farmers seed challenges, diversity conservation, food security and livelihoods in the face of climate crisis, advancement of technology, and farmer unfriendly seed policies among others. In this regard, we also share stories on the role of community seed banks and national gene banks promoting biodiversity conservation and food security, attack on the farmer managed seed system by multinationals and unsupportive policies, threats from technological advancement including genetically modified organisms in Kenya, and the role of technology in promoting farmer managed seed system and putting up some calls and recommendations to frontline stakeholders.

This issue highlights the potential of community based innovations, technology advancement, stakeholder collaboration in promoting biodiversity conservation and food security through farmer managed seed system (FMSS). We hope that you enjoy reading these articles as they provide insights towards ensuring a sustainable seed system where farmers have the right to save, share and plant diverse seeds, free from corporate control for food sovereignty, biodiversity and resilience for future generations. You can be a part of this space by sharing your ideas, innovations and experiences on the FMSS.

## THE ROLE OF NATIONAL GENE BANKS AND COMMUNITY SEED BANKS IN PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND FOOD SECURITY



"Gifted by nature" is an adage coined to Uganda because of her rich diversity of crops; cultivated and semi domesticated, crop wild relatives and wild edible species. Some of these collections are maintained at the Plant Genetic Resources (PGRC). PGRC is a unit of the National Agricultural Research Laboratories (NARL) of the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) which constitutes the Uganda National Gene bank (UNGB) and the Entebbe Botanical Gardens (EBG). The mandate of the Centre is to collect, conserve, manage and make available Uganda's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture while optimizing its potential for national development for current and future generations.

The Uganda National Gene bank, holds over 5000 accessions of diverse plant genetic species in cold storage both in short term and long term ex-situ conservation while the EBG holds over 500 species. The Gene bank ensures that germplasm in storage are of the highest quality and achieve maximum longevity. The seed are regenerated

occasionally to ensure that their genetic integrity is maintained. The germplasm in the Gene bank is always available for the different users to access through formal request.

Biodiversity conservation is essential for any country or community to protect their unique diversity from being lost due to changing living conditions, environmental shifts, and the impacts of climate change. As a result, biodiversity conservation has become a national priority, with almost every country establishing institutions dedicated to safeguarding its biodiversity and genetic resources. These institutions are typically referred to as national gene banks for national-level conservation and community seed or gene banks for conservation at the local level.

Community Seed banking concept in Uganda started in 2010 when the NARO together with the Alliance Bioversity - CIAT established the first structure in Sheema district in 2010. Since then, development partners and NGOs including ESAFF Uganda and PELUM Uganda amongst others whose aim are to increase access to farmer managed seeds and creating seed independence for the farmers have picked up the seed banking initiative. Currently, there are more than 25 CSBs in Uganda and more still coming up. The PGRC has come up with several documents to guide the operations of the CSBs. Some of the documents include the Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for establishment and Management of CSBs in Uganda; Protocol for Collaboration between CSBs and NGBs; and a website for CSBs in Uganda amongst others

National gene banks are the custodians of all the existing plant germplasm in the country. Whereas the community seed banks are the community based structures that are playing acritical role in preserving and multiplying the seed crop varieties at the farmers' level and they are central in ensuring access and preservation of local and indigenous crop varieties. In Uganda today these two entities play a critical role in conserving, maintaining and protecting plant genetic resources thereby directly influence food and nutrition security at the local and national level. The community seed banks are based at the community level with the main task of ensuring access to good quality diverse seeds by the farmer, conserving the farmers' varieties and linking the farmers, the national gene bank and the breeders or researchers.

Given the central role the national gene bank and community seed banks are playing in agricultural development in Uganda of ensuring biodiversity conservation and resilience thus they are directly contributing to food security in the country. These two critical institutions play the following roles in ensuring biodiversity conservation and food security in the Uganda: National gene banks and community seed banks play vital roles in promoting biodiversity conservation and food security by safeguarding plant genetic resources through conserving and storing diverse range of plant genetic resources including land races, farmer varieties, wild species and improved varieties and ensure their availability for the future use.

Additionally, they maintain, preserve and ensure access to broad spectrum of genetic diversity of crops and varieties a foundation for Food Security, collaboration and Sharing as well as the incorporation of indigenous knowledge and farming practices. Community seed banks are also empowering farming communities through exchange visits, capacity building in various forms including trainings in seed production, quality seed control, pests and diseases management, business and entrepreneurship, record keeping etc. enabling farmers to be seed independent and secure through producing, conserving and using their own seeds.

Given the significant contribution of gene banks to the biodiversity conservation efforts and food security in this country, we call up on the different stakeholders including government, development civil partners. society organizations, community-based and organizations farmers to join hands and efforts to support the registration of farmers' varieties in addition to the following;

- 1. The government should increase funding for gene banks and community seed banks to operationalize them, improve staffing, and enhance capacity building and documentation of national biodiversity.
- 2. The government and development partners should invest in capacity building and training personnel involved in community seed banks and gene banks to ensure responsible biodiversity conservation.
- 3. Government should establish a supportive legal framework for national gene banks, community seed banks, breeders, researchers, and provide resources, training, and technical expertise.
- 4. Stakeholders are encouraged to promote digitalization and networking among community seed banks and national gene banks to enhance information sharing, knowledge exchange, and collaboration, ultimately improving seed quality and conservation efforts.
- 5. Government and development partners should invest in low-cost technologies for seed cleaning, storage, and packaging to enhance seed quality and extend shelf life, ensuring reliable community seed bank distribution.



**By Adokorach Joyce** PGRC

## SECURING LAND TENURE- SAFEGUARDS SEED DIVERSITY AND FOOD SECURITY



Land tenure insecurity remains a critical challenge, particularly for small-scale farmers who rely on land for their livelihoods. Weak land rights systems threaten seed diversity conservation, essential for climate resilience, food security, and nutrition. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that over 75 percent of global agricultural genetic diversity has been lost in the past century due to insecure land tenure and the replacement of traditional varieties with commercial hybrids and genetically modified crops.

In developing regions, where land governance structures are weak, 70 percent of land remains unregistered, leaving millions vulnerable to land grabs and forced evictions (World Bank, 2022). In Uganda, 60 percent of small-scale farmers lack formal land titles, putting them at risk of displacement, with women who contribute 80 percent to food production but own less than 15 percent of land being the most affected (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2023).

## The Impact of Land Tenure Insecurity on Seed Diversity and Food Security

Farmers with stable land rights are more likely to invest in long-term sustainable practices, including indigenous seed conservation. Research by Bioversity International (2021) found that communities with insecure land tenure are 40 percent less likely to engage in seed banking and conservation practices, leading to the erosion of traditional crop varieties. This genetic loss weakens farming system resilience, as indigenous seeds are often more climate-adapted than commercial hybrids. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2022) reports that communities with secure land tenure implement diversified cropping systems that reduce vulnerability to droughts and pests, strengthening food security.

In Uganda, land tenure insecurity has directly contributed to a decline in traditional food sources, increasing household vulnerability to climate change and malnutrition. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2023) estimates that 35 percent of rural household's face food insecurity due to reduced access to climate-resilient seeds, heightening risks of hunger and economic loss.

Beyond environmental concerns, tenure insecurity disrupts the intergenerational transfer of seed-saving practices, weakening cultural heritage and biodiversity conservation. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN 2020) reports that indigenous farming communities in East Africa have lost over 30 percent of traditional seed varieties due to displacement, exacerbating food insecurity and undermining agricultural sustainability. In Uganda, loss of indigenous seeds has contributed to a 25 percent reduction in agricultural biodiversity, increasing smallholder farmers' dependency on costly commercial seeds.

Case studies show that secure land tenure is a catalyst for seed diversity conservation. In Ethiopia, over 20 community seed banks have enabled farmers to store and exchange indigenous seeds, with farmers holding secure land rights

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being twice as likely to participate in seed-saving initiatives (African Biodiversity Network, 2023). In northern Uganda, a pilot initiative to issue customary land certificates has led to a resurgence in local millet and sorghum varieties, with farmers reporting a 35 percent increase in the number of traditional crops grown (Uganda Land Alliance, 2023). Similarly, in Peru's Potato Park, indigenous communities have conserved over 1,300 potato varieties through secure land tenure arrangements, with the UN Food Systems Summit recognizing the initiative as a model for integrating land rights with agrobiodiversity conservation. These examples highlight how securing land tenure fosters climate resilience, enhances biodiversity conservation, and strengthens food systems.

ESAFF Uganda, through its Land Rights Support Centre (LRSC), champions land rights for small-scale farmers, recognizing secure land tenure as vital for sustainable agriculture, food sovereignty, and resilient rural livelihoods. Through grassroots mobilization, policy advocacy, and farmer-led research, ESAFF Uganda ensures smallholder farmers, especially women and youth, access and control their land while promoting land registration under Certificates of Customary Ownership (CCOs). Committed to seed and food security. Additionally, ESAFF Uganda advances Participatory Plant Breeding under Farmer Field Schools and campaigns for farmer-managed seed systems and variety registration, safeguarding indigenous and climate-resilient seeds against restrictive laws threatening biodiversity and traditional knowledge.

ESAFF Uganda commits to actively push for land tenure security to protect seed sovereignty at local, national, regional, and global levels. Nationally, it will engage in policy dialogues such as NDP IV and National Land Policy processes to influence farmer-centered land governance. Regionally, ESAFF Uganda is commits to contribute to EAC discussions on farmer-managed seed systems and land rights, working with ESAFF Regional and AFSA.

Land tenure security and seed diversity conservation are deeply interconnected, with far-reaching implications for food security, climate resilience, and economic stability. In Uganda, tenure insecurity-driven biodiversity loss is estimated to cost the economy millions in declining agricultural productivity and increased hunger vulnerability. Addressing tenure insecurity through robust policy reforms, legal recognition of customary land rights, and investments in seed conservation initiatives is crucial. As policymakers, technocrats, and farmers advocate for change, prioritizing the voices of smallholder farmers the long standing custodians of agricultural biodiversity is essential for securing sustainable food systems and resilience against climate shocks.







The agricultural sector in East Africa is at a crossroads as Kenya has recently approved the cultivation and importation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). This landmark decision, aimed at addressing food security challenges and improving agricultural productivity, has significant implications for its neighbors, particularly Uganda.

According to the National Biosafety Authority (NBA), Kenya has approved 58 GMO projects 40 for contained use in the laboratory or greenhouse, 15 for confined field trials, and three for environmental release or commercial cultivation and this may directly or indirectly impact small-scale farmers, who constitute a large portion of Uganda's agricultural workforce and often utilize traditional seed varieties that have been cultivated over generations yet face increasing pressures from changing environmental conditions and economic demands. As Kenya sets a precedent in the region, Ugandan farmers must navigate the complexities of this new agricultural landscape.

Small-scale farmers in Uganda are crucial not only for the nation's food security but also for its economy, as they contribute to a significant percentage of agricultural production and are integral to local food systems. However, the advent of GMOs in Kenya may disrupt traditional farming practices and challenge the rights of these farmers to save and use local seeds. The introduction of GMOs raises critical questions about seed rights, market dynamics, and the future of sustainable agriculture in Uganda.

The introduction of GMOs in neighboring Kenya is likely to pressure Ugandan farmers to reconsider their agricultural practices. There is a risk that traditional seed varieties could be marginalized, and this could lead to a loss of biodiversity and agricultural heritage in the country. This move opens up discussions about food security, economic opportunities, and the dynamics of seed rights within the East African region.

Kenya has historically been cautious about GMOs, largely due to concerns around food safety, environmental impact, and the rights of local farmers. However, with increasing pressures from climate change, population growth and the need to enhance food production, the Kenyan government has now greenlit the importation and cultivation of GMO crops. This decision could serve as a model for other East African nations including Uganda, but it also raises critical questions about the future of seed rights for small-scale farmers.

It is evidently clear that the introduction of Genetically modified Organisms (GMOs) will significantly alter the seed system and agriculture trends in Uganda through the following ways;

#### 1. Loss of Traditional Crops and Seed Varieties:

The introduction of GMOs could undermine the value of traditional seed varieties and shifting the seed systems to a more formal system therefore Small-scale farmers in Uganda, who often save and exchange seeds, may face pressure to adopt patented GMO seeds, which could limit their rights. This will have a negative implication on the traditional crops and varieties which may face extinction due to loss of attention from farmers and restrictions.

#### 2. Increased seed insecurity:

This is due to dependency on multinational seed companies who may not be in position to produce and supply adequate quantities of seeds to meet the farmers seed demands.

#### 3. Increased food and nutrition insecurity:

Most small farmers who have been relying on their home saved seeds and have no income to continuously buy GMO seeds every season face risk of being food insecure as they cannot produce adequate food to feed their families.

#### 4. Emergence of new threats to agriculture:

The introduction of CMOs will come with new threats in terms of pests and disease as a result of genetic engineering which may cause some mutations and modification of the crop growing mechanisms and environments.

# 5. Loss of farmers rights, seed and food sovereignty:

The lack of robust regulatory frameworks in Uganda may expose small farmers to legal challenges where corporations enforce patents on GMO seeds, potentially limiting farmers' ability to use, save, or exchange seeds as they have traditionally done.

#### 6. Health risks:

The products of GMOs have already been linked to some human health issues such as cancers and other health complications, this could worsen since the population is not informed on the standard operation procedures when handling GMOs yet the boarders between Uganda and Kenya are porous and the likely hood of leakages between the two countries are very high.

Uganda has made strides in developing its regulatory framework for biotechnology, but it still faces challenges. The National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, 2012, which aims to establish guidelines for the use of GMOs has been in discussion for years and has not yet been fully enacted.

The absence of a comprehensive legal framework may hinder Uganda's ability to regulate and monitor the introduction of GMOs effectively which exacerbates its preparedness. For Uganda to be adequately prepared, there is a need for proactive policy development that ensures farmers' rights to save and use seeds are protected, emphasizes the importance of maintaining traditional agricultural practices alongside potential technological advancements, encourages research and development that targets both indigenous and modified crops to enhance resilience and food security.

To remain competitive, Ugandan farmers might feel compelled to adopt GMOs, which could lead to a shift in farming practices and seed usage. This shift could raise the risk of locking farmers into costly seed-buying cycles, as many GMO seeds are patented and come with restrictions on saving and replanting. Such a dependency can strain farmers' financial resources, making it more challenging for them to manage their production costs and maintain their livelihoods. The acceptance of GMOs in Kenya could influence trade agreements and regulations within the EAC.

As countries like Uganda assess their policies, they will need to balance the interests of small-scale farmers against broader global economic pressures and opportunities.

#### Moving forward, the future of small-scale farmers in Uganda regarding seed rights will largely depend on deliberate efforts aimed at protecting their seed and food sovereignty through collectively calling for;

- 1. Advocacy and education are crucial for small-scale farmers to understand their rights and the implications of GMO adoption, requiring collaboration among stakeholders like CSOs and NGOs.
- 2. The Ugandan government should establish clear policies on seed rights to protect small-scale farmers from potential exploitation by large agricultural corporations, especially in light of neighboring countries adopting new agricultural technologies.
- 3. Uganda needs increased investment in research on traditional seed varieties and GMOs to boost productivity, provide sustainable options, and prepare for new agricultural trends.

Kenya's shift towards GMOs presents a dual-edged sword for small-scale farmers in Uganda. While there are potential benefits in terms of improved agricultural productivity and market access, there are significant risks regarding seed rights and the dependence on multinational corporations. The coming years will be critical in defining how Uganda navigates this evolving landscape, ensuring that the voices of small-scale farmers are heard and integrated into policy development. Safeguarding seed rights and traditional practices while considering innovative solutions will be vital to securing a sustainable future for Uganda's agricultural sector.



**By Nansubuga Josephine Hilda** ESAFF Uganda

## **SUFFOCATION OF THE FARMER MANAGED SEED SYSTEM:** THE UNDISCLOSED WORLD WAR AGAINST SMALL SCALE FARMERS SEED AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY.



Farmer managed seed system the major provider of seeds accounting for up to 90% of seeds used by the small-scale farmers who are the major food providers to the world. In developing countries like Uganda whose population approximately 75% depend on agriculture most of whom depend on farmer manages system. suffocation of the farmer managed seed systems means a deliberate effort towards creating food insecurity hence untold war against the small scale farmers' food sovereignty. The efforts by the global trend that has consistently painted corporate seeds (the formal seed sector) as more efficient, productive, and predictable, while, branding Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) as informal, backward, disease-ridden, and less productive to the extent that they cannot effectively feed Africa and the entire world is a well-orchestrated plan which only aims at paving the way for a market-oriented seed production system at the expense of farmers' varieties.

For Uganda's case two seed systems are recognized including the farmer managed (informal) and the commercial (formal) seed systems however only 30% of the farmers get their seeds from the formal seed system focused on a few commercial crops and not food security and local food plants according to Dr. Okello David Kalule the director of research at National Semi Arid Agricultural Research Institute (NASAARI) in serere. He highlights that 40% of commercial seeds in the market are counterfeit and fake seeds and that the varieties provided are limited to commercialized crop varieties leaving out the farmers' food

security and climate resilience varieties. This is responsible for the increasing dependence on market and increasing threat of food and nutrition security due to reduced biodiversity in the farming communities due to influence of commercialized and multinational seed companies promoting and marketing small range of their products. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, traditional farming systems have conserved over 75% of the world's agricultural biodiversity.

In FMSS, farmers preserve traditional crop varieties, selecting seeds based on local climatic conditions, pest resistance, and yield. In addition, farmers exchange within communities through barter, gifts, or local markets. FMSS adapts to changing environmental conditions, ensuring resilience against climate change and therefore reducing dependency on commercial seeds, which is costly for small-scale farmers in farming communities.

It is increasingly becoming evident that commercialization of the seed systems and unrecognition of the farmer managed seed system has resulted to a number of impacts to the agricultural sector and food systems including decline in biodiversity, increased dependence on commercial seed system, increasing seed and food insecurity, increased nutrition insecurity/malnutrition, declining soil productivity, emergence of new diseases and pests and increasing vulnerability of small-scale farmers to climate crisis



## To win this silent war against small scale farmers, ESAFF Uganda is suggesting the following actions by various stakeholders;

- 1. Recognition of farmer managed seed system through supportive policies that protect and encouraged the use and marketing of farmer variety registration
- 2. Educations and capacity building for the scale farmers with focus on seed production, management and maintenance
- Restoration, protection and multiplication of farmer varieties through participatory approaches like community seed banking and involvement of different stakeholders including farmers, breeders, policy makers and the like-minded actors in the seed sector
- 4. Participatory research on farmer varieties and NUS. the involvement of farmer in the research processes aimed at restoring or improving farmers' varieties is critical to ensure that the desired attributes on such varieties are not altered and to ensure ownership of the varieties.
- Documentation and characterization of farmer varieties. It is important to capture all key information regarding farmer varieties including the origin and key descriptors to aid in policy processes like variety registration and clear identification from the rest of the varieties.
- 6. Collaboration and networking. Farmers, breeders, and the national gene banks should work together to ensure that farmer varieties are protected through conservation and maintenance.
- 7. Advocacy and awareness creation. We call upon the community especially small scale farmers to advocate

#### for the policies and laws that recognize and protect farmers' and their varieties in order to ensure sustainable seed and food system.

To achieve sustainable food system for all can only be registered through recognition of the farmer managed seed system since it's the major seed provider to the majority of the farmers across the world hence we call up on the governments, civil society, NGOs, small scale farmers and all those who believe in sustainable, inclusive and reliable seed and food system to combine efforts and defeat the unpopular perpetrators of this silent war against the small scale farmers and the farmer managed seed system.



UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF FARMER MANAGED SEED SYSTEM THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT: THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN PROMOTING FARMER MANAGED SEED AND FOOD SYSTEM IN UGANDA



Technology advancement is the current trend in agriculture including areas of processing, breeding, production, preservation and extension among others. therefore, technology is important in ensuring efficiency, effectives and increasing productivity however, it has also come with its own challenges to ensuring sustainable food systems through farmer managed seed system. Since the beginning of green revolution and modernization of agriculture through technology small scale farmers who mostly rely on locally sourced materials including seeds and other inputs are continued experiencing challenges in maintain their farmer managed food system sustainably.

With the government commitment to modernize agriculture in order to increase productivity amidst the press effects of climate change this is an area to explore with farmers and other stakeholders with interest of developing a vibrant farmer managed seed system in Uganda and the East African region. Currently there are diverse technologies that can be explored to boost the farmer managed seed system including mobile apps. SMS systems, digital seed inventory management, climate smart technologies and other online platforms among others that are helping in providing real time information to farmers including weather updates, market trends in terms of prices, marketing and expert advice, thus empowering farmers through enhanced information access, improving seed management practices and quality among others.

## The advancement of technology is directly contributing to the development of farmer managed system through;

#### **1. Improved Information Access:**

It is easy and for small scale farmers to get real time information on farming including weather patterns, market prices, and best practices for seed storage and agricultural practices thus helping them in making informed decisions while producing and marketing their seeds

#### 2. Enhanced Seed Quality:

Technologies such as harvest and post-harvest handling tools and equipment directly ensure attainment of good quality seeds in terms of reducing contamination and storage.

#### 3. Optimized Seed Management:

Digital technologies like seed inventory management systems can help farmers and other users to track seed stocks across different locations, reduce losses, and ensure timely access to information and seeds.

#### 4. Climate Change Adaptation:

Through real time weather forecasting Farmers can leverage technology to adapt to changing climate conditions by planning and selecting appropriate seed

varieties, and adopting sustainable farming practices that are resilient to the weather pattern.

## 5. Increased Productivity and Income:

By improving access to quality seeds and information, farmers can benefit from increased crop yields and income resulting from increased sales, potentially leading to improved livelihoods.

#### 6. Digitalization of Community Seed Banking:

Technology can be adopted to support community seed banks by facilitating seed storage through equipment and tools used to monitor the quality of seeds, tracking, and distribution, thus ensuring the long-term availability of locally adapted seed varieties.

Despite the great potential of technology to enhance farmer managed system there are numerous challenges hindering its adoption by the farmers and promoters of farmer managed seed systems they include; limited Access to technology and digital literacy, erosion of traditional knowledge on crop varieties, high costs involved in acquiring and maintaining technologies.

To scale out the use of technology in farmer managed seed system given the immense potential benefits it is therefore paramount for the government, and other stakeholders including development partners, NGOs, CSOs, CBOs and farmers at all levels to;

# 1. Funding of technology initiatives on farmer managed seed system:

Through resources allocation to the Development and implementation of digital platforms to provide farmers with information on seed selection, storage, and processing.

## 2. Capacity building:

Farmers need to be trained on digital marketing and use digital platforms for farmers to connect with buyers, promoting their FMSS seeds through digital monitoring and seed operation thereby promoting local seed businesses by farmers.

## 3. Support research and development on FMSS technologies:

By investing in research to identify and adapt technologies that can enhance seed selection, storage, and processing within farmer managed seed system the production and appreciation of the crop varieties will be enhanced thus increased market potential for the farmer varieties.

#### 4. Policy support and awareness campaign:

The legislation should follow up on the plan for modernization of Agriculture and develop rules and regulations to guide the operationalization of some of the initiatives in the national extension policy among others. Also efforts and resources need to be focused on awareness campaign and sensitization on the use of technology tools to in seed production, marketing and dissemination.





"The farmer-managed seed system, with its deep roots in local knowledge and diverse, adapted varieties, is not merely a cornerstone of food security. It is the living, evolving shield that strengthens climate resilience, ensuring our ability to adapt and thrive in an unpredictable world." Kalinaki Naume.



#### CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: Share Your Seed Stories with the SEED GIST!

Do you have insights or experiences related to Farmer-Managed Seed Systems in Uganda and beyond? The SEED GIST wants to hear from you!

We're inviting contributions from farmers, researchers, and advocates to enrich the SEED GIST. Share your success stories, challenges, innovations, or advocacy efforts. Together, let's amplify the voices of small-scale farmers and promote sustainable seed systems.

Submit your contributions or inquire at *nkalinaki@esaffuganda.org* 

Sow the seeds of change with the SEED GIST!





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**OXFAM** 

ESAFF Uganda solicits and compiles stories for the Seed Gist from a variety of sources worldwide, including NGOs, academia, small-scale farmers, researchers and the media among others. These stories are designed to broaden knowledge and drive sustainable change in the Farmer Managed Seed System (FMSS).

The views, opinions, and conclusions expressed in The Seed Gist are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the official policies or positions of the donor organizations. The donor organizations are not responsible for the accuracy, completeness, or validity of any information provided herein.

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