Eastern and Southern Africa
Small Scale Farmers' Forum
ESAFF - UGANDA

COMMUNITY SEED BANKS

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR SMALL-SCALE FARMERS

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ESAFF Uganda information products are available on the ESAFF Uganda website **(https://esaffuganda.org/publications)**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Acronyms

CSB	Community Seed Banks
ESAFF	Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers Forum
FMSS	Farmer Managed Seed System
OPV	Open Pollinated Varieties
LVC	La Via Campesina
FFS	Farmer Field School
PGRC	Plant Genetic Resource Centre
PVE	Participatory Variety Enhancement
PVS	Participatory Variety Selection
PPB	Participatory Plant Breeding

Acknowledgment

This guide was developed to provide comprehensive, easy to use guidelines for small scale farmers who are interested in establishing a community seed bank. The guide collects information and experiences from different documents developed by other key stakeholders like Bioversity International, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), OXFAM (SD=HS) among others. Most importantly, the guide collects experiences from small scale farmers who have been saving seed over a long period of time as well as setting up of community seed banks in their communities.

Special thanks go to members of Orungo community seed bank in Amuria district, Ongako community seed bank in Ongako sub-county in Omoro district, Pakele community seed bank in Adjumani district and Apac community seed bank in Apac district where this guide was pretested. Your insights immensely helped in guiding the development of these guidelines. More thanks go out to the ESAFF Uganda Board of directors and staff that worked tirelessly in reviewing and ensuring that the Guide comes out to meet the expectations of the small-scale farming communities and other people that would use it.

We are also grateful to our partner organization La Via Campesina (LVC) and OXFAM in Uganda, that have supported the various programs on ensuring seed security among small-scale farmers and supporting the construction and equipment of the seed banks in different parts of the country. Plant Genetic Resource Centre(PGRC) for continued engagement in ensuring that community seed banks become a priority in the country.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Seed is the primary source of all food and agricultural production. On-farm seed practices have been responsible for managing, conserving, and renewing genetic diversity in agriculture. Today, the seed sector is divided into two major systems: the formal and informal seed systems. However, the ***"Informal"*** seed sector has remained influential in terms of the numbers of small-scale farmers using and depending on it. While the formal seed sector, enforced by public and private law and corporate interests, is dominant and tends to marginalize and rule out the informal system, the traditional system creates microeconomic dependencies for farmers, despite not being able to develop sufficient crop diversity and adapted varieties to answer all local demands of farmers and consumers. As a result, the need for Community Seed Banking (CSBs) as part of farmer managed seed systems was founded.

1.1 About Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS)

Over time, small scale farmers in Africa have managed, selected, enhanced, multiplied, stored, planted and exchanged seeds, using their inter-generational knowledge, experiences and skills. Today, women, millions of small farmers in sub-Saharan Africa still supply 80–90% of all the seeds planted in Africa. These local seed varieties of hundreds of different food crops are available to farmers without needing to buy them or depend on other knowledge systems. This collection of activities is embodied in what is now being referred to as the Farmer-Managed Seed Systems (FMSS).

FMSS are also known as ***"informal," "local," "community-managed," "farmer," "indigenous"*** and ***"peasant"*** seed systems. FMSS are culturally appropriate, practical, customary and inclusive and produce bio-diverse, ecologically resilient seeds that can adapt to the changing climate along with many other challenges. To sustain these diverse food systems requires genetically bio-diverse seeds that are selected by farmers each season to suit local ecosystems and can adapt through farmers' dynamic management to external threats such as climate change.

Farmer Managed Seeds Systems (FMSS) and the knowledge associated with them are transmitted between generations. This essential cultural heritage is needed for the survival and well-being of farmers and humanity. Seeds are not just a ***"resource"*** but an essential part of ecological and human relationships in the cosmovisions of many Indigenous peoples[1]. Despite the critical role of farmers' seed systems, the majority of public and private investments, public policies, and legal frameworks support the formal seed system. The formal system centers on the development and registration of new plant varieties, and the production and marketing of certified seeds.

The main ambition of the community seed bank is to uphold the farmer managed seed system and position small scale farmers at the center of managing and controlling seed in Uganda.

[1] https://bit.ly/3b6t5bR

2.0 WHY COMMUNITY SEED BANKS?

Community Seed Banks (CSB) act as repositories of local genetic diversity that is often adapted to prevailing climate conditions, including biotic stresses, such as crop pests. They are also part of community-based adaptation strategies to climate change. They preserve seeds of the most adapted local varieties and new ones coming from breeding programs. The selection of the most suited varieties by small scale farmers' often needs time and trials with technical support with individuals with knowledge on seeds. Community seed banks offer a sustainable way to improve access to high-value seeds, creating viable community-based businesses and maintaining biodiversity.

Today, CSBs are increasingly recognized as an important in situ conservation strategy that complements household and community seed-saving. They are an important component of farmers' seed systems and provide an institutional mechanism to achieve Farmers' Rights. By supplying locally adapted varieties at the appropriate time, CSBs provide a crucial service to communities affected by climate change, especially in post-disaster recovery where seed supply and food security are threatened. They are often combined with other functions, especially grain banks for improved food security in times of scarcity, reserve space for households to store seeds, and income-generation and microenterprise development. CSBs are also crucial for conserving the genetic materials for community PPB activities as well as conventional plant breeding

And more to that seed banks play a great role in diversification of crops and varieties which is also highly important in terms of food security, because it reduces the risk of total production failures and contributes to strengthening small scale farming communities. It is noted that the process of establishing and supporting community seed banking involves a logical chain of various major steps that allows careful matching of community interests and needs with the principles and practices i.e.; documentation and characterization of local crops and varieties; conservation and maintenance of seeds at the household level and in CSB storage; seed production, exchange, and loan or sales.

2.1 The Goal of The Guide

This guide aims to enable Small-scale farming communities to increase their knowledge on the importance of saving seeds, setting up and managing community seed banks to diversify and sustainably enhance their access to seed for improved food and nutritional security.

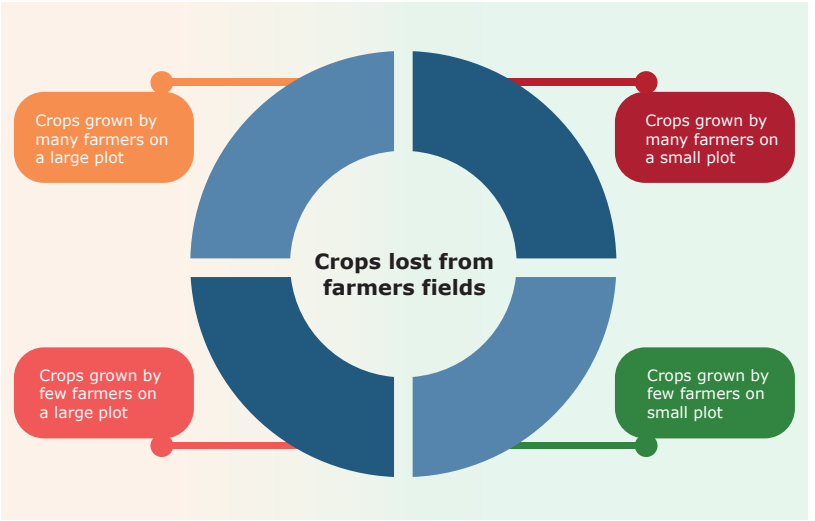
2.2 The Role of Community Seed Banks in Addressing Community Seed Challenges

1. CSBs ensure on-farm conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including local neglected and underutilized plants.
2. They protect traditional knowledge through collecting and documenting; learning and sharing it to ensure continued use, teaching it to the younger generations, and encouraging its use.
3. They increase awareness of agricultural biodiversity conservation and management, diversity within crop species and the role of germplasm exchange.
4. CSBs promote the rights to save, use, exchange, and sell seed as the basis for enabling farmers to conserve further and develop crop genetic diversity.
5. Through CSBs, farmers have an opportunity of multiplying seeds of local varieties that are rare and unique or which are becoming less available to farmers and making them available every season.
6. They enhance access to diverse plant genetic materials for different functional traits such as early maturity or drought tolerance.

3.0 UNDERSTANDING THE LOCAL CONTEXT OF CROP DIVERSITY

Farmers can use the diversity wheel (usually used in the farmer field school approach) to discuss and assess the different crops or varieties grown in the communities. The diversity wheel can be sectioned subsequently at crop level and variety level which gives the community to deepen their understanding of the different level of diversity.

The Diversity Wheel is depicted as a circle divided into five segments.



An illustration of acrop/variety diversity wheel

Each segment corresponds with a category:

a) Crops grown by many small-scale farmers on a large piece of land
b) Crops grown by few farmers on a large piece of land
c) Crops are grown by a few farmers on a small piece of land
d) Crops grown by many farmers on a small piece of land
e) In the middle includes crops that have extinct from the communities.

Using the crop/seed diversity wheel helps understand and identify the importance of certain crops, how farmers select, save, conserve and exchange seeds over time, and where, with whom, and how they interact with others in the seed system. The goal is to uncover the main difficulties associated with conserving and using seeds in the current system and find ways to overcome them so everyone can benefit.

3.1 Identification of Seed Sources;

It is important for farmers to discuss and mention the various sources where they obtain their seed and these can be distinguished as;

a). Farmers varieties that are usually obtained from on–farm, from other members in the community, bought from the local markets.

b). Formally released varieties usually obtained from government programs, bought from the markets/registered seed companies or from other members in the community.

c). Local food plants/ Neglected and underutilized species; these are usually semi or domesticated and can be obtained from farmers own farms, the forests, river banks.

4.0 DECIDING TO ESTABLISH THE COMMUNITY SEED BANK;

After analyzing the local context of seed diversity in the area, members discuss challenges in conservation and accessing the right seed some of which may include the loss of biodiversity due to the impacts of climate change, lack of proper storage, lack of good quality and high prices of seed in the market. This sets precedent for the establishment of the seed bank as a strategy for farmers to overcome the identified challenges, and this is done with the consensus of all farmer group members.

Among things considered include;

a). ***The ownership and current use of land;*** any group member can decide to offer their land for the seed bank; however, all other group members have to agree with consideration of all other factors mentioned below.

b). ***The location of the site;*** the area of the site should be in a place and easily accessed by all other group members and other members of the community.

c). ***Developing the structure plan;*** as a policy in Uganda, every construction should have a plan, including the seed bank. Therefore, there is a need to create a plan and share it with the local government.

d). ***Construction of the seed bank:*** it is important to invite all group members and members of the community to discuss what is required and understand each and everyone's contribution. Gender responsiveness is a crucial factor in this step. Women and youth should also be given priority to contribute to developing the seed bank.

e). ***Selection of the community seed bank committee;*** Among the central posts include seed bank manager, seed distribution manager, Maintenance, and Record keeper; however, the members can agree to have any other posts that they feel relevant for the development of their seed bank.

Table 1: ***Positions and Responsibilities of the Committee Members***

No	Post	Roles and Achievements
1.	Seed Bank Manager	■ Organize a meeting to remind the group members about the importance of seed reimbursement for the seed bank. ■ Organize meetings (date and place) to reimburse each type of seed. To control the quality of the seed, reimbursed (chairman can accept or reject seeds brought by a member). ■ Visit and remind members who failed to repay to ensure that seeds are kept in a safe place. ■ Ensure that good and efficient storage procedures are followed (post-harvest treatment). ■ Facilitate the repayment by sensitizing the members on the aim of the seed bank and on the importance of reimbursing quality seeds and the amount required.
2.	Seed Bank Distribution Manager	■ To record all members who have paid and those who have not paid. ■ To inform members on the date and place for the meetings.
3.	Treasurer	■ Manage all financial elements conducted in the seed bank i.e., money obtained from selling seed.
4.	Record Manager	■ To record the weight of seeds borrowed and the weight of seeds reimbursed for each member (each member must sign on the record book after repayment). ■ To record the contribution of each member (members' signatures are required). ■ To find a safe place to keep the records.
5.	Maintenance Manager	■ Look for the well-being by cleaning and checking for pests and diseases that have attacked the seeds in their containers. ■ Identify new measures to control the seed bank from any form of attack.

4.1 Organizing Training

a). After agreeing to the above mentioned steps, it is necessary to train farmers including women, seed bank committees and group members on how to select, clean, dry, store, and record seeds. The involvement of extension workers is also effective during this stage.

b). During this stage, it is also crucial for farmers to have training on the development of farmer field schools to enable farmers to collect and multiply seeds efficiently and effectively.

c). Different training sessions on management, leadership, group dynamics should be organized to ensure smooth running of the community seed bank.

4.2 Governance Systems under the Community Seed Bank

To ensure the effective running of the seed bank, a management structure elected must ensure;

a). Overseeing the daily running of the seed bank, such as handling finances, membership participation, and creating visibility of the bank.

b). Organizing regular and timely committee meetings and periodic membership meetings is essential to discuss any unforeseen issues during particular periods.

c). Gender justice is considered to recognize women's and youth's interests and allow them to ensure seed management.

d). Assigning duties or responsibilities; since the committee members are usually few, other members set to take up roles such as repackaging seeds, training and making tags.

5.0 RECORD MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY SEED BANK

With an agreement among all other farmers to establish a community seed bank and selection of the committee, the next step is how members will handle the management of the seed bank.

5:1 Crop Selection and Seed Selection;

During this stage, members agree to the types of crops/ seeds they would wish to collect and conserve in their seed bank. Some members may want to preserve improved or indigenous or neglected underutilized species; however, guidance is essential by facilitators that they ensure farmers give priority to crops/seeds that are important in securing food security in the community.

a). In cases of disagreement on which seed to conserve, it is vital to apply several tools that ensure consensus and satisfaction for all members, such as elections.

b). Women and youth preferences should be considered as, in most cases; they have a different take on the types of pest and disease control methods.

5:2 Types of Seed in the Seed Banks:

Community Seed Banks should involve a collection of different types of seed varieties; however, priority is usually crops and varieties that are important in terms of the food security of members of the community: women and men, young and old, better off and less well off, nearby farmers and farmers further away. Community seed banks also pay special attention to crops and varieties lost or are becoming rare and those with traits preferred by the community.

a). It is essential to keep records/ keep track of seeds that are conserved in the seed bank. The seed bank record manager is tasked to have a simple logbook where he jots down the seed deposited, origins withdrawn from the bank, names of the farmer for each given transaction, crop and variety, and amount of seed.

Table 2. ***Showing the data entry of seed in the community seed bank***

Entry Number	Crop Name	Variety Name	Name Provider	Date of entry	Owner	Weight of seed lot at first storage	Germination Rate	Storage place in seed bank	Special Remarks

b). If possible, the seed bank record should have two sets of registers where one includes the seeds deposited and withdrawn from the community seed bank.

Ref: Table 2

5:3 Seed Storage and Monitoring:

To ensure proper seed preservation, the seed bank committee should ensure that seeds are dry and free from weeds, dust, stones, and pests such as weevils. Farmers can use traditional methods for storing seed for example, calabashes and planting materials, and can use the sun to dry the seed. Members can contribute to buying other materials such as transparent glass jars. Another point to note during storage is the temperature and humidity, which are critical aspects of ensuring that seeds can survive for an extended period.

a). Temperature; this should be at a minimum temperature (below 35 degrees Celsius) to avoid germination of the seed, especially when it's not fully dry

b). Moisture content; must also be below to avoid germination.

5:4 Seed Monitoring is Essential;

Therefore, the committee members must ensure periodic monitoring of the seed bank by cross-checking the containers for any pests, diseases, and the moisture content, and in case of any observations, immediate action should be taken to prevent infection of other seeds through removal, cleaning and, drying of the remaining seed;

a). Obtaining seed from the seed bank; clear rules and regulations should be put in place on how members can get seed from the bank

b). Establishing a plan for payment which can be in terms of seed exchange or monetary payment.

c). Deciding whether to give access to non-members and, if access is permitted, what is their criteria of payment

5:5 Recording of the Reimbursement:

The repayment recording can be done by the seed distribution, record manager, and treasurer. The way of recording depends on how the record and distribution managers have recorded the loan at the beginning: if – in the loan recording table – they have left blank cells to record the reimbursement and the members' signature, they can proceed. If they don't do so, they will have to create a new table and copy the number of seeds taken and the amount to be reimbursed for each member and each type of seed.

Table 3: ***Showing the Seed Distribution Book Used in the Community Seed Bank***

Issuing person	Date of Issuing	Name of Member	Name of Crop	Name of variety	Name of kilograms Issued	Number of Kilograms Expected	Signature of Member	Number of Kilograms Returned	Date of Return	Signature of Member	Signature of Issuing Person

6.0 SEED DISTRIBUTION, SEED LOANS AND PREPARATION OF A NEW SEASON

In preparation of the new season, all members of the seed bank are invited and committee members to have effective discussions on the progress made from the previous season and as well draw a road map for the next season.

6:1 Reminder on the Duties of the Leaders:

Refer to Table one on posts and responsibilities of seed bank management committee.

6:2 Present the Results of the Group

the different data collected by the leaders in advance to be given to the group during the meeting (the data can be found in the books of records kept by the distribution manager and the treasurer), and these may include;

a). The money owed by the group

b). The primary incomes (membership fees, selling of seeds) and expenditures.

c). The diversity and number of seeds in the granary and the reimbursement rate. After the presentation of the data, the members can discuss and ask questions.

6:3 Planning for the Next Year;

In preparation of the next season the CSB committee provides details of the available seed in the seed bank and have effective discussions on how distribution can be made. Some of the key issues to consider include;

a). For each crop, clarify the quantity that is in the Seed Bank (e.g., 160 kg sorghum);

b). For each crop, ask the members how many of them want to take that crop (e.g., 20 people);

c). For each crop, divide the quantity in the seed bank by the number of people interested. This Quantity will give the maximum amount that can be taken per member (ex:160/20= 8Kg/member);

d). Then, the committee members can decide a maximum amount distributed per crop within the group: The ultimate (in our example: 8Kg/member) or more minor (for example, 4Kg/member). In that case, there will be some seeds remaining in the store.

Then, the leaders can register the wishes of each member in the book of the Secretary; there can be one page per type of crop, with the following information:

Table 4

Name	Seed Variety	Quantity to Receive
Achen Margaret	Maize	2kg
Peter Akellu	Groundnuts	4kg
Moses Okello	Beans	4kg
Stella Pule	SimSim	2kg
Simon Ochola	Okra	4kg

At the end of the registration of the wishes, it is very important that the secretary calculates the total quantities of the loan for each crop in order to make sure that there were no mistakes:

a). If the quantity of seeds in the seed bank is less than the total quantity registered, then the maximum quantity to be given per member should be reduced;

b). If the quantity of seeds in the seed bank is more than the total quantity registered, then the group can decide what they want to do with the seeds (sell it in order to buy inputs, etc.).

c). Then, if there are some seeds remaining, the leaders can facilitate a discussion with the members to decide what to do with the remaining seeds:

- New members can be welcomed;
- Some seeds can be kept in the store in case of poor harvest.
- Some seeds can be sold in order to: renew the maize seeds after 3 years (OPV); buy other types of seeds; Any other use, as long as the decision is taken at the group level.

7.0 POST HARVEST HANDLING OF SEED FROM THE GARDEN

To keep seeds clean, healthy and viable, good post-harvest handling practices are critically important.

1). **The Quantity of seeds:** If all members reimburse well, they will have twice the quantity that they had this year (Give an example). This quantity will allow them to distribute more seeds to the members next year and/or to welcome new members and/or to sell part of the seeds in order to buy materials for post-harvest management.

2). **The Quality of seeds:** The seeds reimbursed have to be of very good quality. Ask the farmers why? Facilitate the answer: the seeds selected will be sown and will be the basis for the plants of the next season: good seeds will lead to a good growth of the plants and to a higher production

7:1 Key Issues to Consider when Selecting seed for Reimbursement to the Seed Banks

a). Selection of Seed from the Field:

The boundary of a sub-plot in the middle of the garden; Select a plot from the center of the field since the ones on the boundary can be polluted by other crops surrounding (especially when there are crops of the same species). The differentiation should be 10-15cm from the plot or field.

An Example for Maize stalk selection; *64 standard cobs size should give around 8kg of grains. Maize stalks must have an excellent general look and an average height of 2.5m for OPV maize (not too high, not too small). Selection should not be made on anthills and in places where crop residues are heaped. Detassel (cut the top part) or peg the plant. This will be used as a marker to identify the selected plant. Cobs selection Cobs selected must have closed tips as on the following drawing: Cobs must be harvested when fully dry. It means that the maize stalk and leaves are completely dried.*

b). Seed Selection;

First, select the seed by rejecting the smallest and the ones presenting diseases or not general good looking.

c). Re-Dry Seeds Before Storage;

Seeds have to be spread on the mats or tapelines and dried under the sun (0.5-1 day according to moisture)

d). Grading:

Only the first and best grades will be used for repayment. All the broken, deformed, and shriveled seeds removed for home use, and the rotten thrown away. Before resowing the seeds, a germination test can be done to ensure that the seeds kept are of good quality.

For example;

- *Take a sample of 100 seeds, plant them on a seedbed, and water as necessary.*
- *Count the number of seeds germinated; this gives the percentage of germination on 100 seeds: below 80%, the germination rate is too poor / above 80 %, the percentage of germination is good / above 90 %, the percentage is perfect.*
- *Seed Storage techniques*

To ensure effective safeguarding of the seed and to minimize seed loss for the next season, the members must ensure that they look out for causes and solutions.

Some of the reasons for seed loss during storage and some of the solutions

Reasons for seed loss during storage	**Solution**
Pests and disease attack	Natural and chemical treatment
Rodent attack	Traps, poison, rat guards
Humidity causing moulds	Good ventilation and keeping dry seeds; Present the stalking method; bags of seeds should be placed on pallets which are 0.5cm from the wall to avoid moisture
Theft	Good management, strong doors and windows

Preventative measures that are taken before harvesting

a). Remove infested seeds before storage.

b). Check pest presence on the seed before storage.

c). Complete cleaning and repairing of the granaries or where seeds are stored.

d). Selection of store location, far from insect-infested areas.

e). Choice of time of harvesting, not too early or too late.

f). Pest and disease control Natural Treatments

f) Wood ash (from kitchen stoves), fine sand, inert dust/clay dust: added on top of grains into different layers. A large quantity is required. Ash and dust cause the death of insects, while sand prevents their migration from one bag to another.

g). Tephrosia vogelli (1g/Kg) and Neem seeds of leaves crushed into powder. All seeds are cleaned before consumption.

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY SEED BANK

Sustainability ensures continuity of the activities of the seed bank from generation to generation; therefore, it becomes the role of the members to identify strategies that can address this step;

Among the significant factors to consider are;

a). Transfer of Leadership Roles

The constitution must ensure a rotation of roles and responsibilities among members to avoid conflicts and create the advancement of new knowledge.

b). Economic Viability

It is vital to view the bank as an enterprise that enables members to work harder as they are assured of returns if there is an increase in seed and consider other factors such as storage of good quality seeds.

c). Community Ownership

Sustainability of the seed bank can be prophesied by members. They should feel the attachment of belonging to the seed bank; therefore, the management should ensure that all members are occasionally involved in all activities of the development of the seed bank.

9.0 BUILDING LINKS AND NETWORKING

Community Seed Banks are usually confined in one specific area based on their local food needs, cropping patterns and agro climatic conditions including soil types and climate for example millet varieties in Adjumani are grown to meet the community needs.

However, some seed may be shared with other network partners such as other community seed banks and national gene banks or research institutes thus the need for building relationships and some of the importance's may include;

a). Networking with different partners in the local community and national levels can help in boosting the functionality of the seed bank and open up opportunities for developing sustainable strategies.

b). Community Seed banks should emphasize linkages with farmer field schools, extension workers, District agriculture officers, and Research institutions to enhance learning.

c). Organizing exchange visits to other established CSBs to share knowledge and experiences and advance more innovations

d). CSBs should also ensure linkage with local and national leaders to influence policies promoting local seeds and obtaining support.

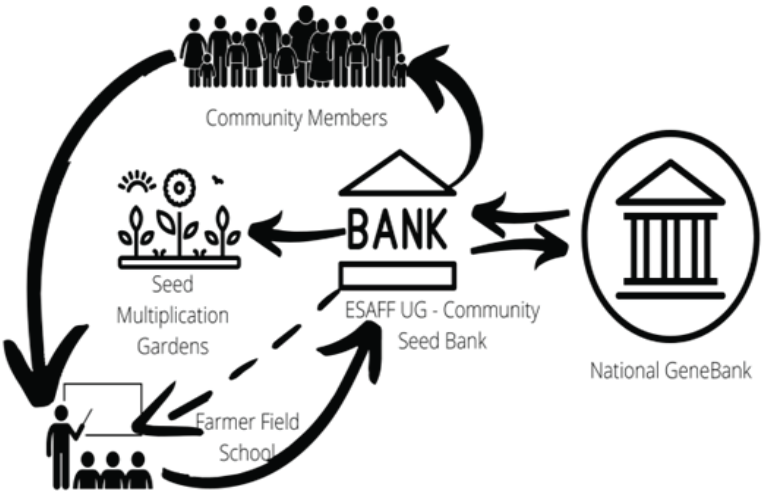
e). Organizing and taking part in seed fairs to showcase some of the seeds and interest/inspire other individuals to take the initiative of seed development in their communities.

10 POLICIES AND LAWS

Developing a constitution that governs its existence is essential for the community seed bank to get organized entirely. It is easy to develop into a seed enterprise with rules and regulations. This becomes an excellent opportunity for the members and the community at enormous as they will be able to raise more incomes, visibility, and funds to sustain its running, recognized by government institutions, among others.

11 THE LINKAGE BETWEEN FARMER FIELD SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY SEED BANKS AND NATIONAL GENE BANK

Farmer Field School (FFS) on plant genetic resources, is where small scale farmers work together to select, enhance, adapt and develop new plant varieties that better fit their needs and preferences. The major function of the farmer field schools is to identify and develop seed varieties selected by the community either through participatory variety selection or enhancement. The variety selected by the farmer field school is then adopted by the community seed bank and is later multiplied by a few selected members. On return of the seed multiplied, it is then distributed to the community either through selling or as a loan. This linkage between the farmer field school and community seed bank increases access of the right seed to the community and strengthens overall seed supply but as well enhances knowledge sharing.



An illustration showing the linkage between Farmer Field School (FFS), Community Seed Banks (CSB) and National gene banks (NGB)

Further to that community seed banks activities must align to national gene banks; these are referred to as the national institution for coordination and implementation of all activities concerned with crop plant and forage genetic resources. These activities include: collecting, seed processing and conservation, multiplication, regeneration, characterization, preliminary evaluation and documentation. The major protocol of the gene bank toward the community seed bank is to foster coordination and collaboration on conservation, sustainable use and seed production and exchange, contributing to stronger national seed systems and healthier food systems, and the achievement of seed and food sovereignty of communities and the nation.

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NOTES

About ESAFF Uganda

Eastern and Southern African Farmers Forum (ESAFF) Uganda is a part of a regional small-scale farmers Forum (ESAFF) that started during the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, the Republic of South Africa, in 2002. The Forum was established to bring together small-scale farmers into a social movement to build common aspirations, learning, and linkages. Hence, it has brought together small-scale crop farmers, apiculturists, pastoralists, and traditional fisher folks and jointly advanced issues affecting the small-scale farmers at different levels. ESAFF Uganda works to enhance the SSFs' ability to make informed decisions and participate meaningfully in development processes through capacity building, advocacy, research, and institutional development. ESAFF Uganda is part of a bigger network of small scale farmers in other 15 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa

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