



AGRILINKS

STRENGTHENING EARLY GENERATION SEED SYSTEMS IN AFRICA AND BEYOND

WEBINAR CHAT TRANSCRIPT

DECEMBER 14, 2016

PRESENTERS

Mark Nelson, Context Network

Walter de Boef, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Latha Nagarajan, International Fertilizer Development Center

Rob Bertram, USAID Bureau for Food Safety

MODERATOR

Julie MacCartee, USAID Bureau for Food Safety

Mark Huisenga, USAID Bureau for Food Safety

Chrissy Burbank: Welcome everyone!

Kirimi Sindi: Hope the sound situation is sorted out

Chrissy Burbank: We are still getting set up over here

Chrissy Burbank: we will start promptly at 9:30

Meseret Getahun: OKAY!!

Meseret Getahun: Means after how many minutes or hour

Cecilia Gonzalez: works now!

Hamlus Owoyesiga: Noted

Meseret Getahun: works now

Chrissy Burbank: Meserat, in 30 minutes :)

Sadou Soumana: it is working now, thanks

Kirimi Sindi: Is it starting now or after 30 minutes

Meseret Getahun: Thanks 30 min

Kirimi Sindi: Ok

Chrissy Burbank: Since we already have a good crowd here, maybe we can start introducing ourselves and share from where we're connecting from.

Chrissy Burbank: This is Chrissy from the Agrilinks team

Chrissy Burbank: Here in cold Washington DC!

Collen Ngundu: Working on a Seeds and Market Project implemented in 3 Southern Africa Countries

Collen Ngundu: Project is funded by Swiss Development Agency and provides Investment Grants to Seed and Crop commodity Community Enterprises

Collen Ngundu: Linking from Pretoria, South Africa

Chrissy Burbank: Welcome, Collen!

Laura Gagliardone: Hello everyone. Glad to attend the meeting. Laura Gagliardone, actually in Italy

Hamlus Owoyesiga: Hamlus Uganda, East Africa

Sanne Herpers: Hello everybody, I am connecting from the Netherlands. Currently conducting a study on behalf of ISSD Africa, we analyze the seed laws and their possible effect on smallholders

Meseret Getahun: This is Meseret from Ethiopia Catholic Relief Services Farmer to Farmer program

Louise Sperling: Louise Sperling, Catholic Relief Services. Work on smallholder farmer seed systems in 30+ countries in Africa- and elsewhere (e.g. Haiti, Timor-Leste)

Willem Heemskerck: Hello all, I am from the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in Amsterdam partner of Wageningen University and Research in the ISSD Africa programme www.ISSDseed.org

Chrissy Burbank: Welcome Laura and Hamlus!

Sadou Soumana: Sadou Soumana from World Vision Niger, Food security and livelihood coordinator for Livelihood Agriculture Health Intervention in Action (LAHIA), USAID founded program.

Barakat Mahmoud : Hello everyone, I'm Training Specialist at USAID/BFS

Paul Gibson 2: I am showing this to 20-30 MSc Plant Breeding Students at Makerere University Regional Centre for Crop Improvement

David Ojara Okot: Hello everyone, David Ojara Okot here from Self Help Africa in Uganda

Chrissy Burbank: Welcome all! A great turnout so far

Chrissy Burbank: While we're continuing to introduce ourselves, we invite you to complete our opening polls

indra klein: Hi, indra klein, independent consultant, dc

Laura Gagliardone: I cannot hear anything anymore, are you talking please?

indra klein: Will slides be available for download?

Chrissy Burbank: Welcome, Indra!

USAID Agrilinks: Hi Indra, yes they will!

indra klein: Yay! Thank you

Carlos Sere: Carlos Sere, with Biodiversity International

Chrissy Burbank: All of the event materials, including the webinar recording and transcripts, will be available about a week following the event

Chrissy Burbank: Welcome, Carlos!

Musa Buyinza: Musa Buyinza, CRS South Sudan

Chrissy Burbank: Welcome, Musa!

Farid Waliyar: Hi all I just joined

Peter Hanson: Greetings from Taiwan. I am Peter Hanson, plant breeder at the World Vegetable Center

Papa Diop: Hello All I just joined for the first time

Willem Heemskerk: FYI:
https://www.issdseed.org/sites/default/files/case/twg_2_synthesis_paper_access_to_foundation_seed20160912.pdf

Debbie Hellums: Good morning everyone, Debbie Hellums from IFDC

Meseret Getahun: Hi Willem thanks for the link.... I have been working with ISSD Ethiopia before a year.....Good to catch Walter here :)

Krista Isaacs: Hello everyone. Krista Isaacs from ICRISAT Mali. Working on gender, breeding and seed systems

Willem Heemskerk: You're welcome Meseret

Willem Heemskerk: Hello Estrela. Tudo bem ai?

Greg Bonin: Is the sound cutting in and out for anyone else?

Maria Alberto: Maria Estrela from Mozambique currently working for the Seed Department-Ministry of Agriculture and the seed platform

Catherine Alston: Morning, the sound seems to be coming in and out now.

Sanne Herpers: Same here, with the sound

Krista Isaacs: Yes the sound is cutting for me too

Maria Alberto: tudo bem.obrigada

Collen Ngundu: FYI- <http://www.seedsandmarkets.biz/>

Benson Kasekera: Hello everyone, am in Malawi

Sujata Ganguly: Sujata Ganguly from IRRRI

Sujata Ganguly: Hello everyone

Astrid Mastenbroek: Hello, Astrid Mastenbroek, I work for Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen University. Working for ISSD Uganda

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: Great, thanks for keeping us updated about the sound!

James Rhoads: Hello- Jamie Rhoads from Peanut & Mycotoxin Innovation Lab at University of Georgia

Julie Collins: Hi, this is Julie Collins from IFPRI in Washington DC

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: Welcome, all! We will be getting started shortly

Cynthia Donovan:	Cynthia Donovan from Legume Innovation Lab in a deep freeze at Michigan State Univ.
Christian Dimkpa 2:	Hello- Christian Dimkpa from IFDC, Muscle Shoals
Setegn Gebeyehu:	Setegn Gebeyehu from IRRRI Tanzania, Dar Es Salaam
Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks:	We have muted the sound for now but will share the audio again soon!
Richard Jones:	Yes, the sound keeps cutting out
USAID Agrilinks:	The powerpoint presentation can be found in the list of resources as well as on the event page.
Ina Schonberg:	From HarvestPlus - developing and promoting nutritious staple crops (biofortification)
Fekadu Dinssa:	Fekadu fufa Dinssa: Worldveg, Arusha Tanzania
Dick Tinsley:	Dick Tinsley from chilly Colorado
Abby Love:	Abby Love, Mercy Corps and The TOPS Program, based in Washington DC
Annick Uytterhaegen:	Hello everyone. This is AgVerify. Sound is OK for me though breaking off from time to time
Vincent Johnson:	will the resources mentioned such as the reports be available to everyone on request- V Johnson Bioversity Intrenational
DOSSE SOSSOUGA:	Hello from Togo
indra klein:	Have no idea what individual is saying
Margaret McEwan:	Greetings from CGIAR RTB cross cutting seed systems group - meeting in University of Florida Gainesville - we will listen to recording and contribute later
Willem Heemskerck:	All reports are online. See left below
Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks:	Thank you, Willem!
Astrid Mastenbroek:	Uganda report seems not to be there
KWAKU OWUSU BAAH 2:	Are there still sound issues? We hear nothing, unfortunately
Dick Tinsley:	How much of the variety improvement is in collaboration with NARS but with most of the funding coming through the CIGAR project as host countries don't have the resources to undertake this on their own?
indra klein:	Kwak, audio is back. R u using google chrome -- tends to be a problem

Mark Sieffert: I switched to Internet Explorer and that fixed the sound.

Julie Collins: I still don't have any audio either. Speakers are on and using Internet Explorer.

Farid Waliyar: What about the breeder seeds how to assure its availability

USAID Agrilinks: thank you for your questions! Please feel free to ask them in the chat pod.

Michael Dockrey: Sound is off for me, too.

Dick Tinsley: Do any host countries have the logistic capacity to produce and distribution of more than a very limited percent of the national seed requirements, and thus farmers particularly smallholders will have to rely on "market" seed for the foreseeable future? Thus how do we get quality seed into the market seed distribution system?

Willem Heemskerck: Good and relevant question Dick see also seedsystems.org study

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: Thank you, Willem! And so folks know, we have a number of experts in the webinar as well that have contributed to the projects we'll discuss today. Please feel free to ask questions and contribute to the discussion!

Louise Sperling: seedsystem.org. 91% of seed from informal sector and 51% of that form local markets

DOSSE SOSSOUGA: I think that study can be informal or formal. Isn't it?

Willem Heemskerck: Sorry www.seedsystem.org

Benjamin Rinehart: How can we access the files under "Resources" on left?

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: Hi Benjamin, you can access the resources by selecting one and then clicking the Browse to button below. You can also access them on the event page.

Benjamin Rinehart: Thanks Chrissy

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: Sure thing!

DOSSE SOSSOUGA: Togo is not concerned. Why?

Farid Waliyar: most of legumes crops seed production is not easily profitable

Kirimi Sindi: Not all are profitable unless they can be hybrid seeds particularly for clonally propagated crops like sweet potato hence there is a bed for p/p investment

Laura Gagliardone: Thanks for the presentation. My questions are: have you been giving women and girls any special attention while conducting M&E and

summarizing the findings? Which are the roles of women and girls in seed systems in Africa? Laura

Stephanie White: When you say 'economic analysis' what kind of economic analysis? What are the metrics of success? Is this effort guided by what's going on in global markets or local/regional markets?

DOSSE SOSSOUGA: We need USAID to list Togo in their 2017 plan.

Fekadu Dinssa: Prioritization usually ignores traditional African Vegetables (African Indigenous Vegetables) that are nutritious and very important especially at this junction in time when the focus of the world is on nutrition security)

Vincent Johnson: perhaps prioritization also ignores the role of locally adapted landraces in seed systems

Daniel Karanja: Agree there is need to consider traditional vegetables

Meseret Getahun: There has been efforts by ISSD and ATA and others to strengthen the EGS system in Ethiopia... but the national level commitment is still a challenge even for major crops... the breeders right is another critical issue... Any suggestion to move forward??

Willem Heemskerk: Given the type of questions some explanation on what EGS is required

Daniele Manzella: CGIAR to play a more active role in variety development and release, integration into national research systems and international research partnerships becomes critical

DOSSE SOSSOUGA: Some cultures are lost. What to do to improve them?

Vincent Johnson: agree with Daniele

Louise Sperling: Agree with Willem. Could the presenters define the bounds of 'EGS'

Dick Tinsley: What is the typical yield difference between an "improved" composite (open pollinated) line and hybrid, and what is the yield loss when a F2 generation is planted? Thus with the limited financial capacity of most host countries will smallholders benefit more from composite lines that can be used for several generation as hybrids?

Sadou Soumana: How smallholders farmers can sustainably have access to improved seeds?

Sadou Soumana: are they improved seeds tolerant to water stress specially adapted to Sahel context?

Stephanie White: I note that 'seed experts' appear to be 2 US men. That seems problematic to me.

Willem Heemskerk: Access to quality seed of improved varieties, rather than improved seeds

Dick Tinsley: My recommendation for getting quality seed to remote smallholder is pump small quantities of quality seed and have it multiplied locally preferable by local agro dealers. Please check this article: http://webdoc.agsci.colostate.edu/smallholderagriculture/The_Crop_Genetic_Pump.pdf

indra klein: As improvements are developed, what steps are being taken to make access to seeds affordable to small stakeholders, esp. Female-operated farms?

Eddy Esezobor: I totally agree with you@Dick Tinsley

DOSSE SOSSOUGA: Do you plan partner with us in Togo ?

Mark Walton: Stephanie, Dave Westphal and Mark Walton were the Context project leads. We both come from commercial seed backgrounds. Quite a few other seed specialists and experts in other fields were involved in the project across the four countries Context was involved in.

Eddy Esezobor: In Nigeria Feed The Future Livelihood Project we have a model where we provide quality seeds to small holder farmers to produce, process and assess the markets its called the community seed producer model.

Fekadu Dinssa: Breeder, and foundation/Basic seed is usually under the public seed enterprises who are responsible to provide early generation seeds to commercial seed producers. There is usually problem between the demanding and supplying parties. Then how to make the follow from early generation producers to certified seed producers smooth?

Stephanie White: I'm not sure that a traditional 'commercial' seed background, based on very different context (with a small 'c') and political economy will dictate outcomes/needs.

Dick Tinsley: Rice is also self-pollinated with only 3% out-crossing so it can easily be grown for several generations with little decline in quality.

Louise Sperling: Demand is being poorly framed. Is the demand for new varieties? Is the demand for quality seed? Is the demand one-off, every 3-5 seasons (as farmers renew stocks. or every season. We have done a lot of work on legume customer segmentation. There are six very different reasons by which smallholders buy seed.

DOSSE SOSSOUGA: No problem in Togo which can handicap our projects.

Stephanie White: Agree that 'demand' is being presented as a black box.

Meseret Getahun: How can we link this to the informal seed system??

indra klein: @ Stephanie, you make a good point.

Setegn Gebeyehu: Contrary to the situation in Nigeria, EGS producers operate below capacity due to limited demand from certified seed producers. Demand creation for improved seed / variety could drive demand for EGS of improved varieties

Karen Moore: Eddy E., do you have any web links further to the community seed producer model you mention?

Willem Heemskerck: EGS PPPs is one way to improve seed value chain management, chain integration(seed producers of all kinds taking up EGS production) is another one, to empower seed producers in the SVC

Jen Peterson: Hi Louise Sperling! Can you elaborate more on the 6 reasons you mentioned for smallholders to buy seed? Thx!

Annick Uytterhaegen: Why is Uganda left out of this presentations?

Eddy Esezobor: That model is a project based innovative idea, its achieved by CRS DDI and IITA partnerships

DOSSE SOSSOUGA: I'm the President of NGO: ADET. You are welcome in Togo.

Karen Moore: Thank you Eddy!

Stephanie White: "Private sector" is also being presented as black box. Who is the "private sector?"

Astrid Mastenbroek: Annick, because these are the studies prepared by Africa Lead

indra klein: Have any analyses been conducted on the cost effectiveness on said programs and how costs can be leveraged when ramping up distribution?

Mark Walton: The demand analyses conducted in the four study countries focused on a small number of crops and there was considerable attention given to identifying demand drivers for each crop in each country.

Suzanne Poland: Where are the small holder farmers in the "non-seed production stakeholders?"

Eddy Esezobor: i believe can gather adequate information by contacting the Project Coordinator for the Agriculture component of the feed the future Nigeria livelihood project. Mr. Steve saguebor@ddinigeria.org

Dick Tinsley: Do host countries have the finances to undertake viable seed certification programs or will this mostly be done on the honor/gratitude system and promoting certified seed programs you are doing a great job in providing opportunities for low levels of graft and corruption? Please review webpage: <http://smallholderagriculture.agsci.colostate.edu/impact-of-financially-stalled-government-limited-variety-improvement-seed-certification/> the case study is based on Nigeria as covered in webinar.

indra klein: Private sector: how are partners being vetted? Are there any conditions placed to ensure goals are in sync?

Loretta Byrnes: Host countries should focus on quality control (certification) for breeder and foundation seed instead of commercial seed.

Setegn Gebeyehu: introducing seed demand forecasting system (seed indent system) is key to match demand and production of EGS. India has the best system African can countries can learn from.

Richard Jones: Good point Loretta, as this tends to be ignored

Dick Tinsley: but do they have the financial resources to do such

HENRY RWAMUGEMA: Henry Rwamugema joining from INNOCONSULT LTD, Rwanda

Richard Jones: A lot less expensive than doing certified seed

Loretta Byrnes: Too often they supposedly certify commercial seed that is produced by thousands of small farmers, but real breeder and foundation seed is or should be grown by very few producers and would be much less expensive to ensure quality control.

Cynthia Donovan: Good to hear the analysis of the economics of different crops and seed types, both in terms of EGS production costs, transport and then farmer demand and price points for different seed types. As an example, for common beans, you need twice the amount (weight) of seed per ha compared to maize, suggesting as mentioned, local production of quality seed of improved varieties. Key is ensuring quality of such seed, and costs of any certification system are prohibitive. What technology can lower that cost, not just a breeder/foundation seed level?

Dick Tinsley: smallholders will still rely mostly on market seed, and the need is for quality seed to be pumped into the local market seed supply, hopefully keeping the different varieties clearly separated, but this may not be too difficult as a good farmer and look at seed and determine the degree it is mixed varieties

Richard Jones: Have appropriate quality standards for different crops and allow licensed inspectors

DOSSE SOSSOUGA: I'm also the President of the CSOs network for SDGs. Our problem here is that lands must be played for the agriculture projects.

Paula Pimentel: Loretta's point is very important I'm countries where the EGS production is dominated by public sector and there is no alternative suppliers of breeder and basic seeds besides some few hybrids from international seed companies.

Kirimi Sindi: Seed economics depend on the linkages of the crop to the market. And also how easy for the crop to be passed form farmer to farmer

exchange. That is the reason it is tough for bulky seed system like potato, cassava and Sweet potato.

DOSSE SOSSOUGA: Our problem is funding support

Kirimi Sindi: We need to look carefully at Quality Declared Seed systems that is not well covered so far.

Richard Jones: Seed quality control needs to be independent of research as EGS from research has tended to avoid any quality control

Setegn Gebeyehu: Most research stations in Tanzania also lack resources and basic facilities to periodically maintain genetic purity of varieties they have developed.

Catherine Mungoma 2: @ Kirimi: Quality Declared Seed was covered for the legume crops in Zambia

David Ojara Okot: I agree @ Kirimi Sindi. Much of the seed utilized by smallholder farmers is from the informal sector and QDS is most appropriate to me

Paul Gibson 2: The emphasis on harmonization seems to serve primarily interests of seed companies to export seed and of larger-scale producers to access the best varieties. However, the regulations based on OECD and ISTA requirements are cumbersome, and hinder the availability of formally controlled seed access appropriate to the smallholders.. A less stringent system that is still adequately controlled is needed.

HENRY RWAMUGEMA: The Seeds Corporation need to be an independent private organ and with strong financial support to be able to disseminate high value seeds to farmers. The whole value chain development for seeds need to be purely private

Lusaka Wasilwa: I beg to differ from the comment by Richard Jones. In Kenya there are mechanisms in place to check Seed Quality thus there is no concern on this.

Chris Tanansi Muwanika: Bulking of basic seed of self-pollinating crops would be an option to improve availability. But seed producers grossly lack the right technical capacity to do it!

Richard Jones: Kenya has an independent agency in KEPHIS so you agree with my point

Lusike Wasilwa: What is needed is to devolve the system of quality control from a centralized source

Loretta Byrnes: A number of seed companies in Tanzania would be interested in producing quality legume seed if they could get quality foundation seed from ASA. Farmers need choice between local varieties and "improved" varieties.

Dick Tinsley: In Tanzania the research program also need an injection of new material. when i was there there were no new rice varieties for several years and they could barely maintain what they had? WE REALLY NEED TO FACTOR INT LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MOST HOST GOVERNMENTS. THEY ARE FINANCIALLY TOTALLY STALLED! please review the following webpage: <https://smallholderagriculture.agsci.colostate.edu/financially-stalled-governments/>

esther ngumbi: Esther Ngumbi joining in from Auburn University

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: Welcome, Esther!

Daniele Manzella: I beg to differ with the recommendation on NARIs and variety development. Isolating research (and researchers) may create a distance from national realities (and demands), which have negative spillover effects on PPPs for crop improvement and EGS.

indra klein: @ Dick, if financial resources are lacking, how are field program officers and researchers changing the way they are relaying message to development team to facilitate ability to present compelling appeal to funders (to include cost analysis, outcomes and impact)?

Dick Tinsley: Look at the limited area they are able to cover as a percent of the need?

Fekadu Dinssa: One may see crops identified as priority in many countries. Almost no country included vegetable crops commonly grown by small holder farmers as a vital not only for nutrition security, but also for food security bridging seasons of food shortage, and may need attention from parties involved in seed sector and agricultural R&D programs.

Fekadu Dinssa: The informal seed sector very important in many crops but not given attention.

Richard Jones: Rob Bertram's observation on vegetables is correct - a light regulatory touch where quality control is internalized through competition. This applies to both "informal" and "formal" systems

Chrispin Magombo: Much as we are trying to strategies to address the challenges of availability and access to EGS, the country studies results clearly show that these seed classes are expensive. Efforts therefore to make EGS affordable should be carefully be considered

Dick Tinsley: You have to get past the "leakage" to more solid link between them.

Michael Dockrey: Chrispin...are you jumping directly to hybrids? Or, developing improved OPV's for the market as transition varieties?

Michael Dockrey: Improved OPV's are generally less expensive, and more familiar to smallholders. In northern Ghana, shorter-maturing maize has become extremely popular. Demand outstrips supply.

Richard Jones: In Malawi, where Chrispin is based, smallholders have long wanted maize hybrids

Michael Dockrey: Is the price differential the issue with adoption?

Loretta Byrnes: There has been little mention of the negative effect of highly subsidized mass seed distribution.

Paul Gibson 2: Many years ago in Zambia the main limitation on smallholder adoption of hybrids was the lack of timely delivery of hybrid seed into the remote areas.

Michael Dockrey: Do governments "subsidize" improved seed distribution...or just INGO's?

Chrispin Magombo: This is specifically on hybrid seed in This is Geoffrey Kananji Malawi as well as legumes for example beans, cost of breeder seed can be expensive

Fekadu Dinssa: The formal seed sector is the future but currently the informally sector also plays major role in crops considered minor at global level but most important for those who do not have much other options.

Loretta Byrnes: INGOs do not do anything that is not funded by a donor. And governments also do massive seed distribution.

Richard Jones: Both subsidize to the detriment of smallholders as the connection between suppliers and their customers is broken

Michael Dockrey: IFDC's studies in northern Ghana clearly indicate that even with adoption of hybrid maize (PAN53) and use of compound fertilizers (ACTIVA), yields still won't earn incomes sufficient to break the cycle of poverty. That's assuming a smallholder farm of <1.0 ha.

Dick Tinsley: Don't forget that hybrid seed needs a continuous logistics that will most likely collapse when donor funding ends in support of specific smallholder communities. Logistics is the most difficult aspects of agriculture support and needs to be minimized!

Bulisani Ncube: Governments in Swaziland and Lesotho subsidies improved seed for smallholders

Louise Sperling: Free seed, including relief is the way 73% of smallholders get access to new varieties. There are no UN-subsidized ways in which smallholders regularly can buy new varieties across a range of crops. This is REALLY serious for climate-smart agriculture

Dick Tinsley: For those interested in my commentary please visit the website I manage. www.smallholderagriculture.com

Richard Jones: The decision to implement subsidies is a political one - the real issue is how such subsidies are implemented

Jonathan Schofield: Perhaps need to nuance when, where, how and to what extent seed is subsidized. Emergency vs development context, and how to stimulate and support private sector within both.

Michael Dockrey: 73% of smallholders get improved seed through giveaways? That certainly isn't the case in Ghana.

USAID Agrilinks: Everyone, we thank you for your questions and encourage you to continue the conversation beyond the chat box:
<https://agrilinks.org/blog/discussion-what-challenges-affect-seed-sector>

Michael Dockrey: Is the TASAI program still operational?

Richard Jones: Yes. SSTP is supporting TASAI in six countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal and Tanzania)

Kirimi Sindi: As long as seeds systems do not link the crops to the market it will be difficult to get smallholder farmers buy quality seeds.

Paul Gibson 2: In your count of attendees, consider our group as 24 even though we only have 1 connection (due to cost and availability of bandwidth). But your numbers are actually higher than the ~130 you count by connections.

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: Russ from STEP is asking a question: what do you see as the immediate opportunity to incentivize actors, and do you think at this stage in the countries we're studying can we realistically attract investors?

Willem Heemskerck: EGS is any seed you plant with the objective to produce seed (then there is formal and informal EGS)

Bonny Ntare: It is the market that pulls the seed chain. In other words, there is a need to focus on pull factors as opposed to the push factors

Michael Dockrey: Yes Chrissy. Particularly so in rice for Ghana, given the \$650 million in rice imports. Huge potential market that large (particularly Dutch) agro investors are interested in capturing. And maize has long been an investment target in northern Ghana.

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: Thanks, Paul! Happy to hear your team has joined

Paul Gibson 2: The Makerere Univ. team assembled before you started, and have been with you throughout

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: great to hear it, welcome Makerere University!

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: From Njah Batulu Labu: 1 how can we measure whether the improvement in yield is resulting from improved seeds and not other inputs, 2 we have had experiences where seeds were distributed to farmers and reports from the field gave a germination rate of less

than 40 percent. How is EGS working to avoid this kind of situation repeating itself? Thanks

Michael Dockrey:

One of the key findings from BMGF, and confirmed by IFDC and USAID's own FTF mid-term evaluation is that adoption of improved seed varieties (in maize, rice and soy) has resulted in higher HH incomes. Making that link is critical for FTF programming, I would think.

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks:

All, thank you for participating in our webinar, this is a great discussion! The Q&A will continue but we invite you to respond to the closing polls as well.

Abhi Goyal:

Hi, Abhi from the SPRING Project. Would be interested to hear more about how Women's Empowerment, Nutrition, Health factor into these calculations. Seems PPP is the default answer for how to engage a crop if it has marginal value/ high demand, but what if you need to generate demand for better nutrition outcomes? Does that change the calculation? Does a "niche" crop like Yam become a "PPP" crop?

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks:

As a reminder, we will be sharing the webinar materials, including the recordings and transcripts, in a week or so

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks:

You are welcome to access the reports and resources shared here today on our event page on Agrilinks

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks:

<https://agrilinks.org/events/strengthening-early-generation-seed-systems-africa-and-beyond>

Paswel Marenya:

we can't hear the BFS alum

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks:

Julie Howard is asking a question

Willem Heemskerk:

Mike?

Fekadu Dinssa:

All the presentations mainly focused on food security crops with the exception of some food legumes included. How do you see addressing crops potential for nutrition security like vegetables, and also animal feeds that are becoming very important as grazing land is becoming limited?

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks:

What will make this time different? How will we reach these resolutions?

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks:

We shouldn't stick all of this on the private sector?

Paswel Marenya:

Please repeat the question since we can hardly hear the questioner

Astrid Mastenbroek:

The Uganda report is available on <http://issduganda.org/category/resources/studies-and-reports/>

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: What's the role of indicators in all of this? How do we measure progress?

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: We need to have a way to say we're making progress

Richard Jones: The sound keeps cutting out!

Bonny Ntare: Discussion session inaudible!!!

HENRY RWAMUGEMA: Yes, we don't hear the questions raised

Louise Sperling: Just an announcement. Following on this, we will be having a QDS Agrilinks Webinar Feb 28, 2016. (Forgive this publicity announcement)

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: Please see my transcription above. Our moderator is also summarizing the questions from in-person participants

Louise Sperling: 2017

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: Thanks, Louise!

Bonny Ntare: Audio better

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: One more in-person question:

Willem Heemskerk: Use mike

indra klein: Thank you for another thought provoking session...

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: Quick statement, not the same where we are. The tech we have today available helps us make a major difference on these crops

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: shame on us if we don't take advantage of them

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: We need to take advantage of new tech in the field

DOSSE SOSSOUGA: Thank you

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: (actually not a question)

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: What is the secret to elevating the awareness and motivation to change?

Paul Gibson 2: Thank you very much for this discussion on Agrilinks. It is very valuable to our instructors and our students at Makerere Univ.

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: So glad to hear it, Paul! Yes, please, everyone join the discussion on Agrilinks!

USAID Agrilinks: <https://agrilinks.org/blog/discussion-what-challenges-affect-seed-sector>

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: Thank you, everyone!

Christian Dimkpa 2: Thank you

Willem Heemsker: Merry Christmas

Daniel Karanja: Thank you!

Daniele Manzella: Thank you.

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: please use this opportunity to chat and complete the polls if you haven't already

Chrissy Burbank, Agrilinks: we will close the chat pod in about 5 - 10 minutes

Sadou Soumana: thanks to all

Evans Sikinyi: thank you all for the opportunity

Eddy Esezobor: thank you all

Kirimi Sindi: Thank you all.

USAID Agrilinks: Sharing this link out with you all again, if our leave your thoughts in the comments section of the page, our experts and others in the Agrilinks community can see it and engage.

USAID Agrilinks: <https://agrilinks.org/blog/discussion-what-challenges-affect-seed-sector>

HENRY RWAMUGEMA: Please circulate the webinar info/discussions to attendees

Alejandra Arce: Will the audio-recorded presentation also be available? I heard a fragmented version due to connectivity issues

USAID Agrilinks: Alejandra and Henry, we will definitely upload audio and transcriptions onto the Agrilinks event page

USAID Agrilinks: and will also notify you when they are ready through e-mail.

HENRY RWAMUGEMA: Wishing you ALL Happy Christmas and Prosperous New year 2017

Alejandra Arce: Thank you, greatly appreciate it!

USAID Agrilinks: Thank you Henry! The same to you.

HENRY RWAMUGEMA: Many thanks and stay well!!