



FAO Standard Seed Security Assessment

GUIDE QUESTIONS TO SEED GROWER FARMERS / GROUPS

Note:

Target: Seed grower farmer or seed grower groups: which grow seed on a more business oriented approach, either as contract growers or as their own business at county, district or lower levels

Please include this questions only if a group is addressed.

Introduction: We are **XX** and **YY**. We work for the **United Nations' FAO/Other**. We want to understand how seed system works in this area. A number of farmers / local seed traders have indicated to us that they buy their seed from you as a seed grower or from the seed growers group. I would therefore like to request for you time if possible.

Objective: These guide questions will help the SSA team get an overview of the crop/seed system in the state/county. It is important to have such general information in order to situate the specific data collected from the FGD, HHS and LMS as well as find out who else could be interviewed on seed security.

I. GROUP BACKGROUND AND STRUCTURE

1. When and why was the group formed? How is the group managed? and is management staff volunteer or salaried?
2. How many members were there at the time of forming the group? How many members do you have now? (categories the number by gender, and consider looking at the youth composition within the group)
3. What are other group's activities or enterprises if any in addition to seed

II. SEED PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

4. Which are the crops and varieties you are multiplying? Why did you choose these crops and varieties? What kind of starter seed did you use and where did you get the 'starter' seed to multiply from? What was the cost of the starter seed? For each crop, what area did you plant last year (2013)? How much did you harvest from the area planted last year?

Crop	Variety		Area planted (acres)	Starter seed		Harvest (kg)
	Name	type		kind	source	
Type: 1=Local; 2=improved						
Kind: 1= certified seed; 2=foundation seed; 3=none of the two						
Source: 1=our previous harvest; 2= agro-input dealer; 3=local markets; 4=Seed Aid; 5=Research; 6=seed company						

5. Briefly described how production is organized and managed? Individuals with their own field? Individuals producing on a block farm? Group field? Contracted by Seed Company as out grower?

6. What are your costs of production for the different seeds that you produce?

7. Are your production fields normally inspected? If Yes, by who? How many times is the seed field inspected and when are inspections normally done? Do you get feedback on the quality of your seed from the inspectors and/or customers?

8. How do you handle your seed after harvesting? Do you have a threshing/drying floor? Seed Store?

9. Could you please describe the facilities/equipment you have for handling your seed? *Type of structure, size and management etc.*

10. Of all the seed you produced last year, what proportion have you sold? To whom did you sell the seed – to farmers, retail or to agro-dealers or to next user intermediaries (FAO, NGOs, MoA)? What is your price for each of the crop seed?

Crop	Harvest (kg)	Quantity (kg) sold	Average price per kg	Quantity (kg) in store	Buyers
Buyer: who buys? 1= famers; 2=other traders who sell to other famers; 3=government/FAO/NGOs; 4=Others (specify)					

11. Could you please describe how you organize marketing of your seed?

12. What in kind or financial / material (in kind) support for this activities have you received or are you getting from your seed business partner (for contract farmers only)?

IV. CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

13. Have your group members been trained in seed production, conditioning and marketing? If yes, when and by who? How was the training conducted? *Workshop with demonstration? Farmer Field School? How many of your members have been trained?*

14. What other capacity building programme has your group received?

V. CONSTRAINTS

- 15.** What are the major challenges that you are currently facing in your seed activities
- 16.** Of the assistance that you receive, which do you feel you could continue without and which do you feel is indispensable to your continuing sustainability?
- 17.** Compared to the price of seed in the local market, what premium do you feel farmers will be willing to pay for your seed?
- 18.** What crop or variety is there the greatest farmer demand? Which of your products do you think the most profitable?

VI. INVESTMENT PLAN

- 19.** How would you compare the seed that you produce and sell to the seed that farmers produce and save themselves or purchased in the local market:
- i. Cleaner seed
 - ii. Higher germination and seedling vigor
 - iii. Better varieties
 - iv. Better value – better return on investment
 - v. Other?
- 20.** What are your plans for the upcoming season?