



SEED DELIVERY TO FARMERS THROUGH COMMUNITY SEED BANKS IN CENTRAL TANZANIA

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Moshi Maile, a beneficiary receiving seed in Mlali.
Photo credit: Wills Munthali/ICRISAT



Community seed bank field hosted by Romanus Mbifile in Igula- Photo credit: Wills Munthali/ICRISAT

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

- Community seed banks (CSBs) are community run institutions for seed conservation, multiplication and distribution to members of that community.
- They are sustained through a pass-on program, a farmer receiving seed multiplies and pays back to the Seed Bank an agreed quantity for next beneficiaries.
- They improve access to quality seed of improved varieties.
- They address the weak seed delivery systems especially for legumes like groundnut and pigeon pea.
- Key components in the establishment of CSBs include; community awareness, capacity building through trainings, establishment of producer groups with leadership structures and the initial seed input for start up.

VALIDATION, SCALING SITES & SUITABLE AGROECOLOGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

CSBs were validated extensively in:

- Kongwa district covering Mlali, Laikala, Manyusi, Chitego and Moleti villages)
- Kiteto District covering Njoro and Kiperesa villages
- Iringa District covering Igula village

CBS groups were divided into men, youth and women to ensure equal opportunity to seed access.

Three crop varieties for pigeon pea, sorghum and pearl millet were used in validating CSBs. Choice and deployment of these crop varieties followed the Genotype by Environment analyses that mapped these villages into three sub-ecologies; High, moderate and low potential.

KEY BENEFITS



PARTNERS INVOLVED



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