

FAO

Seed Security Assessment Training



Seed Security Conceptual Framework

(S-4)



SSCF – origin & purpose

The Seed Security Conceptual Framework (SSCF) first appeared in 1998. It was inspired by the Food Security Conceptual Framework.

SSCF is the foundation of the Seed Security Assessment.

Seed security (I)

What's seed security? Your view....

Let's brainstorm!



Seed security (II)

What's household seed security? your view...

... and FAO definition 2015

“household seed security can be said to exist when the household has sufficient access to adequate quantities of good quality seed and planting materials of preferred crop varieties at all times following both good and bad cropping seasons”

Seed Security & Food Security: differences and similarities

Food Security is “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life”

World Food Summit 1996

Discussion



Food Security and Seed Security:

what do they have in common?

what makes both concepts different?

Q & A



and



SSCF Parameters (I)

- Availability of seed
- Access to seed
- Varietal suitability of seed
- Seed quality
- Resilience of the seed system



SSCF Parameters (I) - Availability

Farmers' seed supply from all sources regardless of the variety or quality of seed.

Seed sources

1. owned saved seed (OSS)
2. social network seed (SNS)
3. local market seed (LMS)
4. formal seed sector (FSS)
5. seed-aid seed (SAS)

Indicators

- **Sufficient quantity** from one or more sources
- Seed in **close proximity** (distance)
- Seed available **in time for planting**

SSCF Parameters (II) - Access

The ability to acquire seed through exchange, loan, barter or use of power in social networks

Means of acquiring seed

- Cash,
- Barter (exchange)
- Loan (cash or in-kind)
- Gift (free seed)
- Social capital

Indicators

- Social & economic capacity to acquire seed or loan
 - Sources of income
 - Economic resources
 - Social networking
- Changes in seed price or term of trade for seed
- Level of community cohesion and fairness

SSCF Parameters (III) – Varietal suitability

Are the crop varieties for which seed is available appropriate/adapted and preferred by farmers?

Some issues

- Households require seed of crop varieties that they know, have a preference for and are confident to plant
- New varieties should not be provided to vulnerable households in response to a disaster
- Information about varieties is key both on what farmers use and what new varieties may be suitable for.

4 standard varietal suitability indicators

SSCF Parameters (IV) – Seed quality

Crop seed of “reasonable” quality that enable farmer to produce a good crop under normal condition?

Quality attributes:

- Germination
- Physical purity
- Varietal purity
- Seed health

Seed quality indicators

- 1) Farmers satisfaction with quality seed from all sources
- 2) % germination, % PP, %VP
- 3) Incidence of seed-borne diseases/pest

- ✓ Seed quality attributes are an essential parameters
- ✓ Potential positive or negative impact on the farmers ability to successfully establish a crop and to have a reasonably yield

SSCF Parameters (V) – Resilience of the seed system

Resilience is the degree to which the household's seed system can resist, adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses which threaten the integrity of household seed security.

Resilience indicators

Resilience is manifested in the degree of seed security in terms of seed availability, seed access, seed quality and varietal suitability after a shock. Thus it can only be **directly** measured by changes in indicators for these aspects (see earlier slides).

Indirect indicators include:

- livelihood diversity (risk spreading)
- crop diversity (risk spreading)
- different levels of asset ownership and ability to liquidate assets
- different access to information about climate, seed sources, prices

Characterization & levels of Seed Insecurity

- **Acute:** a temporary and relatively sudden increase in seed insecurity
- **Chronic:** a persistent state of seed insecurity



- **Mild, moderate, severe:** Different levels of acute or chronic seed insecurity.

	Acute	Chronic
Mild	1	2
Moderate	3	4
Severe	5	6

Seed Security Conceptual Framework

You will receive a handout with hypothetical scenarios.

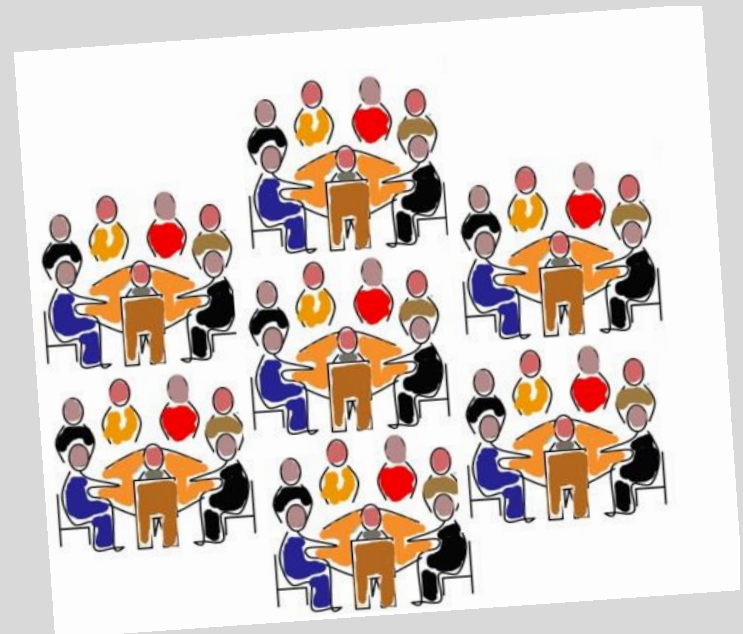
In 30 minutes, your group should answer: 'Seed security or insecurity is caused by *which* (one or several) of the components of the SSCF: lack of availability, lack of access, poor varietal suitability, low seed quality.'

In 15 minutes, answer:

'Is it acute or chronic?'

'Is it mild or severe?'

Group work!



Assessment, Interventions and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

For FAO, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) means:
“an active commitment by actors and organisations to use power responsibly by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by, the people they seek to assist.”

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/emergencies/docs/Guidance%20Note_Accountability_Publi.pdf

FAO's 7 Principles of AAP

1. Strengthening leadership and governance to embed good practice within FAO's management structures and to ensure that FAO staff and implementing partners deliver on its commitments;
2. Greater and more routine transparency, two-way communication, and information provision for affected communities;
3. Offer means for communities to provide feedback and to submit complaints, and to ensure that they receive a timely response;
4. enable fair and representative participation of all sections of affected populations, including the most vulnerable and marginalised;
5. mainstream AAP into needs assessment, design, monitoring, and evaluation activities, ensuring an appropriate focus on AAP, participation in processes and continuous learning and improvement;
6. prevent sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by FAO personnel and implementing partners and put in place adequate response mechanisms;
7. collaborate with peers and partners to deliver on AAP commitments in a coordinated and coherent way.

Using AAP within SSA

- The SSA, using SSCF, should lead to clear findings.
- SSA should be conducted using principles of AAP, particularly transparency, participation.
- What does this mean exactly?
 1. Objectives and reasons for SSA must be clearly explained to communities.
 2. Participatory approaches and tools should be part of the SSA tool-kit
 3. SSA practitioners have a duty to share findings with communities – how can this be done practically?

