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Institute for Global  
Environmental Strategies

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RCC Asia and the Pacific  
Collaboration for Climate Action



RCC MENA and South Asia  
Collaboration for Climate Action

# Virtual learning session on Cross Linkages among Food Systems Actors and Aligning Food Systems in NAPs and NDCs

27 February 2026  
2:00–3:00 PM  
(ICT)

Register



## *Housekeeping Reminders*

- **Microphones** are muted. Use the **chatbox and/or Q&A functions** if you wish to ask a question or share some insights.
- This webinar will be **recorded**. The recording and slides will be shared after the webinar.
- If you wish to reach out after this learning session, you may send us an e-mail at <[RCCAsiaPacific@unfccc.int](mailto:RCCAsiaPacific@unfccc.int)>.

# Opening remarks



**Yuqing Yu**  
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

# Session 1: Outcomes from the technical workshop

- Workshop Overview
- Crop Trust Tools



**Julie Amoroso-Garbin**  
UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific



**Catherine Aguilar**  
Crop Trust

## PROCESS

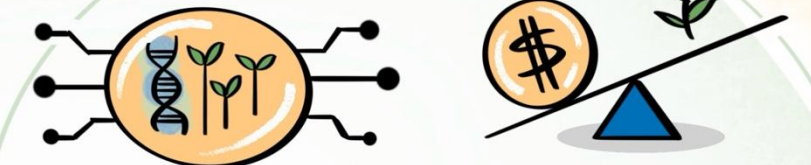
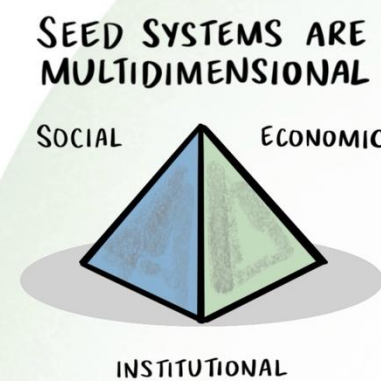
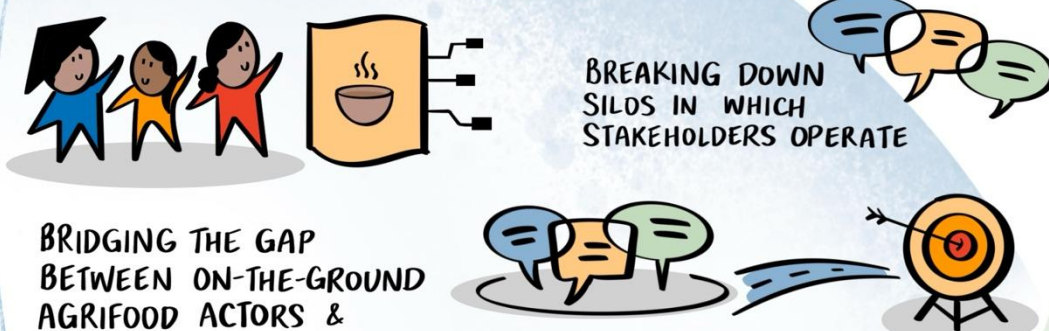
## KEY INSIGHTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1 THE CLIMATE-FOOD NEXUS

### 2 FOSTERING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER & CROSS-SECTORAL COLLABORATION

### 1 SEED SYSTEMS AS A FOUNDATION

### 2 STRENGTHENING DATA AND FINANCE



NEED TO ALIGN NATIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION PATHWAYS WITH EVOLVING NDCs & NAPs

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN ON-THE-GROUND AGRIFOOD ACTORS & HIGH-LEVEL POLICY FRAMEWORKS

BREAKING DOWN SILOS IN WHICH STAKEHOLDERS OPERATE

STRENGTHENING COORDINATION AMONG FOOD SYSTEM ACTORS TO SUPPORT THE AGRICULTURE TARGETS IN NAPs & NDCs

SEED SYSTEMS ARE MULTIDIMENSIONAL

SEED SECURITY INVOLVES ADDRESSING:

- AVAILABILITY
- ACCESS
- QUALITY
- SUITABILITY

IMPROVING DATABASE MANAGEMENT FOR GENE BANKS

LEVERAGING DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE FINANCE MECHANISMS

ROBUST DATA COLLECTION & MONITORING SYSTEMS THAT ENCOMPASS THE FOOD SYSTEM (PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION & CONSUMPTION)

### 3 IDENTIFYING GAPS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

### 4 DEEPEN UNDERSTANDING OF STAKEHOLDER ROLES

### 5 FACILITATING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

### 3 BRIDGING THE IMPLEMENTATION GAP

### 4 ENHANCING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



FINANCE, TECHNOLOGY & CAPACITY GAPS REMAIN

INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLES, INTER-LINKAGES, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AGRIFOOD SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS IN ADVANCING NAPs, NDCs & SDGs

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC CASE STUDIES

PEER LEARNING

GRASSROOTS-LEVEL PLANNING & PARTICIPATORY PILOTS

STRENGTHENING CROSS-SECTORAL COLLABORATION & BREAKING SILOS

INSTITUTIONALIZING DIALOGUE



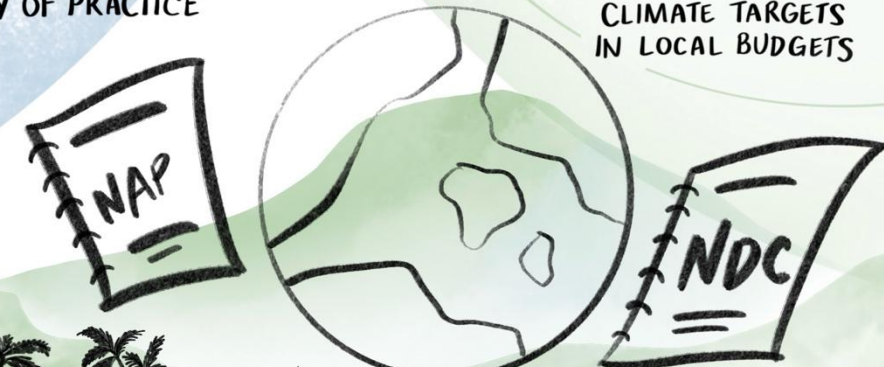
PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFIED TOOLS NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION

SUSTAINING THE DIALOGUE BY ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE TARGETS IN LOCAL BUDGETS

BUILDING COMMUNITY TECHNICAL SKILLS

ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



## CHALLENGES

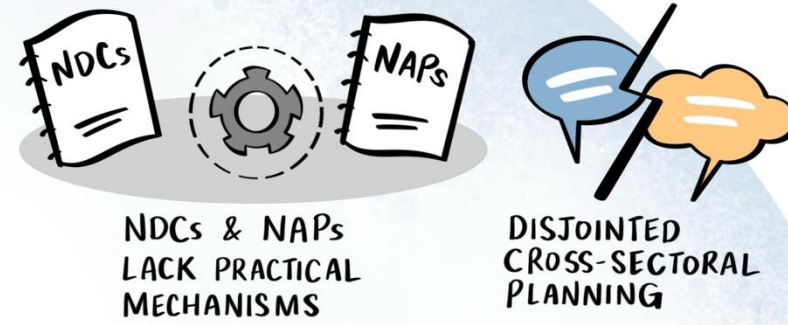
## LAO PDR

## BRIDGING THE IMPLEMENTATION GAP

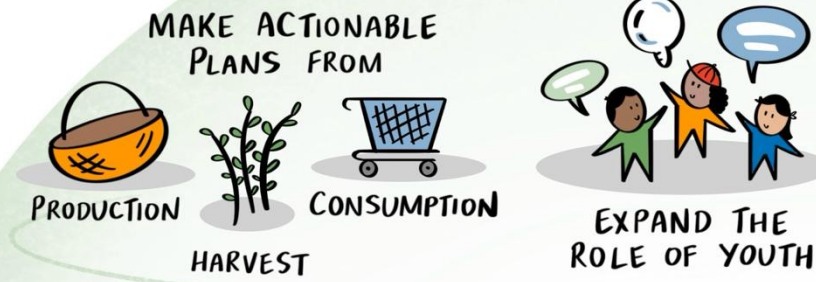
### 1 HIGH VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE HAZARDS



### 2 DISCONNECT BETWEEN POLICY & IMPLEMENTATION



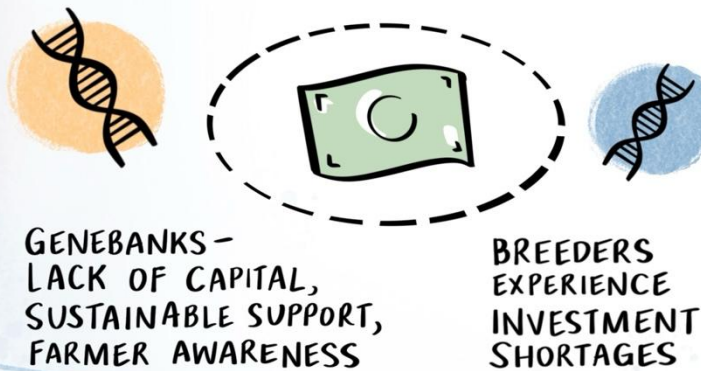
### 1 ADOPT A HOLISTIC VALUE CHAIN APPROACH



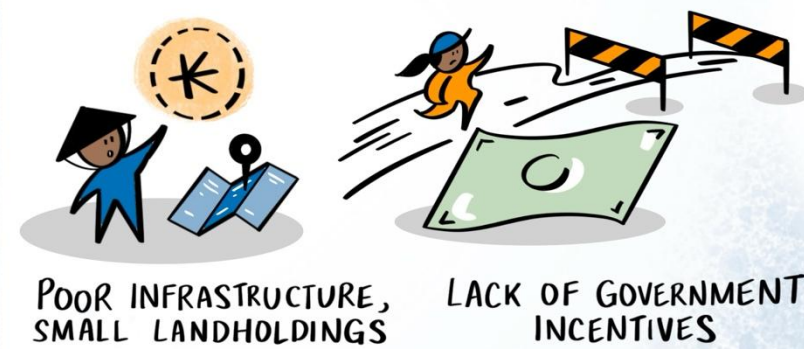
### 2 STRENGTHEN GENE BANK-FARMER LINKAGE



### 3 CONSTRAINTS IN THE SEED & GENE BANK SYSTEM



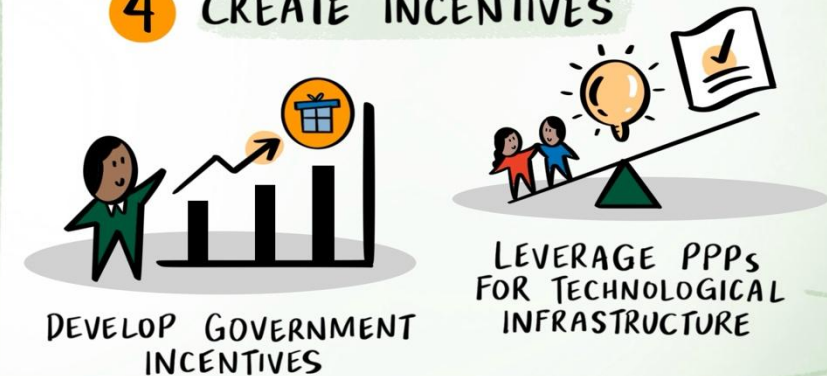
### 4 BARRIERS FOR FARMERS AND PRIVATE SECTOR



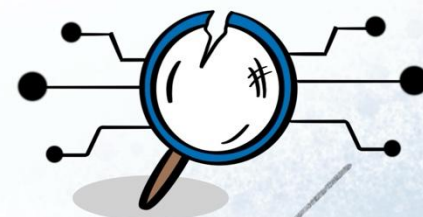
### 3 ESTABLISH CROSS-SECTORAL COORDINATION WITH CLEAR ROLES



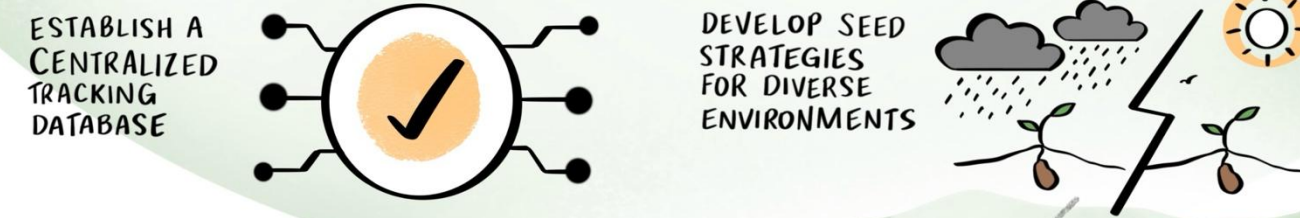
### 4 CREATE INCENTIVES



### 5 DATA DEFICITS HINDER MONITORING, REPORTING & VERIFICATION



### 5 STRENGTHEN DATA FOR THE SEED SYSTEM

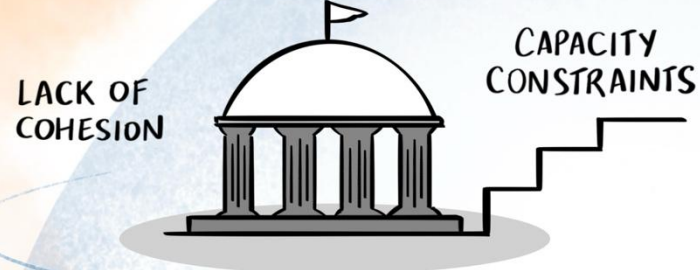


## CHALLENGES

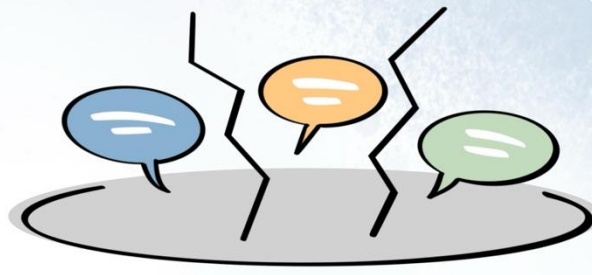
# PAKISTAN

## BRIDGING THE IMPLEMENTATION GAP

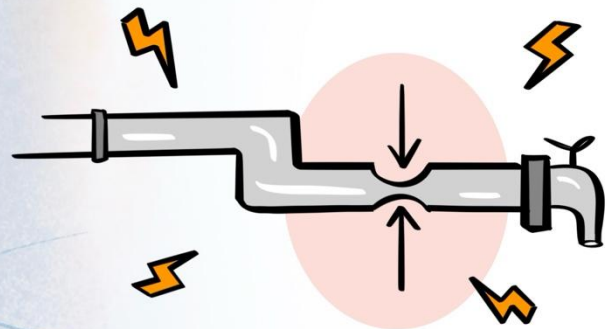
### 1 FRAGMENTED GOVERNANCE



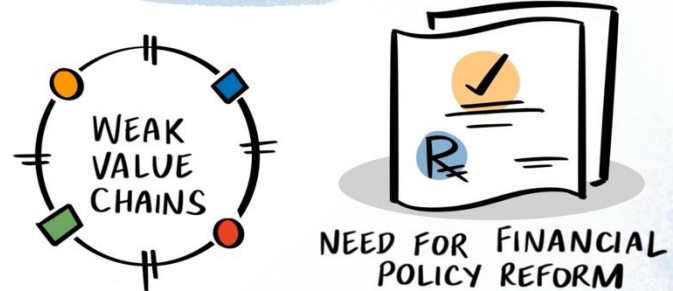
### 2 DISCONNECTED STAKEHOLDERS



### 3 STRUCTURAL BOTTLENECKS IN THE SEED SYSTEM



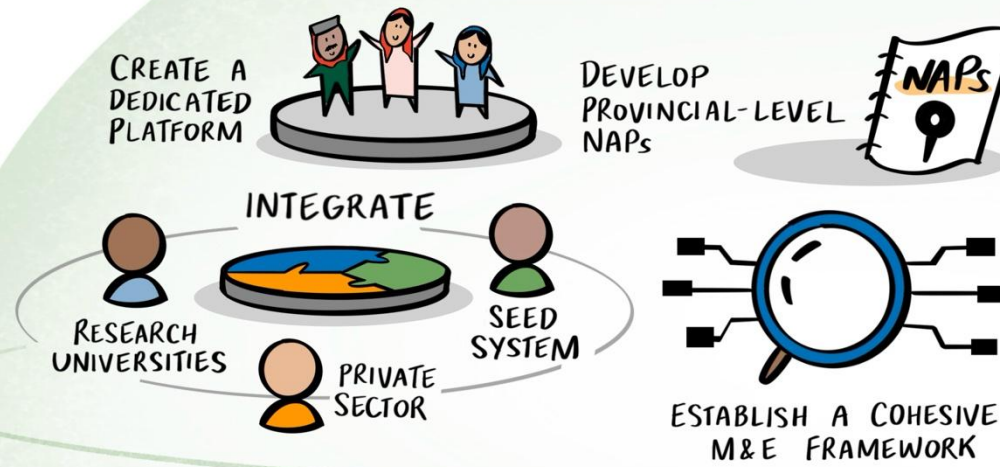
### 4 FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS & LIMITED PRIVATE SECTOR INCENTIVES



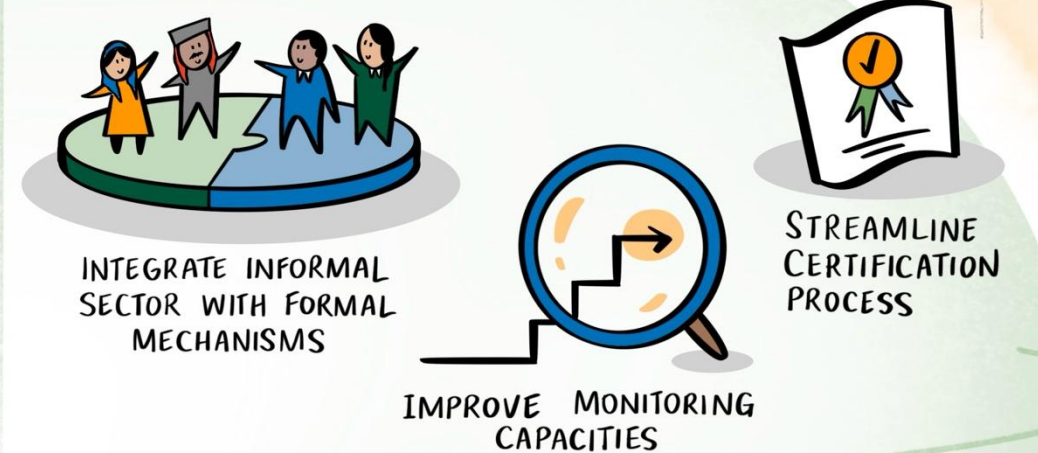
### 5 ACUTE CLIMATE VULNERABILITY IN SPECIFIC REGIONS



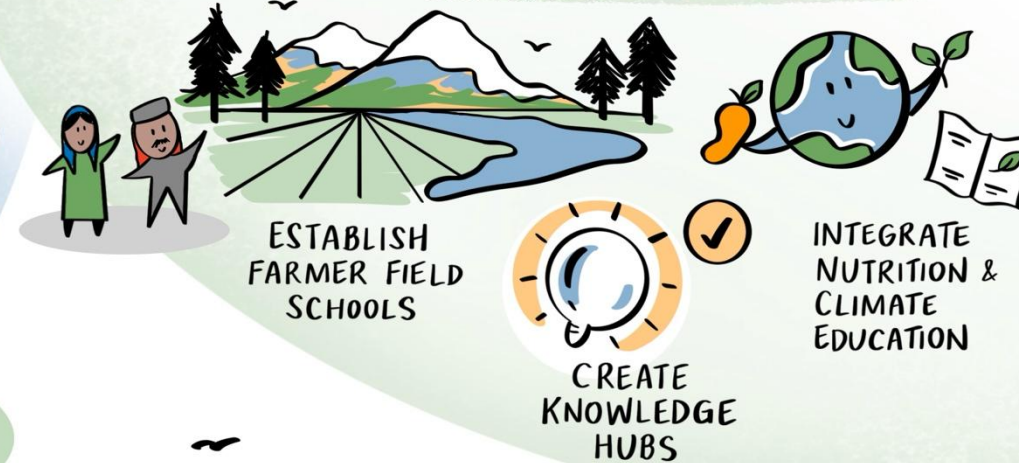
### 1 STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION & GOVERNANCE



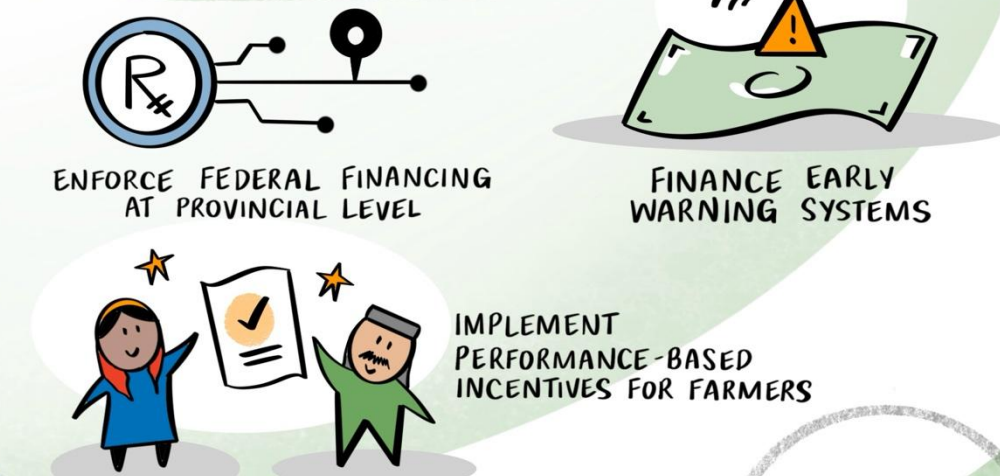
### 2 REFORM THE SEED REGULATORY & SUPPLY SYSTEM



### 3 ENHANCE FARMER CAPACITY & AWARENESS



### 4 MOBILIZE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SMALLHOLDERS

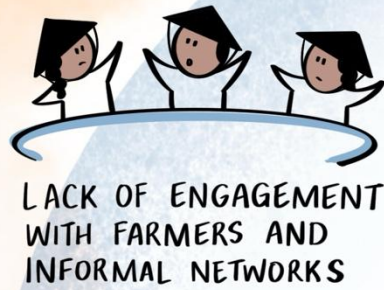


## CHALLENGES

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## BRIDGING THE IMPLEMENTATION GAP

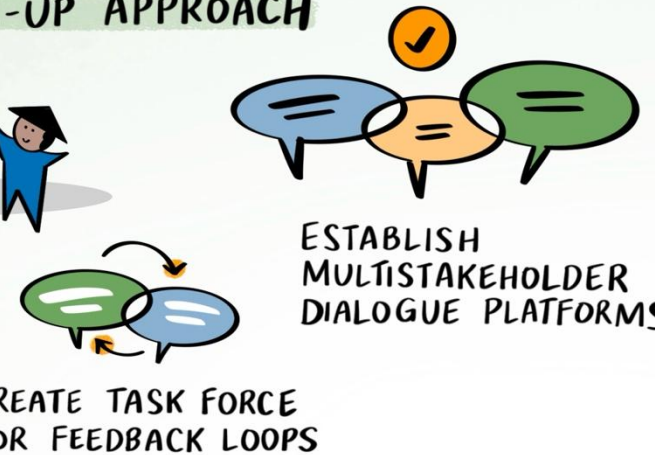
### 1 DISCONNECT BETWEEN NATIONAL POLICIES & LOCAL ACTION



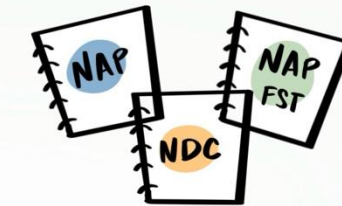
### 2 FRAGMENTED GOVERNANCE AND RIGID FINANCING



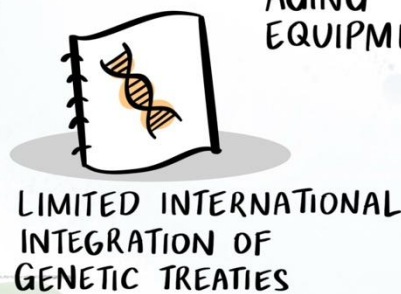
### 1 ADOPT A PARTICIPATORY BOTTOM-UP APPROACH



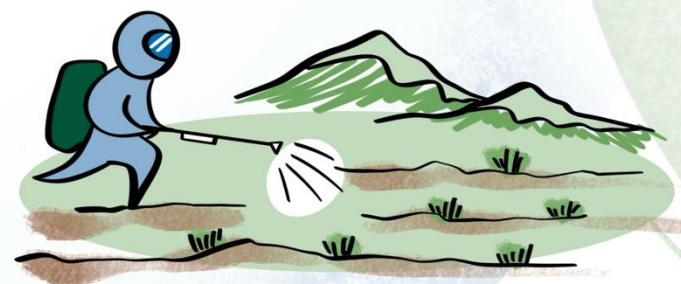
### 2 STRENGTHEN CROSS-SECTORAL GOVERNANCE & COORDINATION



### 3 TECHNICAL & DATA CONSTRAINTS IN GENETIC CONSERVATION



### 4 RELIANCE ON CHEMICAL-INTENSIVE FARMING



### 3 ENHANCE DATA DIGITALIZATION AND GENETIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



### 4 MOBILIZE FINANCIAL RESOURCES THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS





# Participatory Seed System Analysis

NMBU Seed Systems Toolkit

Catherine Hazel M. Aguilar

[catherine.aguilar@croptrust.org](mailto:catherine.aguilar@croptrust.org)

27 February 2026

Virtual Learning Session on Outcomes from the Technical Workshop on Cross Linkages among Food Systems Actors and Aligning Food Systems in NAPs and NDCs

# Seed Systems in National Climate Plans

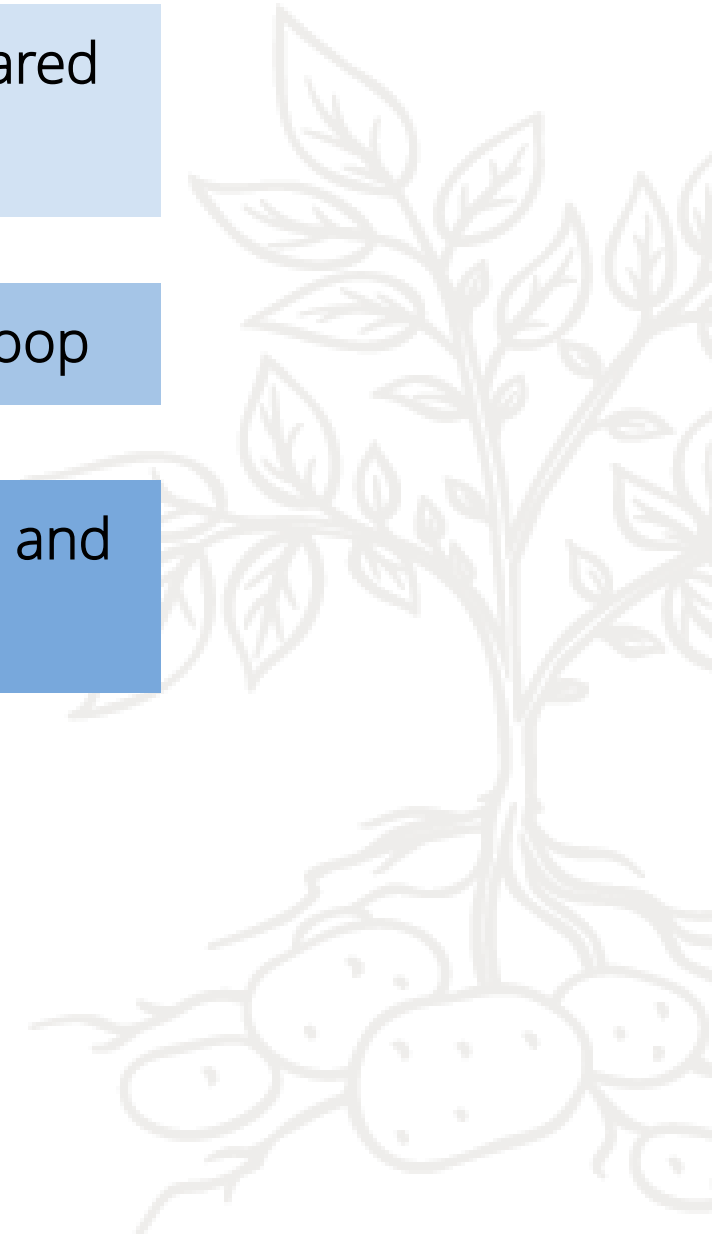
- The COP28 UAE Declaration and the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience recognise that there is no path to achieving the Paris Agreement goals without transforming food and agriculture/agrifood systems
- Over 95% of developing countries with NAPs report climate impacts on agrifood systems
- Seed systems are foundational enablers of resilient agrifood systems, but they remain largely implicit or absent in current climate plans and monitoring frameworks.
- seed system actors who would deliver those commitments might be **invisible to, unfinanced by, and uncoordinated** with that policy.

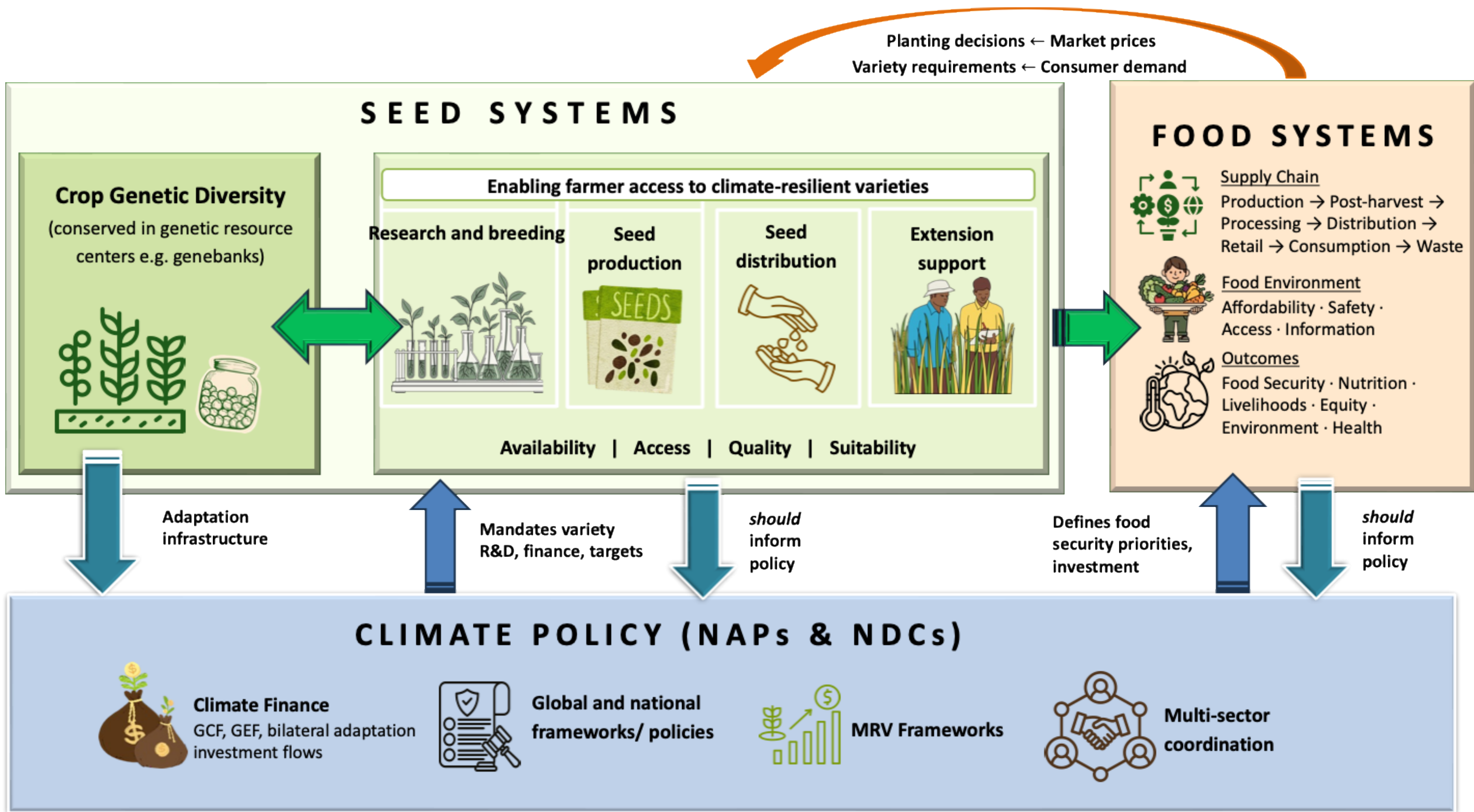
## Cross-cutting enablers / system functions of implementation.

Operational pathways and shared system map

Evidence to action feedback loop

Coordination across ministries and sectors







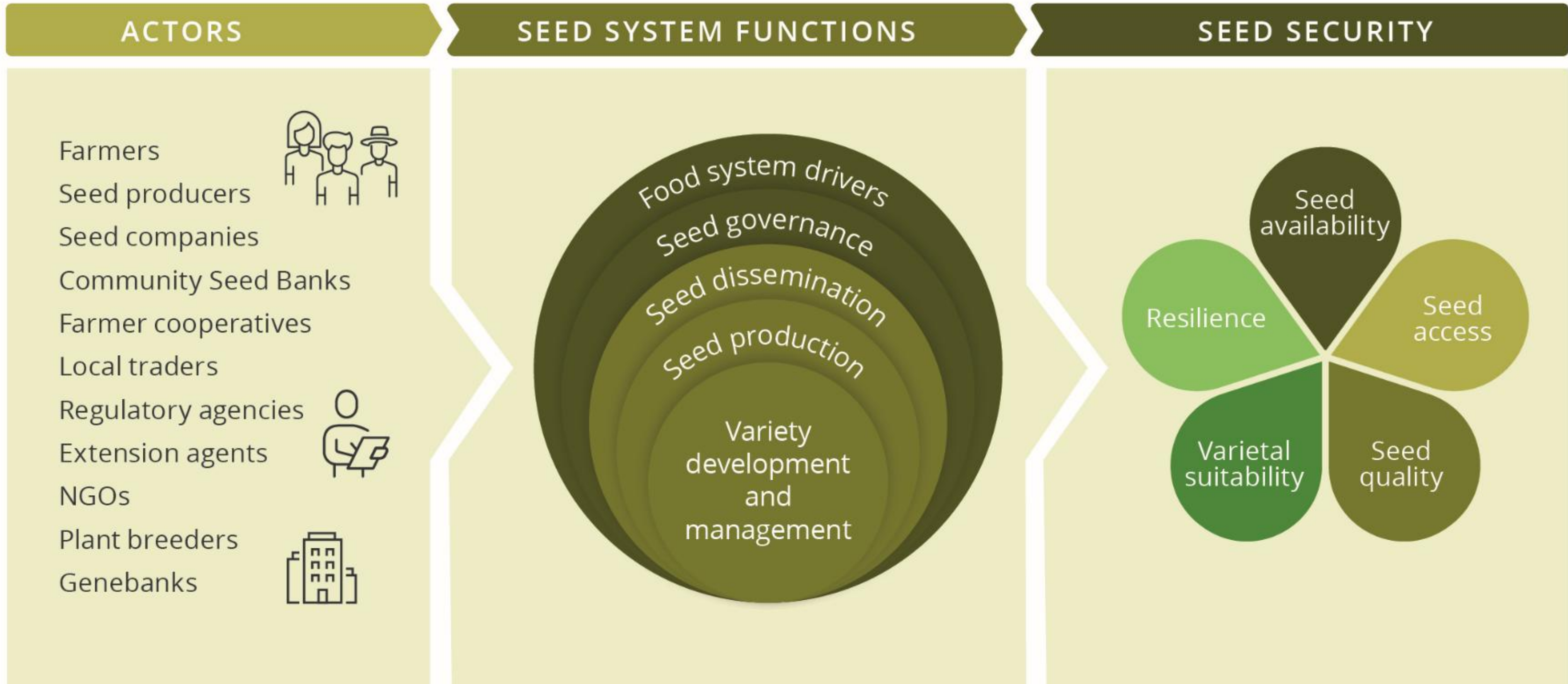
# Navigating toward resilient and inclusive seed systems

Ola T. Westengen<sup>1</sup>, Sarah Paule Dalle<sup>1</sup>, and Teshome Hunduma Mulesa<sup>1</sup>

Edited by Susan McCouch, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; received November 19, 2022; accepted February 25, 2023

Food systems face new climatic and sociological challenges to social, environmental, and economic sustainability.

# Conceptual framework



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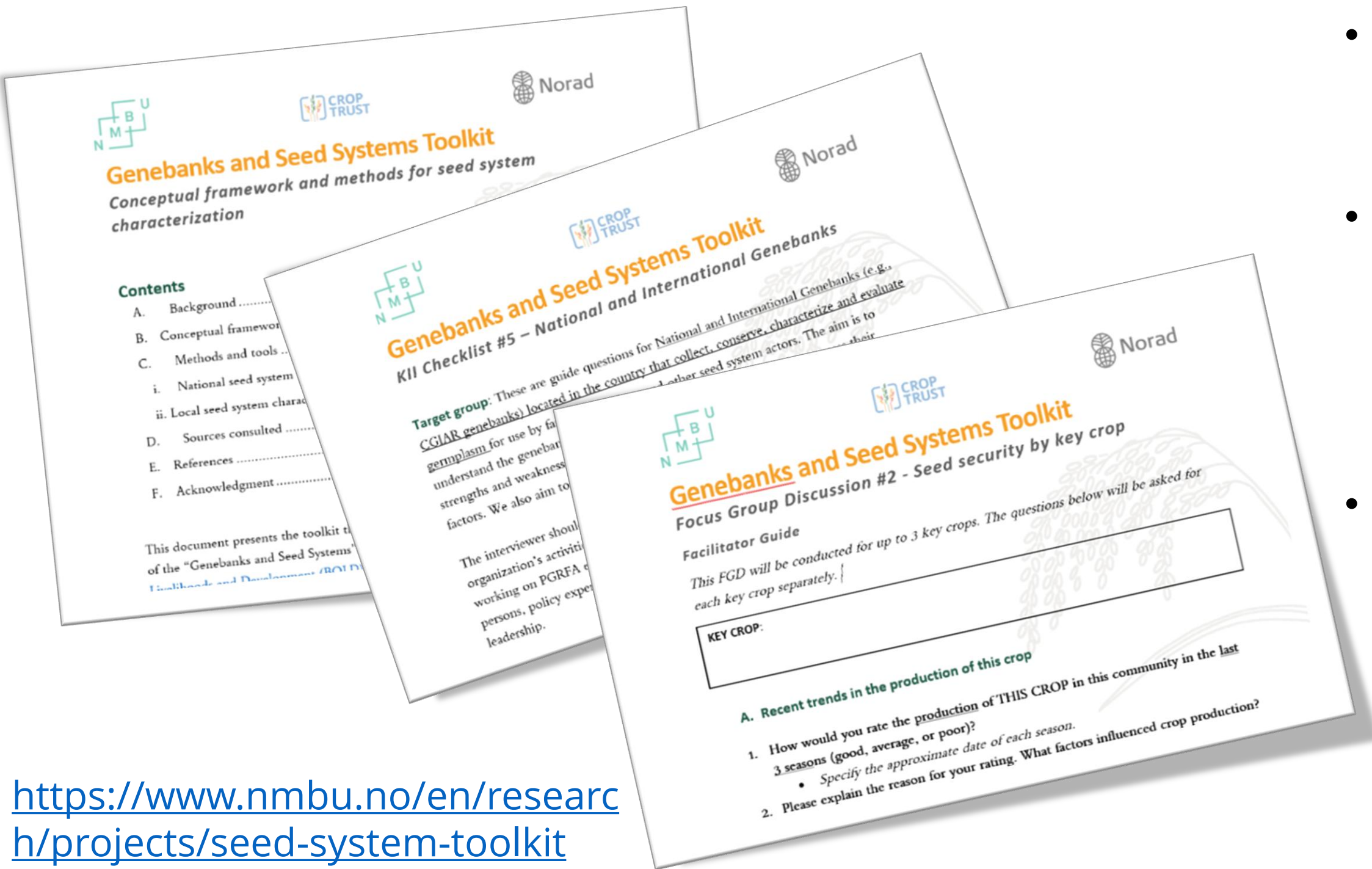
opment Studies,  
1430 Ås, Norway

in seed system development in many countries in the Global South. However, there is a lack of agreement on the best way to achieve national seed systems that contribute to food security, climate adaptation, and poverty alleviation, as well

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<sup>1</sup>To whom correspondence may be addressed. Email: ola.westengen@nmbu.no.  
Published March 27, 2023.

# Seed System Toolkit

- Framework from NMBU Seed Systems Toolkit developed specifically for BOLD project
- Structured approach to understanding **who does what, how they connect, and where gaps exist** in national seed systems
- Focuses on conservation-use linkages (distinct from full food systems analysis)



<https://www.nmbu.no/en/research/projects/seed-system-toolkit>

# Seed System Toolkit: Five Pillars

## Actors

genebanks, breeders,  
farmers, cooperatives,  
extension,  
government, private  
sector, NGOs

## Seed System Functions

variety development,  
seed production,  
dissemination,  
governance

## Seed Security dimensions

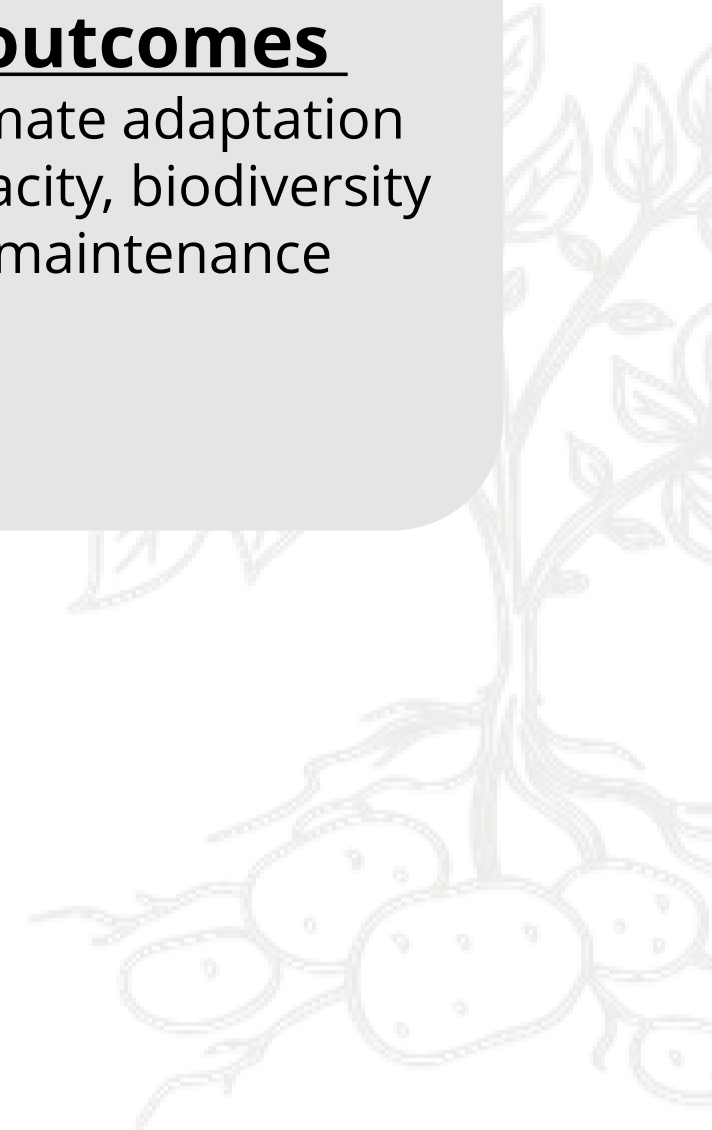
availability, access,  
quality, varietal  
suitability

## Food System Drivers

market, policy,  
climate risks

## Resilience outcomes

climate adaptation  
capacity, biodiversity  
maintenance



# Understanding Stakeholder Roles in Agrifood Systems for Achieving Climate Roles



Who are the actors? What do they do? Why do they matter?

- Identify and characterize seed system actors relevant to the national context (formal and informal sectors)
- Understand interconnections and dependencies among diverse actors in the seed system
- Assess how actor contributions affect food security and climate resilience outcomes
- Recognize coordination barriers and entry points for strengthening stakeholder integration



## Core seed system actors typically include:

- **Genebanks** (long-term conservation, characterization and evaluation, germplasm distribution)
- **Plant breeders** (variety development, germplasm evaluation)
- **Farmers** (landraces, on-farm selection, seed production)
- **Local seed businesses** (community-based seed multiplication, marketing)
- **NGOs** (farmer organization, capacity building, knowledge integration)
- **Agricultural extension** (information dissemination, farmer support)
- **Private seed companies** (commercial variety development, distribution)
- **Agro-dealers** (input marketing, farmer interface)
- **Ministry of Agriculture** (policy, regulation, coordination)
- **CGIAR Centers** (research, genetic resource distribution)



# Mapping Contributions and Dependence Across Agrifood Systems Actors (System Dynamics Diagram)

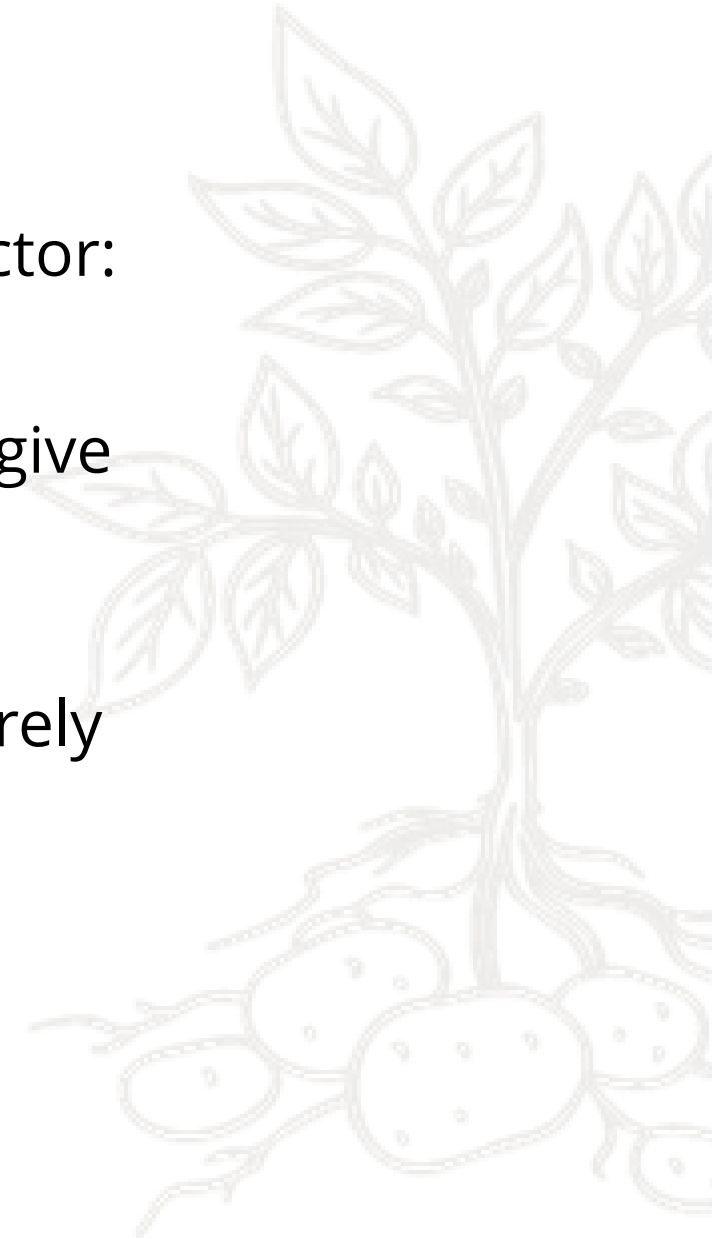
*How much does each actor contribute to others? Who depends on whom? What does this reveal?*

Cross-Linkage Contribution Rating Scale (0–4)

Score	Label	Objective Criteria
0	No Contribution	Actor provides no support, resources, or services to target actor. No interaction or relationship exists.
1	Minimal Contribution	Actor provides occasional or limited-scope support. Interaction is sporadic, inconsistent, or covers only narrow aspects of support needed.
2	Moderate Contribution	Actor provides regular, meaningful support. Interaction is predictable and covers significant portion of support needed, but gaps remain.
3	Substantial Contribution	Actor provides reliable, consistent support across most relevant areas. Relationship is strong and dependable for system functioning.
4	Critical Contribution	Actor provides indispensable support that the target actor depends on for core functions. Loss of this relationship would significantly disrupt target actor operations.

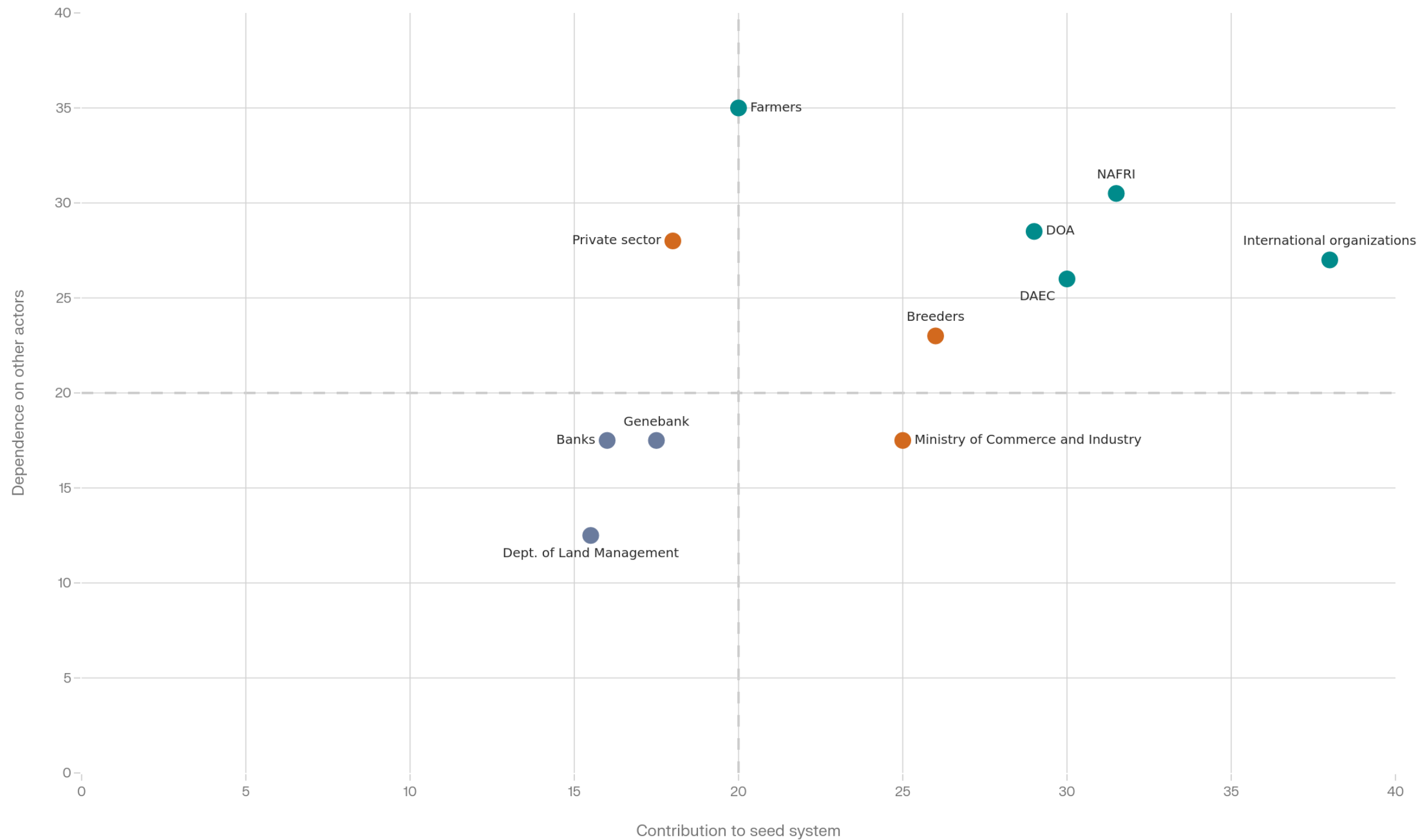
Creates two metrics per actor:

- **Total Contribution Score** (how much they give to the system)
- **Total Dependence Score** (how much they rely on others)



# System Dynamics Mapping: Lao PDR

## Actor Contribution vs. Dependence Analysis



•**State-centric system:** Government, (DOA, DAEC, NAFRI), farmers, and international actors form interdependent core; private sector role remains constrained

•**Genebanks under-leveraged:** limited downstream integration, a critical gap for climate adaptation

•**Finance and market linkages weak:** Lack of credit and seed-market-trade integration are key bottlenecks for scaling resilience

## Common Themes Across Three Countries

### **State-anchored core with highly dependent farmers**

- Government ministries, public research institutes, and extension services form the "core engine" with high contribution and high dependence
- Farmers sit at the intersection: high agency as adopters and diversity custodians, yet highly vulnerable and dependent on public support
- All three systems remain state-led and regulation-driven rather than market-driven

### **Genebanks: foundational but under-leveraged**

- Recognized as essential genetic resource providers but positioned with lower-to-moderate contribution scores
- Weak direct linkages to farmers, breeders, and extension, functioning as repositories rather than active system hubs
- Major opportunity for strategic upgrading to bridge conservation-use gap



# Common Themes Across Three Countries

## Finance and Markets Structurally Absent

- Banks and financial institutions consistently show low contribution and weak system linkages across all three countries
- Private sector emerging but constrained by regulation, market scale, and limited access to finance
- Lack of tailored credit, insurance, and risk-sharing mechanisms is a shared bottleneck for scaling climate-resilient seed systems

## Fragmented Coordination and Weak Horizontal Linkages

- Trade/commerce ministries, universities, and some regulatory bodies appear peripheral despite having crucial mandates
- Thin vertical connections from policy → research → extension → farmer limit NAP/NDC implementation
- Right actors are on the board, but relationships are mis-weighted for climate resilience



# Seed System Toolkit

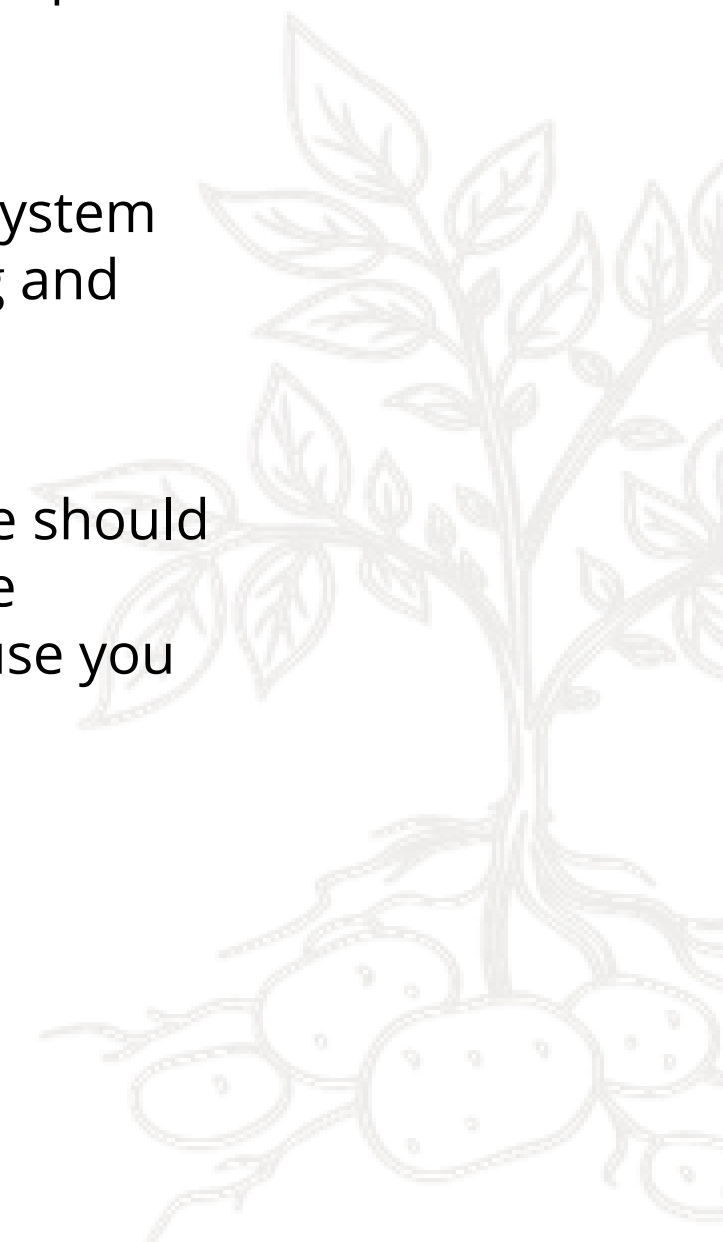


## What the tool does

- Maps all key seed-system actors on contribution vs. dependence (who drives the system, who relies on whom).
- Makes relationships visible, e.g., government–research–extension–farmers–private sector–finance–genebanks
- Distinguishes core engine actors, bridging actors, and underused enablers

## Why this matters for NAPs/ NDCs

- **Identifies who actually delivers NAP/NDC measures**  
NAPs/NDCs talk about “climate-resilient crops” and “stronger seed systems”, but rarely specify the exact institutions and relationships this depends on.
- **Exposes the real bottlenecks and leverage points**  
By scoring contribution and dependence, it shows where the system is over-reliant on a few core actors, where linkages are missing and which enablers are underused.
- **Basis for targeting finance and capacity**  
Countries need to justify where adaptation and climate finance should go inside agrifood systems. The mapping provides a defensible argument for investing in particular actors and linkages, because you can show their system-wide effect.
- **It helps define indicators and MRV**





Securing our food, forever.

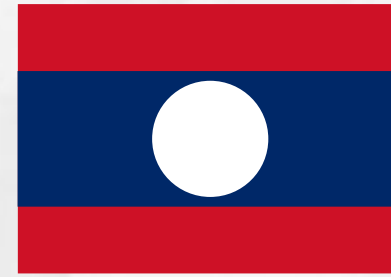
Catherine Hazel M. Aguilar

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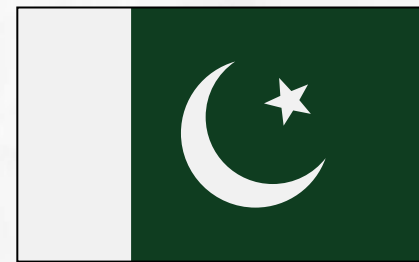


## Session 2: Country learnings

- Lao PDR
- Pakistan
- Viet Nam



**Phonevilay Sinavong**  
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Lao PDR



**Raza UI Haq Madini**  
Himalayan Farmers Alliance, Pakistan



**Truong Tuyet Mai**  
National Institute of Nutrition Viet Nam

# Thank You.



# Aligning Pakistan's Food Systems with National Climate Frameworks (NAPs & NDCs): Pathways to 2035

## Country Landscape & Climate Vulnerability

**Context:** Agriculture contributes ~23% to Pakistan's GDP and employs 37% of the labor force.

**Climate Risks:** Ranked among the top 10 most vulnerable nations; facing "Water-Food-Energy" nexus challenges.

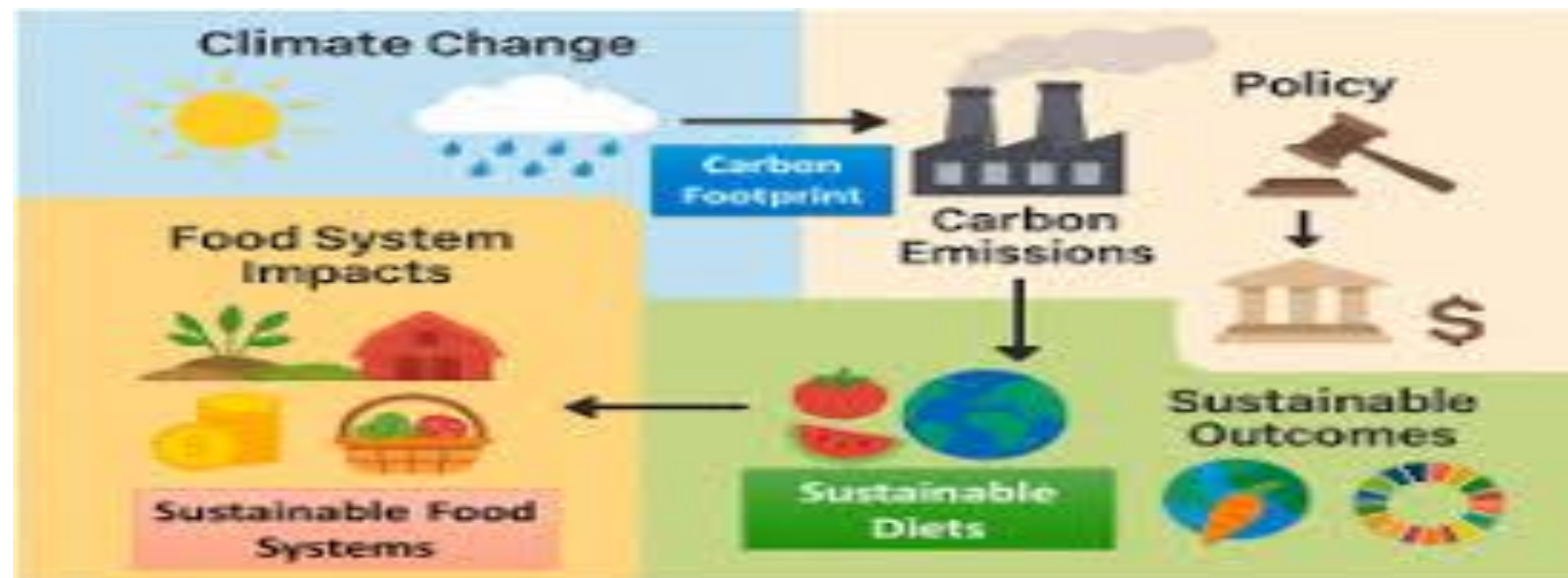
**Key Stressors:** Recent heat waves (affecting wheat/cotton yields) and the 2022/2024 flood impacts on the Indus Basin.

**The Goal:** Moving from disaster response to systemic resilience by integrating food systems into the **Updated NDC (2021)** and **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)**.



# Policy Gaps & Alignment Challenges

- **Fragmented Governance:** Need for better coordination between Federal (Ministry of National Food Security) and Provincial levels post-18th Amendment.
- **Data Silos:** Lack of real-time, harmonized data for climate-smart agriculture (CSA) monitoring and reporting (MRV).
- **Finance Access:** Only a small fraction of climate finance reaches smallholder farmers; high "bankability" barriers for local adaptation projects.
- **Gender Gap:** Women perform significant agricultural labor but lack equal access to land rights, credit, and climate-resilient technology.



# Strengthening Seed Systems & Genebanks

- **Institutional Reform:** Highlight the **Seed (Amendment) Act 2024** and the establishment of the **National Seed Development and Regulatory Authority (NSDRA)**.
- **Genebank Role:** Leveraging the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) to preserve indigenous, drought-tolerant, and heat-resistant varieties.
- **Community Seed Banks:** Scaling up decentralized seed storage to ensure local availability of certified, climate-resilient seeds (e.g., "Seed Security Prototypes").
- **Objective:** Increase the Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) to 60%+ for major crops by 2030.



# Priority Recommendations & Transformation Pathways

- **Multi-Stakeholder Platforms:** Operationalizing the **Pakistan Alliance for Food Systems Transformation (PAFST)** as a bridge between policy and practice. (Ministry of national food security )
- **Climate-Smart Infrastructure:** Investing in solar-powered irrigation, "Recharge Pakistan" (floodwater management), and low-emission cold chains to reduce post-harvest loss.
- **Digital Extension:** Utilizing AI and satellite-based analytics for anticipatory decision-making (Early Warning Systems).
- **Policy Shift:** Re-directing traditional agriculture subsidies toward regenerative and nature-based solutions.



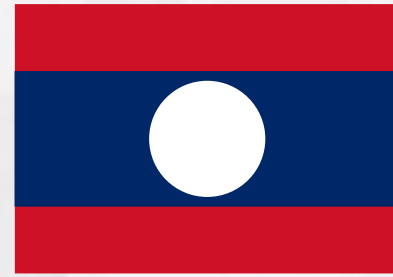
# Toward 2035: The Vision for Resilience

- **Target:** Aligning with the **13th Five-Year Plan (2024-29)** and the **5Es Framework** (specifically Environment & Food Security).
- **Integrated Planning:** Ensuring every agrifood project contributes to the 50% emission reduction target (subject to international support) by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050.
- **Call to Action:** Strengthening regional cooperation through RCC Asia-Pacific to share germplasm, technology, and carbon market mechanisms.
- **Closing Statement:** "Resilient food systems are not just an environmental necessity; they are the backbone of Pakistan's national security."

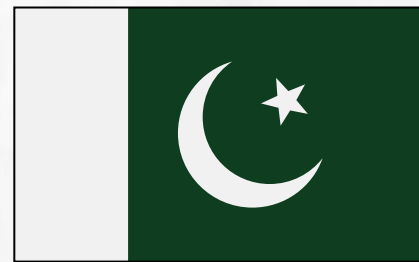


## Session 2: Country learnings

- Lao PDR
- Pakistan
- Viet Nam



**Phonevilay Sinavong**  
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Lao PDR



**Raza UI Haq Madini**  
Himalayan Farmers Alliance, Pakistan



**Truong Tuyet Mai**  
National Institute of Nutrition Viet Nam



# Lao PDR's perspective – 'Country Learnings'

Insights, Food System Landscapes, and Policy Gaps for  
Stakeholder Involvement

27 February 2026

Dr. Phonevilay Sinavong, NAFRI

**PRESENTERS**

Representatives of the Lao PDR Delegation



**EVENT**

Technical Workshop on Cross Linkages among Food System Actors

# National Context & Agricultural Landscape



## Geography

A landlocked country with a heavy dependence on seasonal rainfall and the vital **Mekong River system** for irrigation and logistics.



## Workforce

Over **60% of the population** is engaged in agriculture, primarily based in rural areas and dependent on family farming.



## Sector Status

Farming remains largely nature-based. Frequent **natural disasters** trap the sector in rebuilding cycles, stalling commercial transition since 1986.



## Opportunities

Leveraging new connectivity and **niche markets** to boost high-value exports of premium rice, coffee, and livestock.

# Vision for Food System Transformation

## STRATEGY

"Sustainable, green, and modernized growth"

## CORE GOALS

Balancing agricultural competitiveness with environmental protection and social inclusion.



## Environmental

### Forest Coverage Target

Aiming for 70% coverage to restore natural ecosystems.

### Agro-biodiversity

Diversifying crops to enhance resilience and preserve indigenous species.



## Social

### Reducing Malnutrition

Targeted interventions to improve dietary diversity.

### Empowerment

Strengthening the roles of youth and women throughout the value chain.



## Governance

### Standards Adoption

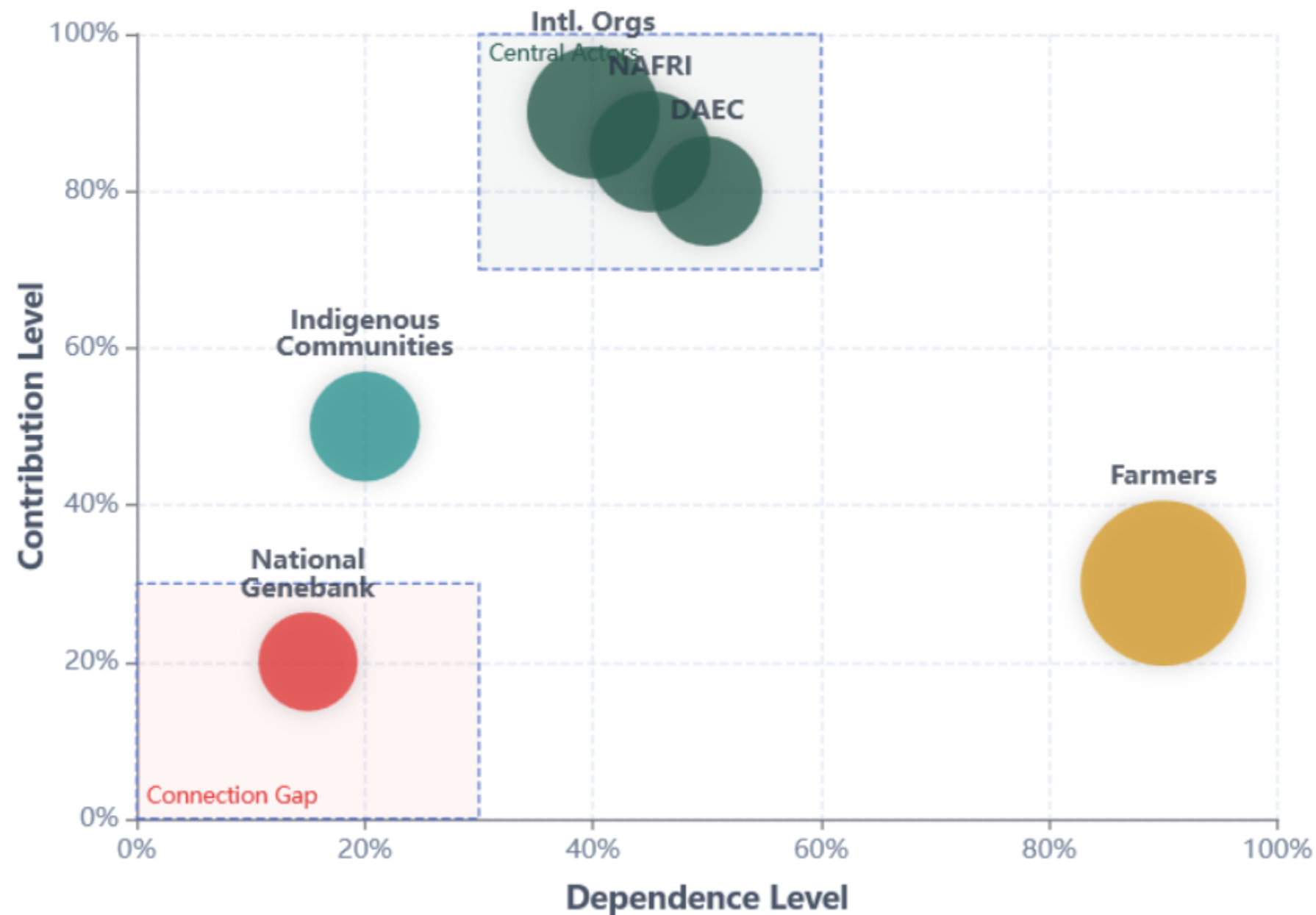
Shifting toward Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

### Organic Farming

Establishing regulatory frameworks to support organic certification.

# Mapping Stakeholder Interactions (Seeds)

## System Contribution vs. Dependence Matrix



### High Contributors

International Organizations, NAFRI, and DAEC act as central pillars, providing critical inputs and structural support.

### High Dependence

Farmers exhibit the highest dependence scores, relying heavily on the system's established inputs and framework.

### The Connection Gap

The National Genebank scores low on both axes, revealing a critical disconnect from farming communities.

### Informal Networks

Indigenous communities conserve landraces actively but lack strong backup links to the national genebank.

# Key Policy Gaps Identified



## Private Sector Engagement

Insufficient incentives to effectively engage the private sector in the transformation process.



## Data & Evidence

Critical data deficits and a lack of centralized tracking databases for Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV).



## Planning Silos

Disjointed cross-sectoral planning and a disconnect between policy documents (NAPs/NDCs) and on-the-ground implementation.



## Resource Flow

Inadequate access to technology and a lack of streamlined financing flows from the Ministry of Finance.

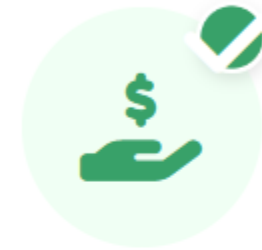


# Proposed Solutions for Enhanced Engagement



## Value Chain Approach

Adopting a holistic lens to connect every stage from **production to consumption**, ensuring seamless integration.



## Incentive Programs

Developing government-led awareness and financial incentives like **Green Finance** to mobilize private sector & banks.



## Youth Involvement

Expanding the role of youth beyond labor to include active **researchers, scientists, and entrepreneurs**.



## Localized Seed Strategies

Developing context-specific strategies for diverse environments, targeting **water-scarce uplands** vs commercial markets.

# Roadmap for Implementation (2025–2035+)



## Foundation

2025 – 2030

- **Awareness & Pilots:** Building foundational knowledge through studies.
- **Data Systems:** Establishing MRV databases.
- **Policy Drafting:** Creating initial incentive frameworks.



## Execution

2030 – 2035

- **Incentives:** Finalizing and deploying financial mechanisms.
- **Partnerships:** Launching Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).
- **Infrastructure:** Upgrading critical agricultural systems.



## Transformation

2035+

- **Permanent Policy:** Long-term financing policies securely in place.
- **Specialization:** Dedicated sub-sector working groups driving innovation.
- **Sustainability:** Full integration of green growth models.

# Summary of Institutional Roles



## Ministry of Finance

FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

- ✓ Leads **finance & incentives** strategy.
- ✓ Manages budget allocation and fiscal policy.
- ✓ Ensures **horizontal integration** across ministries for cohesive funding.



## Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry

SECTOR LEADERSHIP

- ✓ Responsible for **technology transfer** & tools.
- ✓ Develops agricultural policy frameworks.
- ✓ Manages evidence & data via the **Statistics Bureau**.



## NAFRI

RESEARCH INSTITUTE

- ✓ Leads **agricultural research** and innovation.
- ✓ Facilitates scientific studies and pilots.
- ✓ Provides **coordination** with all actors across the value chain.



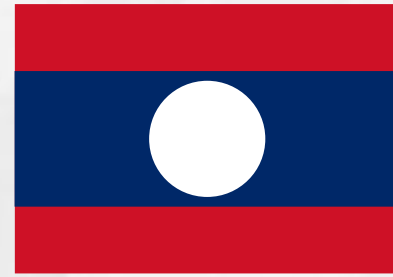
## Ministry of Industry & Commerce

TRADE & MARKET ACCESS

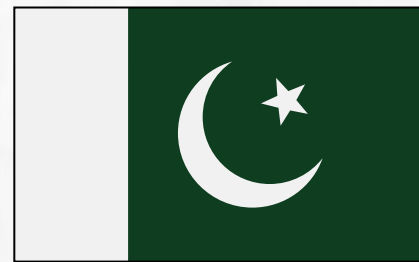
- ✓ Collaborates on **value chain** development.
- ✓ Facilitates international trade and exports.
- ✓ Manages bilateral agreements, including **carbon trading**.

## Session 2: Country learnings

- Lao PDR
- Pakistan
- Viet Nam



**Phonevilay Sinavong**  
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Lao PDR



**Raza UI Haq Madini**  
Himalayan Farmers Alliance, Pakistan



**Truong Tuyet Mai**  
National Institute of Nutrition Viet Nam

# Closing remarks and next steps



**Catherine Aguilar**  
Crop Trust



**IGES**  
Institute for Global  
Environmental Strategies

**CROP  
TRUST**

With support from:



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RCC MENA and South Asia  
*Collaboration for Climate Action*

# Virtual learning session on Cross Linkages among Food Systems Actors and Aligning Food Systems in NAPs and NDCs

27 February 2026  
2:00–3:00 PM  
(ICT)

Register

