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BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

Beans are an important crop for food/nutrition security, cash income and agro ecosystem improvement in Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania. The national bean programs of the three countries (along with SABRN and CIAT) have developed varieties in Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique. These varieties have potential for wider adaptation and use across agro-ecological region, suitable for various market niches.

• **Southern Highlands of Tanzania:**
Mbeya, Iringa and Rukwa Regions

• **Malawi:**
North, central and southern regions

• **Mozambique:**
Tete, Zambezia, Nampula and Niassa provinces



Stakeholders in the three countries selected the most preferred varieties both released and pre released . More than 1000, 800, 700 farmers for Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique respectively have been reached in the three years of the project

Participating country	Varieties tested	Varieties selected across all sites		
		2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Malawi	20	5	10	10
Mozambique	20	5	7	6
Tanzania	30	10	6	10

NARS in the three countries have been bulking start up seed for the preferred varieties and taking them through the variety release. In Tanzania one variety Njano Uyole has been released, Malawi will release 3 varieties by November 2009, and Mozambique plans to release 2 varieties

Scaling out seed production through decentralised seed producers

The clientele in the three countries individual farmers; and farmer groups have been multiplying preferred varieties both released and pre – released which were appreciated for food security and market.



A farmer in a bean seed multiplication field in Zobue_ Mozambique

2. Assessment of diffusion options - Small packs approach

The objective was to test the affordability and viability of marketing new improved bean varieties using small packs approach through local service providers. In Malawi, a total of 1000 kg of kholopethe (SUG 131) were packed and information on the variety inserted in the packs. The potential areas were identified and the national bean programme plans to engage able/willing distributors e.g. maize mill, Kiosks/rural shops (groceries), petrol stations, health/nutritional center, church, women groups, grain banks, CBOs etc.) in collaboration with partners.

3. Comparison of different options of seed production and delivery systems

In all the three countries NARS plans to hold meeting with potential seed producers or farmers seed producer representatives (NGOs, CBOs or seed producers) . Major seed producers category (i)- individual farmers, farmer groups, medium size seed producers (1-10 hectares) and large scale (above 10 hectares) will be identified and engaged; and seed quality assessment conducted .

4. Capacity building

All the three countries, farmers in targeted sites were trained in seed production and post harvest management In Tanzania more than 300 farmers were trained by ARI – Uyole and trained farmers. In addition, 10 farmers in Rungwe district were trained as trainers in producing quality declared seed (QDS).



One of the trained farmers producing QDS of beans in Rungwe district

Objectives

- To identify/verify farmers' bean variety preferences in relation to diverse agro- ecological and socio-economic criteria;
- To enhance skills and knowledge of partners on various aspects, such as Participatory Variety Selection (PVS) and decentralized seed systems (including markets).
- To develop impact-oriented bean seed production and delivery systems of preferred varieties serving a range of range of users

METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

1. PARTICIPATORY VARIETY SELECTION

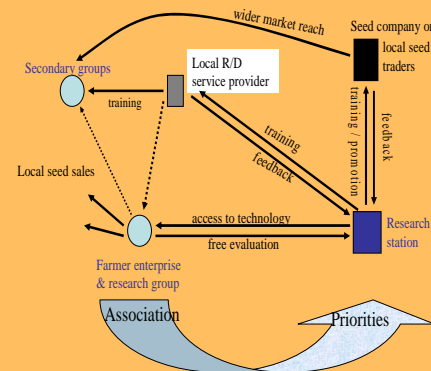
All the three countries conducted a conclusive variety assessment by farmers and their ranking by female and male farmers after three years (2006-2009) of assessment and variety familiarization.



Farmers in Kasungu_ Malawi ranking the preferred varieties

Suggested model

Farmer seed enterprises serving local markets through links to research and the commercial sector



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