



SEEDSGROW

**HARVESTING GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AND
JUSTICE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

**YEAR 4 ANNUAL
PROGRESS REPORT**

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Luz Marina Cabeza Quenta, holding the vegetables she brought to a nutrition workshop.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
AHTEG	Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group
ANDES	<i>Asociacion para la Naturaleza y el Desarrollo Sostenible</i>
ARC	Agriculture research centre
ARIPO	African Regional Intellectual Property Organization
BtB/P	Behind the Barcode/Price
CAN	Climate Action Network
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CGIAR	Global research partnership for a food secure future
CGRFA	Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre
CIP	International Potato Centre
CoP	Conference of Parties (used in the context of UNFCCC)
CSB	Community Seed Bank
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CTDT	Community Technology Development Trust
ETC group	Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration
ETS	Emissions' Trading Scheme
EP	European Parliament
EU	European Union
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
CVF	Climate Vulnerable Forum
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFS	Farmer Field School
FM0	<i>Nederlandse Financierings-Maatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden</i>
FPIC	Free, Prior Informed Consent
FSE	Farmer Seed Enterprise
GB7	Seventh session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GLII	Global Land Indicator Initiative
GPC	Global Programme Committee
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
HoD	Head of Delegation
IAEG	Inter-Agency Expert Group
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFI	International Finance Intermediaries
ILC	International Land Coalition
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPSHF	Indigenous Peoples and Smallholder Farmers
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
L&D	Loss and Damage
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plan of Action
LEAD	Leadership for Environment and Development
LRN	Land Rights Now
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MTR	Mid-term review
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPL	National Postcode Lottery (the Netherlands)
NUS	Neglected and Underutilised Species
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPV	Open Pollinated Varieties
PGR	Plant Genetic Resources
PICAN	Pacific Islands Climate Action Network
PPB	Participatory Plant Breeding
PVE	Participatory Variety Enhancement
PVP	Plant Variety Protection
RED-II	Renewable Energy Directive
RPC	Responsible Business Conduct
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SD=HS	Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal (United Nations)
SEARICE	Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention
UPOV	Union for the Protection of Plant Variety
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism



A female farmer in the field with her ox after some heavy rainfall. As most Laotians are farmers, their livelihoods are severely affected by changes in climate, like floods and droughts. Rice cultivation is heavily dependent on the 'monsoon' season with its very heavy rains. Most rice is grown under rain-fed conditions in the wet season, between May and November. Interruptions in regular rainfall can cause severe stress for the rice plants, thus reducing yields. Photo: Sacha de Boer/Oxfam Novib

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*The transformational vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls on all countries and stakeholders to work together to end hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition by 2030. This ambition can only be fulfilled if agriculture and food systems become sustainable, so that food supplies are stable and all people have access to adequate nutrition and health.*¹

The FAO report on The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World presented as key worrying finding, that ‘after a prolonged decline, the most recent estimates indicate that global hunger increased[.]’ An estimated amount of 815 million people is affected by hunger.

Current food production, distribution, trade and consumption are not effective at solving the problems of hunger, poverty and under-nutrition. Hunger is not due to an inadequate amount of food; it is largely to do with unequal access to food. This unequal access is a result of a complex reality of unequal power relations, gender inequality, insufficient governance structures, climate change, land use rights, low investment in smallholder farmers, declining biodiversity, and volatility of food prices, to name just a few of its causes. Furthermore, the broken global food system is not only unequal, but unsustainable as well. Food production is exhausting natural resources, including arable land, water and biodiversity.

SeedsGROW – thanks to the invaluable support of Sida, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Dutch National Postcode Lottery (NPL), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Dutch private foundations – is working on issues of unequal and unsustainable global seeds and food systems. It demonstrates how to make

changes and identifies how effective methods can be scaled up and sustained. Oxfam and its partners are proud of the programme’s considerable achievements over the past four years.

This progress report provides a review of programme activities, progress towards outcomes, risks encountered, and lessons learned in the period of 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. All activities contribute to the overarching SeedsGROW mission of “Harvesting greater food security and food justice by supporting the gender-just transformation of the global governance of food systems, and strengthening affected citizens’ access to knowledge, livelihood resources and public goods in the context of climate change and increased competition over resources.”

To achieve this mission, SeedsGROW—comprising *Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security* (SD=HS) and the GROW campaign—takes a ‘dual programme approach’. It uses a multi-stakeholder, gender-just approach focusing on:

- enabling seed diversity, harvesting food and nutrition security; and
- building a more equitable and sustainable food system—including by strengthening the rights, opportunities and resilience to climate change and related injustices of people living in rural poverty, particularly women, to fairly access livelihoods resources and global public goods.

SD=HS

Overall, SD=HS is on track with its project implementation. The activities for Pillars 1, 2 and 4 were executed as scheduled in the Year 4 annual plan to reach their respective objectives. Especially after the implementation of the successful scaling-up strategy in Pillar 1, several activities exceeded the initial expectations that

¹ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, World Food Programme and World Health Organisation. 2017. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017. Building resilience for peace and food security. Rome, FAO.

were set at the start of the Programme. In Pillar 3, there are some delays, mostly due to the Pillar 3 Lead position that was vacant for 6 months. Most Pillar 3 activities that could not take place in Year 4 are planned to take place in Year 5. We expect that the objectives for all Pillars will be met at the end of Year 5.

Seeds are fundamental for food security and generating income. In many countries, certified seeds of registered varieties are available for only a limited number of crops and varieties. These certified seeds are not affordable for small-holder farmers, or not accessible because of distant markets. As much as 80% of the seeds that farmers access is sourced locally through farm-saved seeds, farmer-to-farmer exchanges or purchased at local markets. These seeds are often resilient, but to cope with developing markets, demographic and environmental changes, and the effects of climate change, their quality needs to be improved in many ways. SD=HS is about improving locally produced seeds, adapted to the needs and preferences of small-holder farmers and indigenous communities, as a fundamental contribution to achieving local to global food and nutrition security.

Achieving the right to food (Sustainable Development Goal 2) is possible only if farmers, rural families and indigenous communities are put at the heart of food policies. To increase the impact and sustainability of the results, it is necessary that farmers' seed systems are adopted and supported by public institutions and enabled by policies and regulations. Therefore, SD=HS involves public institutions, brings farmers' practices and voices to the global debate and publishes evidence on the essential contribution of small-holder farmers to the management of plant genetic resources.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

SD=HS aims to uphold, strengthen and maintain the rights and technical capacity of indigenous peoples and small-holder farmers, and to influence local to global policies and institutions on the access to – and sustainable use of – plant genetic resources for food and nutrition security under conditions of climate change.

The SD=HS programme continues to be built upon four pillars which work in concert to achieve the Programme's mission:

- **Pillar 1 (Scaling up models):** Strengthen the adaptive capacities of indigenous peoples and small-holder farmers (IPSHF) in seed conservation, access and sustainable use, by scaling up innovation and engendered models of biodiversity management.
- **Pillar 2 (Farmer Seed Enterprises (FSE)):** Enhancing the livelihoods and seed security of IPSHF by producing and marketing high-quality and diverse seeds through public-private partnerships.
- **Pillar 3 (Women, seeds and nutrition):** Empower women to reclaim their role in food security by strengthening their capacity in seed management, nutrition and global policy engagement, enabling them to claim their right to food.
- **Pillar 4 (Governance and knowledge systems):** Strengthen the capacities and knowledge base of developing countries and their IPSHF to secure national and global legislation and policies for the full implementation of Farmers' Rights, and everyone's right to food.

PROGRESS OF SD=HS AS A FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME

SD=HS is a five-year global programme with a coordinated set of activities, designed for the progression from participatory development to the scaling-up and mainstreaming of project interventions and policy advo-

cacy in support of farmers' seed systems for food and nutrition security in the context of climate change.

Year 1 was largely about setting up the programme, enabling a farmer focused participatory diagnosis of problems and jointly defining solutions, informed by a baseline survey. Eight country programmes were defined, including partnerships and alliances with indigenous peoples and small-holder farmers, governments (public research and extension services) and civil society organisations (CSOs).

Year 2 focused on the establishment of Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) and Community Seed Banks (CSBs), the development and testing of gender-sensitive methods and foundational work for the curricula. This also involved the scoping studies for the establishment of FSEs. Year 2 started the multi-stakeholder national consultations, leading to a global consultation to define the national and global policy agenda, primarily focusing on Farmers Rights and advocacy, and highlighting the extreme concentration of wealth and power in the seed industry. This year was marked by a major budget cut from Sida, due to the refugee crisis and the non-contract renewal of three countries, primarily due to performance issues.

Year 3 saw major climate devastations (from the worst drought in 20 years in Southern Africa, flooding in Peru and major saline intrusion in the rice fields of the Mekong region) midway through implementation. In response, the programme developed and included disaster management for plant genetic resources (PGR) in the FFS curriculum. In a global methodological workshop with all country partners, SD=HS reviewed and improved the programme methods and unit measurement for the effective aggregation of country results into a convincing global policy positions on Farmers' Rights. The programme focused on understanding

the seasonal hunger period and the management of Neglected and Underutilised Species (NUS). Furthermore, the programme sharpened its scaling-up pathways to expand the reach of the FFSs to ensure more communities, especially women, are able to access and develop climate resilient crops. An externally commissioned mid-term review was also conducted, resulting in, among other actions, a revised governance role for the Advisory Global Programme Committee (GPC).

Year 4, which is the focus of this annual report, was dedicated to the rigorous training of lead farmers and extension agents, resulting in further scaling-up of FFSs, and leading to increased access to diverse plant materials. The programme invested in the innovation and development of smartphone apps to help farmers identify and access their required seeds, and to identify and seasonally locate plant species. With multi-stakeholder advice, the Zimbabwean Seed Enterprise 'Champion Seeds' was successfully launched with farmers' seeds passing the seed certification requirements and achieving promising sales.

Year 5 will focus on consolidation of the Programme deliverables, support for the sustainability of FFSs and CSBs. For a wider dissemination of concepts and tools, investment in communications, such as photo exhibits, a greatly updated website, publications (such as policy briefs) and academic research papers are a major focus. A bottom-up participatory evaluation and an externally commissioned end evaluation are being planned. Lastly and very importantly, a Phase 2 programme is being developed to expand to more countries, focus on youth farmers and innovative solutions for participatory knowledge management. Phase 2 will focus on institutional collaboration with national and global organisations to further scale-up and mainstream SD=HS and support farmers in their PGR management.

YEAR 4 HIGHLIGHTS

Pillar 1

- According to plan, 415 FFSs on PGR were successfully implemented, an increase from 392 in Year 3, with at least 50% female participants.
- The level of varietal diversity in farmers' fields was increased within the range of 25–250% for each of the five major crops² in Laos, and within the range of 50–200% for each of the six major crops³ in Zimbabwe. These percentages are well above the original targets of 15%. We will report on the increased percentages for Vietnam and Peru in the Year 5 report.
- Two farmer-varieties that were officially released in Laos with the support of the Agriculture Research Centre (ARC) have spread widely, contributing to at least 30% of the rice production of the country. In Vietnam, two modern rice varieties, as the result of FFSs on participatory plant breeding (PPB) in the Mekong Delta, have been officially released at national level. In Zimbabwe, five new sorghum lines are now 30% of sorghum varieties in farmers' fields in the Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe district. This diffusion of farmer-varieties beyond SD=HS sites, is key evidence of successful scaling-up.
- The first version of the app "Digital Diversity Wheel" was completed and used by farmers, as planned.

Pillar 2

- In September 2017, Champion Seeds, the farmer seed enterprise piloted in Zimbabwe, was formally launched, in accordance with the Year 4 annual planning.
- In its first production year (2016/17), Champion Seeds produced a total of 148 tonnes of certified seeds of which 93% (134 tonnes) was successfully sold.
- As provisioned, a total of 899 farmers were success-

fully trained in seed production, of which 617 were female and 322 male.

Pillar 3

- The access to and use of biodiversity were improved through the successful implementation of 92 FFS activities (out of 138 planned), 23 seed and food fairs (as was planned), 9 field days (as was planned), and 14 women-led networks as platforms of knowledge and seed exchanged (as was planned).
- Women were successfully engaged in policy-related debates, and policy makers and authorities participated in Pillar 3 activities, facilitating discussion and knowledge sharing. See Chapter on Synergies for indigenous farmer Sonia Quispe Tito's speech at the CoP in Bonn.

Pillar 4

- As planned, SD=HS lead farmer Marjory Jeke gave the opening speech for the 144 delegates of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)/FAO Treaty in Kigali, Rwanda.
- According to the annual planning for year 4, SD=HS contributed to the establishment of a technical expert group on Farmers' Rights, which will develop options for the implementation of Farmers' Rights.
- More than 100,000 people viewed an educational animation video on local seed management and food sovereignty in Latin America in the first two months after its release.

GROW

INTRODUCTION

GROW is Oxfam's main campaign dealing with the right to sustainable livelihoods.⁴ This report focuses on the Sida-funded activities and other activities to which Sida

² Upland and lowland rice, waxy corn, peanut, yardlong bean

³ Sorghum, pearl millet, groundnut, cowpea, Bambara nuts, maize

⁴ For more information, see: Oxfam International. [n.d.]. About GROW. <https://www.oxfam.org/en/campaigns/about-grow>

was an important contributor mostly in line with contributions made by other donors such as the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs (referred hereafter as Strategic Partnership funding) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Reference is made to both 'Oxfam International' and 'Oxfam Novib'. This is to differentiate between Sida support for GROW campaign activities led by other Oxfam affiliates.

GROW aims to contribute to building a more gender-just, equitable and sustainable global food system by empowering people living in rural poverty, particularly women, to increase their resilience and claim their rights and opportunities to fairly access food, livelihood resources and public goods.

The Sida funding for GROW focuses on local, national and global policies on climate change, land rights and biofuels. This focus is reflected in the three objectives of the GROW logical framework of the SeedsGROW program:

- Specific objective 1: building global multi-stakeholder movements.
- Specific objective 2: improving global policies and governance.
- Specific objective 3: improving national policies and governance and linking these with global campaigns.

PROGRESS OF THE GROW CAMPAIGN

Year 1-2 Oxfam's GROW campaign focused in the period 2014-15 on the CoP Paris in 2015 and launched the "Road-to Paris" plan. Even though climate campaigning prevailed in 2014-15, Oxfam had been active on land rights and focused on revision of the (Environmental and Social) safeguards policy. As a result of Oxfam's engagement, it (i) ensured the World allows for sufficient space to CSOs to provide feedback when translating the safeguards into action plans; and (ii) made the World Bank to commit to include resettlement with

compensation for affected communities. Also Oxfam made the IFC to commit to disclose information on their client base and assistance provided. In addition, Oxfam made Coca Cola and RSP0 to include principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in their policies.

Year 3 In the years 2016-17, Oxfam has continued to work on two strands, i.e. land rights and climate change. In this period, the GROW campaign contributed to influencing the roll-out of various policy frameworks in ways that protect the land rights of women and indigenous communities, ensuring the inclusion of CSOs in World Bank policy implementation, improved due diligence in the IFC framework, and influencing the Dutch FM0's sustainability policy.

Additionally, lenders FM0 and FinnFund withdrew from the Aqua Zarca project in Honduras. This was merely also the result of the over 60 thousand signatures gathered because of the public action launched by Oxfam. At the same time Oxfam launched together with ILC and RRI the alliance Land Rights Now (LRN) campaign and under this banner implemented various public action. Till date, a number of almost 600 partners registered themselves with the LRN campaign.

Under the Oxfam engagement on climate change, Oxfam contributed to keeping climate financing on the agenda during the COP 22 in Marrakesh, publishing a Climate finance shadow report 2016 report that was referenced widely, including by the president of Zambia

YEAR 4 HIGHLIGHTS

In the reporting period April 2017 – March 2018, the GROW campaign continued to work on inequality in the food value chain, climate change finance and Land Rights. Highlights were:

- Oxfam completed its preparations for launching its GROW public campaign to influence retailers in addressing inequalities in the value chain. It is named

the Behind the Barcode/Price (BtB/P) campaign and is Oxfam's priority campaign for the coming years. The BtB/P campaign was launched on 21 June 2018.

- Oxfam contributed to the Land Rights Now (LRN) campaign by initiating a range of public actions in the week of Earth day (22 April 2017), with 11,000 individuals signing up to LRN, 800,000 views for its online component and 5,000 signing the petition calling on President Temer of Brazil to protect indigenous land rights and the Amazon.
- Oxfam, together with the CSO network Landesa, the Global Donor Platform and champions among UN agencies and national statistical offices, managed to bring the land indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to Tier II, meaning that all the countries are now formally asked to report on progress, which will have a positive effect on land governance.
- In October 2017, Oxfam participated with a large delegation in the conference "Reducing Inequality in a Turbulent World: Scaling-up strategies to secure indigenous, community, and women's land rights" organized by the Rights and Resources Initiative. It was also involved in a number of events before and after the conference. This included the launch of the Tenure Facility at the Sida office, the International Land Coalition (ILC) Global CSO meeting at the We Effect offices and organizing a learning event on the women's land rights experiences from the GROW campaign.
- Oxfam also provided input to the further development of the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework

(ESF) guidance notes.

- Oxfam continues to influence the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (CoP) and preceding intercessional process in the follow-up to the Paris climate agreements. Oxfam advocated for increasing finance for adaptation and Loss and Damage (L&D), and a rights-based approach to addressing climate-forced displacement and relocation. Oxfam's main contribution to CoP23 was raising the profile of the human impact as a result of climate change in media coverage around the CoP, mentioning the need for finance for adaptation and L&D in the negotiations, a rights-based approach to climate-forced displacement and increased ambition for mitigation.
- Oxfam continued its advocacy efforts towards the Parliament of the European Union (EP) in advance of votes on EU 2030 policy and legislation (RED II), i.e. the EP Environment Committee, EP Industry Committee, Energy Council of Ministers, EP Plenary, in coordination with EU affiliates and allies. Oxfam's engagement resulted in various amendments being made in the EP, but the Council of Ministers voted in January 2018 to put the limit on use of biofuels for the energy consumption in transport at 7%, instead of a full phase out as proposed by Oxfam and allies.
- Oxfam launched the global briefing paper "Financing Women Farmers", presenting research data on funding for agriculture – including adaptation finance – from Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Tanzania, EU, The Netherlands, Philippines and Pakistan. The paper contributed

to influencing the African Union summit in February 2018, in which Oxfam key messages were adopted in the solemn declaration of the 30th assembly key decision document.

- The GROW campaign in Pakistan launched various public actions mobilising 13,000 small-scale food producers (both men and women) in the two provinces of Punjab and Sind. This complemented GROW advocacy efforts for policy reforms for adopting a climate change bill at provincial level. The Punjab government is in the process of passing a climate bill that is yet to be tabled for discussion with the provincial assembly. In Sindh, the government has initiated a consultative process to develop a draft of a climate change policy bill; Oxfam contributes to this by making use of the findings of the Local Adaptation Plans of Actions (LAPAs) as drafted in five districts in the province.
- For the calendar year 2018, Sida supports the national campaigns of Brazil, Uganda and Vietnam in anticipation of the course of the GROW campaign in the years to come. The countries conducted a range of preparatory activities in the first three months of 2018 and the outcomes of the campaigns will be reported in the next annual report.
- Sida supported the GROW campaign in Niger in the period 2014–17 and Oxfam conducted an evaluation in the autumn of 2017. The main result was that the relevance of the campaign was unabated but had difficulty accomplishing its potential as an alliance campaign due to its complexity in governance.

2018

In 2018 GROW continues to work on worldwide campaigns in relation to private sector actors in different countries. We will intensify the investment in the Land Rights Now campaign and scale up the digital influencing capacity (website and social media) by supporting national public actions (one each in Africa, Asia and Latin America) of alliance members throughout the year and one worldwide public action around World Food Day (October). Oxfam will also support the land rights work of Uganda's GROW campaign in 2018 and will continue to focus on climate adaptation finance in 2018 and beyond. With the Sida bridge fund, Oxfam wishes to ensure continuity in 2018 in the build up to the CoP 2020 in which the Paris climate treaty of 2015 will be revisited.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

The total expenditure for the Sida funded activities for Year 4 was €3,221,891 against a budget of €3,601,259 with an absorption rate of 89%. The absorption rates for SD=HS and GROW excluding contract management were 96% and 77%, respectively. The contract management absorption rate was 88%.

The main reason for this lagging behind in spending is the postponement of the campaign BtB/P.

The external audit by Mazars for the expenses over Year 4 had limited observations and recommendations. All financial reports and audit reports from the partners have been received in time.



Shehnaz Bibi

Photo: Oxfam

1. CHANGES IN CONTEXT

The contexts in which SeedsGROW operate are changing, with increasing impacts from climate change, a moving policy environment, political shifts at national and international level and changing market demands. This requires the SeedsGROW programme's agenda to constantly adapt and respond.

SD=HS

CLIMATE CHANGE

During 2017–2018, small-holder farmers in Laos, Peru, Vietnam and Zimbabwe continued to be exposed to the effects of climate change. As an illustration, in the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam, climate change caused saltwater intrusion, prolonged drought and pest problems.

The cropping season in Zimbabwe suffered from a serious delay in the onset of the rainy season. As a result, sowing of farmers' fields was delayed until the beginning of February 2018. Those crops successfully planted in February did not reach maturity, as the rain season ended when the crop was still at the reproductive stage. This situation was exacerbated by a serious outbreak of fall armyworm that caused considerable damage.

The pest incidence has become problematic in the whole Southern Africa region. Despite of the problems, the success rate of the Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) in Year 4 was moderate at 54%, for a total of 168 FFSs conducting participatory plant breeding (PPB) (33 FFSs), participatory varietal selection (PVS) (111 FFSs) and Participatory Variety Evaluation (PVE) (24 FFSs).

The FAO report on The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017, shows how the impact of climate-related shocks 'seriously affect food security

and are a cause of much of the recent increase in food insecurity.'⁵

MARKET CHANGES

Southeast Asia saw increasing levels of commercialisation in the agriculture sector. One example was a fast-growing market opportunity of waxy corn as a food crop. This trend was positively reflected by the growing interest of FFS farmer participants in Vietnam in making their own waxy corn crosses, as an alternative to sourcing seeds from the market. Initial results showed that farmer-varieties could compete in terms of quality and yield with those bought from the market, and farmers could realise higher profit through seed saving (for next season's planting). Similar trends were also observed in Laos.

On the global level, the concentration of power in the agrochemical industry continued apace. The mega-mergers between Dow/DuPont, ChemChina/Syngenta and Bayer/Monsanto were approved, resulting in three multinationals controlling 60% of the global seed market and 71% of the agrochemical market.⁶ In addition, these big agrochemical companies possess a large share of the rapidly increasing number of patents on plant genetic material, breeding methods and tools, further tightening their control over the seed sector.⁷ As a result, these companies can increasingly determine which crops will be bred for what environments and farming systems, ultimately impacting what food reaches our plates via international value chains. The rapid, technological advancements in the fields of gene editing, synthetic biology, precision agriculture and

5 FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, World Food Programme and World Health Organisation. 2017. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017. Building resilience for peace and food security. Rome, FAO.

6 IPES-Food, 2017. Too big to feed. Available at: http://www.ipes-food.org/images/Reports/Concentration_FullReport.pdf

7 No Patents on Seeds! 2018. No patents on broccoli, barley and beer! p. 15.

data science may further increase the concentration of power in the agri-food sector as the collection and use of “big data” is expected to give unprecedented decision-making capabilities to those in control⁸

POLITICAL CHANGES

In November 2017, Zimbabwe witnessed a change in leadership after the resignation of the long serving President Robert Mugabe who had been in power for 37 years. The swearing in of Emmerson Mnangagwa as the country’s new president in late 2017 provided the platform for improved economic growth and development. However, the country’s liquidity crisis remains severe and further exacerbated by the outcome of the July 2018 presidential elections. The emerging unrest following the elections is likely to negatively impact the influx of foreign cash needed to resolve the currency crisis and spur economic growth.

In Peru, following the impeachment proceedings and subsequent resignation of President Pablo Kuczynski at the end of March 2018, many of the government representatives and ministers also had to resign. Therefore, much of the work initiated with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Environment within SD=HS has been suspended, and new liaisons will need be developed.

GROW

CLIMATE CHANGE

The extreme heatwaves of 2018, which has seen unprecedented peak temperatures around the world, have been described by leading climate scientists as ‘the face of

climate change.’⁹ As this year’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 1.5-degree report will show, not only are those most vulnerable, marginalised and dependent on rain-fed agriculture worst affected, but we are already seeing the impacts of climate change exceed their capacity to adapt; a situation which will only get worse in the years ahead. This increases the importance of working on a variety of approaches to climate change that include strong mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage measures. In tandem with the development of the IPCC’s 1.5-degree report over the past year, Oxfam has been expanding its focus to include more on loss and damage (focus on climate-related migration and displacement) as well as understanding mitigation and associated trade-offs.

The election of President Trump in 2016 heralded tremendous uncertainty and anticipated global political change. In 2017, Donald Trump announced his intention to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement and he does not intend to fulfil the outstanding US\$2 billion contribution to the Green Climate Fund. The shifting US position on both finance and mitigation should be carefully monitored to contain damage at the global level in the wake of these shifting policies. During the Conference of the Parties (CoP) 23 meeting, US political-level engagement was minimal, which prevented the US minister and US Head of Delegation (HoD) from attending the second week of the CoP. Moreover, the US delegation seemed to be unprepared for the scale and reach of the agenda at stake at the CoP.

The EU is about to finalise the adoption of its climate and energy policy for 2030. It is already clear that the various elements of the legislative package, including the

⁸ Wolfert et al., 2017, Big Data in Smart Farming – A review. Agricultural Systems 153.

⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jul/27/extreme-global-weather-climate-change-michael-mann>

renewable energy directive (RED II), have modest ambitions and sustainability safeguards to ensure the EU will meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission has now started a new process that should lead to the adoption of a new EU long-term decarbonisation strategy that is compatible with the mitigation objective of the Paris Agreement. Sustained mobilization of civil society helps to ensure this process leads to the adoption of a strategy that is both in line with the 1.5°C objective and compatible with the most important Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular those related to food security and land use.

Meanwhile, several Southern countries – notably the members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) (a group of around 50 countries that are the most vulnerable to climate impacts) – continue to exercise climate policy leadership at the international level. At the initiative of the CVF Troika (now composed of Ethiopia, Costa Rica and the Philippines) the world's first virtual summit of leaders will be held in late 2018, offering an opportunity for new pledges of deeper emissions reduction targets. China and India both remain on track to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement, to expand at scale their renewable energy capacity and increasingly to move away from the use of coal. With the World Bank Annual Meetings taking place in 2018 in Indonesia, there is an opportunity to further spotlight the importance of the energy transition in the Asian region.

In spring 2018, the federal government of Pakistan approved its national food security policy and the Ministry of National Food Security and Research is now initiating the process for its implementation and the

preparation of an action plan.¹⁰ This provides Oxfam and partners with a good opportunity to follow through with provincial governments to make policy reforms in the field of food security in the years to come. Therefore, the GROW campaign will develop agriculture sectoral plans for food crops at provincial levels and corresponding budgets for agriculture investment.

REDUCED POLITICAL SPACE

The space for people to speak out, to organise and to take action against poverty, inequality and injustice is shrinking on a global scale. People in many countries around the world face serious restrictions and repression when exercising their basic rights. This includes citizens fighting to defend their rural livelihoods, to demand a fair share of natural resources and to take a stand for gender justice.¹¹ CIVICUS's State of Civil Society Report 2018 mentions 109 countries that have closed, repressed or obstructed civic space, covering 82% of the global population.¹²

In various countries around the world, Oxfam's staff, partner organizations and activists have faced threats, violence and prison terms when defending the land rights of poor farmers or demanding a fairer share of natural resources for local communities. In 2017, Global Witness recorded their highest number of killings of land and environmental rights defenders in a single year.¹³

¹⁰ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1401780/challenges-in-implementing-food-security-policy>

¹¹ <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/space-to-be-heard-mobilizing-the-power-of-people-to-reshape-civic-space-620523>

¹² https://www.civicus.org/documents/reports-and-publications/SOCS/2018/socs-2018-overview_top-ten-trends.pdf

¹³ <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/at-what-cost/>

LAND RIGHTS

This worrying trend only reinforces the importance of strengthening women's and indigenous people's community land rights. The year 2017 saw the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure (VGGTs), with several events and reports identifying how some governments and private sector actors have used them to shape their approach to land governance, but also a wide recognition that significant gaps remain in their successful implementation.¹⁴ The update of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (RPC) can create space to broaden application of the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). While accountability at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) around the Voluntary National Reviews on progress towards accomplishing the SDG's in 2030 still needs to prove its effectiveness.

There was some progress in 2017 on the finalisation of the SDG monitoring indicators linked to land rights, while the World Bank opened to consultation its draft Guidance Notes in relation to the Environmental and Social Standards safeguards, including those related to Land Acquisition, Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement. It is vital that commitments made internationally are implemented at national level, by means of passing and enforcing laws and policies (especially protecting Indigenous People's rights), accompanied by adequate budgets and mechanisms. While progress has been made in many countries – such as Kenya, Thailand, Mali and Mexico – the establishment of new legal frameworks has slowed down over the last years, with rollbacks in

countries like Brazil, India, Uganda and the Philippines. In Liberia, the Senate approved a promising 'Land Rights Act'. Indonesia still has the chance to implement the 2013 Constitutional Court ruling that restored Indigenous Peoples' rights over their customary lands across 40 million hectares.

OXFAM INTERNAL

The Haiti safeguarding crisis has hit Oxfam hard. To start regaining trust from our stakeholders in The Netherlands and worldwide, Oxfam (Novib) has openly communicated about the actions to be taken to improve the safety in the work we do for beneficiaries, partners and staff. As a start, Oxfam has reviewed its safeguarding policies and procedures. A global action plan has been developed that addresses all stakeholders, focussing on staff and partner organisations, to ensure full compliance with the Oxfam values and standards that have been agreed upon. Safeguarding focal points have been appointed and all complaint- and whistleblowing channels have been assessed on their proper functioning. To all people and organisations we work with and for, we communicated the Oxfam values that we must live up to in all circumstances and that we should be held accountable for.

On another note, in this reporting period Oxfam has made progress towards the full implementation of the Oxfam 2020 model. The countries have further been empowered to take full responsibility for implementation and development of programming, fully supported by staff in the head office. The countries develop their annual integrated plans including the annual and budgets. The governance model with the Country Governance Groups (existing of all major Oxfam affiliates that invest in a certain country) are functioning and supporting country office management in the delivery of quality programs.

¹⁴ See for example, <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/hunger-foodsecurity-nutrition/discussions/high-level-event-commemorate-5th-anniversary-vgg-main-messages-rome>; http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/aa_vgg_report_single_pages.pdf; https://www.fian.org/fileadmin/media/publications_2018/Reports_and_guidelines/WP_PolicyDialogueSpaces-TenureGovernance_final_EN.pdf



Andean communities in Peru are known for their ecological knowledge and their harmonious relationship with nature. "Lately, because of the changing climate, we are sadly noticing that our traditional forecasting methods no longer work. We find solutions in new technology and build bridges with modern knowledge. In the 'seed multiplication center' we can rapidly multiply healthy and pest-free plants, and disseminate these among communities in Peru and abroad." Photo: Ilvy Nijokiktjen/Oxfam Novib

2. SOWING DIVERSITY= HARVESTING SECURITY

Lack of a sufficiently broad plant genetic resource base threatens future food security, from local to global level. Small-holder farmers still manage a substantial part of the total global plant genetic diversity and use this to produce food for their families and communities. Because of changing circumstances and preferences, it is urgent to support small-holder farmers to maintain and further develop crop diversity to improve food and nutrition security in the future.

PILLAR 1: SCALING-UP MODELS OF FARMERS CROP DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

Geographic focus: Zimbabwe, Vietnam, Laos, Peru

Pillar 1 objective: ***Strengthen the adaptive capacities of indigenous peoples and small-holder farmers (IPSHF) in seed conservation, access and sustainable use by scaling up innovation and engendered models of biodiversity management***

With climatic uncertainty, including floods, droughts, cyclones and heat waves, agriculture and food security are more vulnerable than ever. Farmers in Laos, Peru, Vietnam and Zimbabwe are experiencing climate change – ranging from extreme droughts to melting icecaps and flooding – directly affecting the availability and quality of food. For the farmers in these four countries, an important way to adapt to climate change is to grow diverse, better adapted varieties for variable and evolving climate situations. However, recent drastic changes in weather patterns showed that there is a limit to local adaptation because of insufficient locally available seeds to develop crop varieties that can cope with these new circumstances. Access to new genetic diversity of distant farming communities, breeding institutions and formal gene banks are key for farmers to continue their key role in adapting crops and varieties to their needs and contributing to national and global food systems.

FARMER FIELD SCHOOLS AND CROP DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

The work of Pillar 1 focuses on supporting small-holder farmers to maintain and further develop crop diversity to improve food and nutrition security and to adapt to changing market forces and climate change. In Year 4, SD=HS established more than 415 self-sustaining Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) on plant genetic resources, where farmers work together to select, adapt and/or develop new plant varieties that better fit their needs and preferences.

FFSs have been essential in facilitating access to novel crops and varieties with new resistances and traits for farmers to select from. In Year 4, through the FFSs, farmers have improved more than 400 varieties of food and cash crops with diverse traits, as a coping strategy for climate variability. This is a significant result given the prevailing limited farmers' access to new plant materials. Farmers' increased capacities to create new varieties, corresponding to climate changes and the improved access to breeding materials (See textbox 'Outcome P1.1').

CURRICULA AND FIELD GUIDES

The FFS Training of Trainers (ToTs) curriculum, as the key tool for scaling-up, was improved at the global level to accommodate the growing needs and interests of farmers. These needs were strongly influenced by market demand and adaptation to climate change. In Year 4, the curriculum for Laos and the Mekong Delta included maize breeding, corresponding to the fact that farmers in both countries saw a fast-growing market opportunity for waxy maize (as a food crop). An improved version of the FFS curriculum and field guide will be finalized at the global level in Year 5.

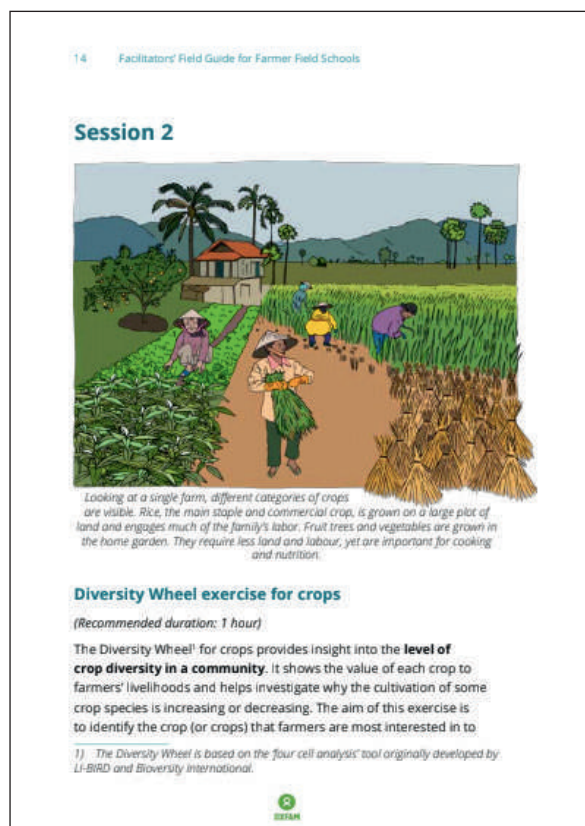
As a result of successful south-south exchanges between and beyond the SD=HS countries, FFS participants in Laos benefitted from the use of the translated version of the FFS ToT curriculum developed in Zimbabwe. Furthermore, with funding from the Dutch Ministry, SD=HS facilitated the first FFS ToT cycle for lead farmers and Oxfam partner organisations in Uganda, through the support of five master trainers from Zimbabwe, over the course of the first growing season in 2018. The three training sessions from the SD=HS trainers were received very positively and have set a firm basis for the preparations for an expansion of the SD=HS program to Uganda in Phase 2.

In response to the lessons in Year 3, a module on Disaster Risk Reduction was completed, included in the FFS ToT curriculum and tested in Zimbabwe. The module focuses on the management of plant genetic resources in such a way that the risks resulting from extreme weather and climate events can be optimally reduced. For one of our other tools, the Facilitators' Field Guide, the first illustrated module on Plot Design was successfully produced and will be piloted in Zimbabwe in Year 5. The feedback will feed into the improvement and development of two more modules in Year 5.

COMMUNITY SEED BANKS

Community Seed Banks (CSBs) are a complementary tool implemented in SD=HS countries to secure farmers' access to a wide range of quality seeds, not only of local varieties but also of improved varieties through farmers' breeding efforts. To date, the programme has established a total of eight CSBs in Peru (1) and Zimbabwe (7). The CSBs can act as community-managed seed supply and replenishment centres, to ensure seed and food security during disaster periods such as recurrent droughts. To ensure farmers' continued access to local and modern varieties in the long-term, Crop Technology Development Trust (CTDT), farmers, Agritex and the National Gene Bank (as part of the International Treaty's Benefit Sharing Fund project) deposited 100 germplasm accessions in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Plant Genetic Resource Centre (the regional gene bank), in Year 4.

Another achievement in supporting farmers with continued access to good quality seeds was the initiation of a seed multiplication centre in Peru as Ch'uya Muku S.R.L ('clean seeds' in the Quechua language) in October 2018. Using the sandphonics technique, the centre was able to produce clean, healthy, disease free potato tubers.



Example page of Illustrated Facilitators' Field Guide.

MAINSTREAMING TOOLS AND METHODS

SD=HS places small-holder farmers in a central position in setting the goals of their FFS and in the field implementation of the FFS. The role of breeders and staff from agricultural extension services, who consistently provide technical support and breeding materials, is essential in achieving the FFS outcomes. As a key contribution to *mainstreaming of the gender sensitive PPB concepts (Outcome P1.2)*, SD=HS consolidated a pool of 14 master trainers in Zimbabwe, that are indispensable in the scaling-up and scaling-out of the programme.

Furthermore, in Year 4, SD=HS has trained over 640 facilitators in the four countries. The master trainers are responsible for the training of FFS facilitators, who in turn provide support to large numbers of FFSs running simultaneously in a number of communities. The engagement of local extension officers in the organization and implementation of the season-long FFS (as master trainers and facilitators), as well as the adoption of FFSs on PGR approach and concepts in the planning of key government agencies,¹⁵ has demonstrated the sustainability of the SD=HS approach. In Zimbabwe, FFSs on PGR are acknowledged by CBI, the CGIAR centres, ICRISAT and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) as a key venue for evaluation of their breeding products.

BROADENING THE PROGRAMME'S OUTREACH

Further evidence on scaling-up is the diffusion of farmers' varieties beyond SD=HS sites, in Year 4. In Laos, building on earlier projects on PPB for rice supported by SEARICE¹⁶, two sticky-rice farmers' varieties have

been released as TDK 11 and TDK 8 respectively. These two varieties accounted for approximately 30% of rice production in Laos. In Year 5, provincial level certificates will be awarded to three farmer-varieties resulting from PPB activities. This official recognition at provincial level showed that farmers' varieties have become important production cultivars in provinces where these varieties are most adapted. In Vietnam, five promising farmers' rice varieties were planted in large areas in the Mekong Delta, while two modern rice varieties that resulted from farmers' PPB have fulfilled all requirements of national registration and have been officially released. To date, the seed clubs in Vietnam have produced around 190,000 tonnes of seeds from farmers' rice varieties. This covered around 30% of the total seed demand in the region and contributed to seed security for more than 2.8 million ha of rice growing areas. In Zimbabwe, the FFSs on PPB have started to diffuse new lines as farmers adapt cultivars from their FFS plots. In many wards in the Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe district, five new sorghum lines have spread and account for 30% of sorghum varieties planted in households' farms.

The SD=HS programme aims to mainstream its approach for sustainability and widespread impact. In Year 4, a video has been finalised to explain the six integrated pathways that are key to the SD=HS approach.¹⁷ In terms of knowledge management, two book chapters based on the experience of FFSs were drafted. The chapters will contribute to a book on farmer participation in plant breeding programs, initiated by the Norwegian University of Life Science and the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, to be published in 2018/19. Lessons from the provincial release in Laos and the breeding progress of maize, sorghum and pearl millet that were on the third year of PVS and PVE will be captured in technical reports in Year 5.

¹⁵ AGRITEX in Zimbabwe, the District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO) and its provincial counterpart (PAFO) in Laos, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and the Agricultural Extension Center (AEC) in Vietnam.

¹⁶ Biodiversity Use and Conservation in Asia Program (BUCAP) and Democratizing Agricultural Research and Extension (DARE) between 2006 to 2014

¹⁷ See: <https://www.sdhprogram.org/how-do-we-scale-up-our-work/>

Outputs in Year 4, contributing to *'Outcome P1.1 IPSHF have enhanced capacity to develop and implement innovative plant genetic resource (PGR) adaptation strategies, concept and tools, integrating traditional and scientific knowledge*. All of the outputs in this overview were according to or exceeding the annual planning for Year 4.

Laos:

- 70 varieties of food and cash crops distributed for increased crop diversity of the target communities
- 90 segregating rice lines provided for participatory plant breeding (PPB), 35 rice varieties and 35 commercial crop varieties introduced for participatory varietal selection (PVS)
- Compared with the start of SD=HS, 2017 saw an increase in the crop diversity portfolio in the communities. Farmers cultivated between 25 and 250% more varieties for each major crop

Peru:

- 387 repatriated varieties of native potatoes were sown
- FFS farmers in Mapaccocha evaluated 21 varieties of potatoes for late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) testing (In collaboration with the International Potato Centre (CIP) and Institute for Agricultural Innovations (INIA))
- FFSs in the community in Rosaspata completed the first phase of positive selection and selected the best 100 cobs

Mekong Delta:

- 35 rice varieties distributed for PVS
- 30 segregating populations distributed (by the Mekong Delta Institute) for PPB, resulting in the multiplication and further use of 32 rice varieties, of which 5 were planted over large areas in the Mekong Delta. Some of the released varieties were also subjected to seed certification
- 10 local rice varieties were subjected to participatory variety evaluation (PVE)
- Several varieties of the crops maize (7), mung bean (6) and sesame (10) have been provided for PVS

Zimbabwe:

- FFSs tested 160 lines and populations from the Crop Breeding Institute (CBI) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

For the six major crops (sorghum, pearl millet, groundnut, cowpea, bambara nuts and maize), Year 4 saw a positive increase of the varietal diversity for each crop cultivated in farmers' fields, ranging from 50% for groundnut and cowpea to 200% for sorghum and pearl millet. This concurs with many studies that sorghum and pearl millet fit better to the semi-arid condition of Zimbabwe, with high temperatures and low or unstable rainfall, due to their drought-tolerant traits. As such, both crops have adaptive advantage and lower risk of failure than other cereals in such environments.

IMPLEMENTATION OF FARMERS' RIGHTS

SD=HS efforts to promote the implementation of Farmers' Rights have had varying success, contributing to *Outcome P.1. Engaging farmers in policy change*. In Laos, for example, the program partners held a two-day national workshop for all members of the drafting committee working on the country's first national seed policy. With contributions from experts, testimonials from several FFS farmers and collaborative group work targeting various aspects of the proposed policy, the drafting committee made considerable changes to reflect the importance of farmers' seed systems and Farmers' Rights. In Vietnam, on the contrary, the newly proposed Crop Improvement Law threatens to undermine the main policy achievements from the past decade by centralizing all variety release and seed certification procedures, which may put a hold on the current practice of seed clubs producing and selling seed of PPB varieties at the provincial level. Despite multiple workshops and advocacy efforts, and strong support from district and provincial level administrators, the draft Crop Improvement Law has been submitted for adoption unchanged. Partners in Peru conducted a national workshop on the implementation of Article 11 of the National Seed Law that aimed to develop the national action plans through which the draft content of the proposed seed law was presented. Farmers' representatives provided inputs to this draft based on their work, perspectives of the farmers' seed systems and the challenges they face. In Year 5, Asociación ANDES jointly with INIA, will focus on developing a legislative proposal to protect native seeds under the article 11.

REFLECTING ON PLANNING WITH RESPECT TO THE AGRICULTURAL SEASON

A lesson learned this year is the importance attached to the training of trainers – specifically, the clustered ToTs. The implementation of clustered ToTs would allow better

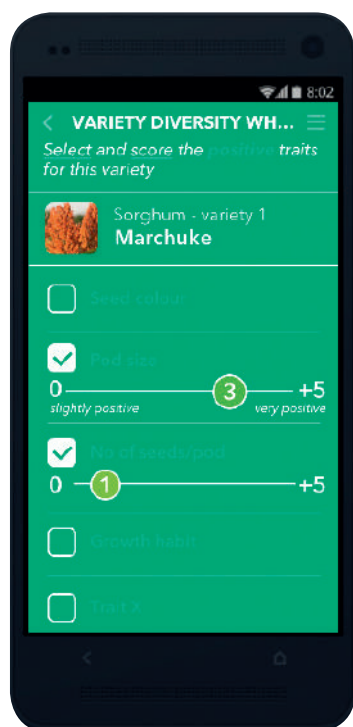
planning and a system of monitoring and support in the organization and management of the FFSs. The missed opportunity to carry out a three-day clustered ToT in Zimbabwe resulted in an insufficient number of breeding materials to allow re-sowing and limited support to the FFSs to better manage the serious delay of the onset of the rainy season this year. The clustered ToT is now incorporated in Year 5 planning for Zimbabwe and will be implemented prior to the 2018/19 cropping season. This will involve 25 master trainers, divided into four groups or clusters, who will train a total of 120 lead farmers. This will strengthen the morale of a community of FFS facilitators.

The case in Zimbabwe reflected the reality of farming communities as well as the meticulous planning required in FFSs on PGR. Any problem encountered in the management of seed (untimely availability and sowing, insufficient seed volume for two or three times replanting) could have major implications for the entire cropping season (and to the communities' food security and livelihoods). The institutional aspect of FFS organization, including the management and planning, will be strengthened through the inclusion of a guideline for facilitators to manage breeding materials at FFS level, for each of the breeding approaches.

CASE STUDY: DIGITAL DIVERSITY WHEEL

The SD=HS Diversity Wheel enables farmers to identify the diversity of crops and varieties in their community and it has become a key diagnostic tool for farmers to define the traits of crop varieties that are most valued for subsistence, livelihood, or social and cultural values. The wealth of knowledge coming out from the Diversity Wheel exercise has so far been captured in notebooks by the FFS facilitators. In Year 4, SD=HS developed a Digital Diversity Wheel, thanks to the Oxfam Novib innovation fund. Through this innovation

project, SD=HS developed an interactive, user-friendly, mobile application version that can help farmers to: 1) document over time, the changes in their crops and varieties, and breeding objectives, and use this as a decision-making tool for future agricultural planning and/or a way to articulate their preferences to breeders and policy makers; 2) access information on the best possible matches of varieties and traits from FFSs located in other parts of the country (and use this to obtain new breeding material i.e. seed exchange). During 2017–18, the App was tested in 30 FFSs in Zimbabwe and improved with inputs from farmers. The primary target group of the App is the FFS participants. In Year 5, the App will allow (non-FFS) farmers and other App users (breeders, research institutes) to access and exchange general information with other communities about crops and trait preferences for specific growing environments. Year 5 will also see more work going into the intellectual



Example slide from Digital Diversity Wheel application.

property rights, such as privacy and ownership and protection of data entered by farmers.

PILLAR 2: FARMER SEED ENTERPRISES

Geographic focus: Zimbabwe

Pillar 2 objective: ***Enhancing the livelihoods and seed security of IPSHF by producing and marketing high-quality and diverse seeds through public-private partnerships.***

Good quality seeds that are adapted to complex and variable conditions are key for productive and resilient farming systems. While informal seed systems are dynamic and flexible, they face problems of varietal purity, seed health and yield stability. In contrast, the formal seed system fails to supply cost-effective adapted seeds of diversified varieties in rural areas. An example of how SD=HS managed to bridge this gap successfully is the Zimbabwean cooperative Champion Seeds, a Farmer Seed Enterprise (FSE) which was officially opened by Oxfam Novib's Executive Director Farah Karimi in September 2017 (See case study: Official launch of Champion Seeds).

In Year 4, Champion Seeds successfully followed through with production in its first year of operation and commenced its second growing season in line with its business plan.

STAFF FORMATION AND PEOPLE INVOLVED

Champion Seeds' organisational governance structures were successfully put in place and the FSE is now governed by a Board of Directors¹⁸ that

¹⁸ This board is made up of five farmers who are the chairs of the five grower associations in Mutoko, Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe, Mudzi, Murehwa and Tsholotsho and four technical persons who are specialists in seed technology, policy and legislation, marketing and seed business development and business leadership.

provides strategic direction and guidance. Not without challenges,¹⁹ key staff are on board at Champion Seeds and headed by a seed expert. The team however remains lean and throughout the year support from CTDT staff contributed significantly to the achievements of the organization.

Concrete steps have been taken to increase Champion Seeds' operational autonomy²⁰ from CTDT. In early 2018, Champion Seeds instituted operational and financial procedures effectively improving the efficiency of the enterprise, however further capacity building is needed. A joint CTDT and Oxfam Novib management committee continues to oversee line management of FSE, supporting the transition of the organisation.

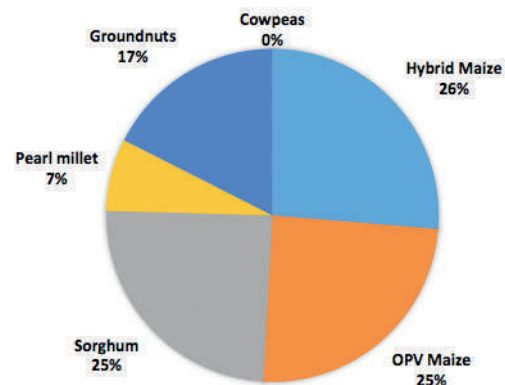
Gender equity remains a key feature of Champion Seeds' capacity building efforts, the results of which has been the engagement of more women farmers than men. Within the period 899 farmers (67% (617) were women) have been trained. Beyond seed production training, farmers have also been supported to formalise their association governance structures.

SEED CERTIFICATION

In its first year of operations, 99% of farmers' seed passed seed certification requirements; an impressive result of the joint training and good collaboration between Champion Seeds, CTDT and government agencies. During the growing season 2016/17, Champion Seeds produced and packaged 148 tonnes of certified

Champion Seeds 2016/17 Product Mix

Source: Champion Seeds



seeds of which 93% (134 tonnes) was successfully sold. The organisation's product mix consisted of certified seed of maize, sorghum, pearl millet and groundnuts (see Figure 1). The organisation's seed producers²¹ have been trained²² in the technical skills of seed production, a collaboration between the organisation, CTDT, the government Seed Services agency and Agritex.

Champion Seeds has developed a marketing strategy that supported sales success. Demonstration plots, field days and seed fairs remain important avenues for marketing the FSE's products, resulting in some 2,850 farmers being exposed to Champion seeds' products.

Timely access to planting material continues to be a challenge for the FSE. Strengthened relationships between Champion Seeds and national breeding

¹⁹ Champion Seeds experienced a gap in leadership in the last quarter of 2017, and in January 2018 the Seed Expert resigned. Champion Seeds is currently being led by an interim seed expert following unsuccessful attempts to recruit a suitable replacement. The difficulty in filling the position is a direct consequence of the relatively short contract period that could be offered. Positive changes that strengthened the Pillar's work were the employment of a Marketing Agronomist Officer and Project Seed Support Officer as part of the Champion Seeds team.

²⁰ A memorandum of understanding between the two entities facilitates the management of the grant funds; with more autonomy Champion Seeds has the opportunity to work more efficiently.

²¹ For the 2017 -2018 seed production year which started in October 2017, Champion Seeds expanded its operations by contracting a total of 899 seed growers in five districts, up from the three districts where seed production took place in the 2016/17 season.

²² The training included compliance with the stringent requirements of the national Seeds Act and accompanying enabling regulations contained in the Seed Regulations and Seed (Certification Scheme) Notice 2000, which requires any crop grown for purposes of being classified as seed to be inspected at least three times during the growing season before it can be certified for sale in Zimbabwe.



The Official Launch of Champion Farmer Seeds Cooperative in Harare, on 9 September 2017. From left (Ministry's Permanent Secretary Mr. Ringson Chitsiko, Oxfam Novib Executive Director Farah Karimi, Director of CTD Dr. Joseph M. Mushonga). Photo: Oxfam in Zimbabwe

institutions facilitates access to breeder and foundation seed, however quality and availability issues prevail due to capacity constraints within the respective organisations. To address these quality issues, particularly with open-pollinated variety (OPV) foundation seeds, Champion Seeds has begun producing its own foundation seed on a small scale. Supply of OPV maize foundation seed is a potential future market for the organisation, however this would necessitate securing its own land for parent seed multiplication under irrigation and qualified specialised management. Linkages with Agritex and Seed Services continue to be invaluable support for farmer capacity building on the technical aspects of seed production.

REFLECTING ON THE CHAMPIONS SEEDS MODEL

Establishing a viable seed enterprise requires time, human resources skills, good institutional relationships, capital and financial investment. While it has a promising future, Champion Seeds still has some way to go to meet its objectives as a viable business, a social enterprise and facilitating farmers' access to diverse seeds adapted for the local agro-ecological and culture. On the business end, challenges experienced related to human resource constraints, transport to sufficiently support the sales and distribution of the organisation's products and managing cashflow constraints. As Champion Seeds expands its operations, further challenges

that will need to be addressed relate to the processing and warehousing of the projected increasingly larger seed quantities. A further challenge will be fulfilling its social mandate while reaching profitability. It will be crucial for the FSE to maintain its ambition to empower small-holder farmers economically as shareholders, seed producers and grain producers, and to give farmers – particularly women farmers – the opportunity to own and control one of the key inputs for crop production. At the end of this programme period Champion Seeds will have only had two growing seasons. While the lessons learned will be useful, they will only be indicative. A longer period of operation will provide more meaningful lessons for future programming. In Year 5, Champion Seeds will have achieved two years of production and have commenced its third year of operations. In Phase 2 of the programme, the lessons learned from the Champion Seeds model will serve as the evidence base for more vigorous FSE policy engagement in Zimbabwe. A continued focus in Year 5 will be to further strengthen the organisation and further develop capacity at the level of the farmers.

CASE STUDY: OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF CHAMPION SEEDS

The official launch of Champion Farmer Seeds was held on the 9 September 2017 in Zimbabwe. Champion Seeds was officially launched by the Minister of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development then, Dr Joseph Made represented by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary Mr. Ringson Chitsiko. Oxfam Novib Executive Director Ms. Farah Karimi, the Director of CTDT Andrew Mushita, SD=HS Programme Leader Gigi Manicad, representatives from CIMMYT, ICRISAT and several government department heads also took part in the launch.

PILLAR 3: WOMEN, SEEDS AND NUTRITION

Geographic focus: Zimbabwe, Peru, Vietnam, Myanmar

Pillar 3 objective: ***Empower women to reclaim their role in food security by strengthening their capacity in seed management, nutrition and global policy engagement, enabling them to claim their right to food.***

In Year 4, considerable progress was made towards the empowerment of women farmers to enhance their knowledge, access and use of biodiverse sources of nutrition: through the successful implementation of participatory tools, FFS activities and training, and establishment of women-led networks and CSBs (See textbox 'Outcome P3.1').

PARTICIPATORY DIAGNOSTIC STAGE

The participatory diagnostic phase of the Pillar 3 FFS curriculum was completed for all countries, where farmers prioritized Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) according to locally defined criteria of importance and identified the main bottlenecks to their use. Farmers and partners identified FFS objectives, working drafts of the country specific FFS curriculum were ready for implementation and included lessons learned. Existing FFSs were maintained and improved, new facilitators were trained and new FFSs were established.

All countries provided training on nutrition, and organized workshops and cooking demonstrations on food preparation for improving the palatability of NUS. The success of the training on women's empowerment was clearly demonstrated in the case of Peru, where FFS members participated independently in a gastronomy contest organized by the municipality, and came first. In Myanmar and Vietnam, as result of Pillar 3 activities, women farmers started to diversify their home gardens. In Zimbabwe, training on seed dormancy, which was

Outputs in Year 4, contributing to *Outcome P3.1 Women farmers are empowered to enhance their knowledge, access and use of bio diverse sources of nutrition, contributing to building stronger seed systems of important nutritional crops (NUS) for household food security.*

FFS (Pillar 3) established so far:

- In Peru 6 FFS on NUS and nutrition (out of 8 planned for Year 4), 79% of the participants were women
- In Zimbabwe, 40 women led FFSs were active (out of 40 planned for Year 4)
- In Myanmar 20 FFS were active by the end of Year 4 (out of 40 planned)
- In Vietnam 26 FFS were active by the end of Year 4 (out of 50 planned), with the participation of a total of 780 farmers with an average of 71% women participants

Training sessions on NUS, nutrition and gender:

- In Peru a total of 53 FFS sessions were held, with the direct involvement of 900 households
- In Zimbabwe, 7 cooking demonstrations were organised with the participation of 320 women and 63 men
- In Myanmar, 20 women leaders from 10 FFS villages attended a training in nutrition
- In Vietnam 12 women leaders were trained on the role of NUS at community level, and 22 women leaders participated in a similar training at provincial level. A total of 7,221 Vietnamese households were informed about the nutritional value of local biodiversity and NUS in Year 4

identified by farmers as a major constraint for the use of NUS, was conducted before the start of the rain season alongside germination tests. This helped the establishment of demonstration plots for the FFS season studies. A study was conducted in the same country to capture traditional knowledge and practices on the role of women in the conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity, to inform future FFS activities.

CONSERVING, EXCHANGING AND USING NUS

The conservation and exchange of NUS seeds through the establishment of four women-led networks at district level in Zimbabwe was a key seed management strategy to address the poorly developed seed systems of prioritised nutritious crops. Participating women shared knowledge and received training on the selection and storage of NUS. In addition, the platform facilitated the transmission of traditional knowledge between older and younger generations. For instance, while

girls learned about harvesting of leaves and cooking NUS, boys learned about wild fruit collection from their grandparents. Ten women-led groups were also organized at local and regional level in Myanmar as part of the FFS. This facilitated the sharing of experiences, seed exchange and *on farm* research activities.

In situ CSBs of NUS and local vegetables were successfully established in Zimbabwe and Myanmar, showcasing their importance for building stronger seed systems of important nutritional crops for household food security. In Zimbabwe, farmers followed training on germplasm collection, seed storage and conservation. Agro-biodiversity registers were established, and seven exchange visits were conducted to strengthen local seed bank management capacities. Joint germplasm collection missions were conducted, together with staff from the National Gene Bank of Zimbabwe, for local crops and indigenous vegetables, with a total of 933 samples.

Outputs in Year 4, contributing to *Outcome P3.2 Women farmers share their gained knowledge and innovative bio-diverse nutrition strategies, concepts and tools with other communities.*

Farmer Field Days were successfully organised in Zimbabwe (9 field days) and Vietnam

Food and seed fairs:

- In Zimbabwe, a total of 95 farmers (87% women) displayed local dishes based on NUS, with the attendance of 812 farmers (66% women) in 13 fairs organised at district level. In addition, one seed and food fair was organized at national level during the official opening of Chimukoko Community Seed Bank, where 120 farmers showcased their food and seed diversity. Farah Karimi, Executive Director of Oxfam Novib, opened the Seed Bank.
- In Myanmar, a total of 528 people participated in six seed fairs organized at township level, and 190 people in 2 regional seed fairs.

- A seed fair was also organised in Vietnam, with the participation of 90 farmers (78% women) who showcased the NUS species planted in their FFS study plots and other NUS growing in their home gardens.

Training of farmers on filming to developing video diaries.

Publications:

- A technical handbook “NUS Cultivation Guide” was published in Vietnam, where it was distributed to FFS participants, agricultural extension staffs, and cooperating agencies.
- An article, prepared in collaboration with ICRAF (World Agroforestry Centre), was published in LEISA (Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture) magazine, based on the results of a study on the challenges and opportunities for accessing agro-ecological markets in Cusco, Peru

Tests were conducted to evaluate the seed quality, resulting in an 81% germination rate. In Myanmar, the project team provided access to NUS seeds when they were not available from fields and home yards. Women became very motivated on the importance of NUS for nutrition and started to exchange local NUS seed and propagule within their village and across villages.

DATA COLLECTION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING ON NUS

Data collection using the locally developed YupanApp for the ethnobotanical study of Geographical Information System NUS-data was finalised in Peru, and maps showing the seasonal variability, density and population

trends of NUS in the communities were developed. These maps are going to support the development of the NUS Conservation Strategy. The newly developed YupanApp has great potential to be applied in other sites and countries for monitoring the ecological distribution of important NUS, providing information for the sustainable management, use and conservation of these species.

During Year 4, women farmers successfully shared their gained knowledge and innovative biodiverse nutrition strategies, concepts and tools with other communities, through the implementation of radio programs, farmer field days, and food and seed fairs (See textbox ‘Outcome P3.2’).

Radio programs proved to be useful for providing information about the FFS workshops conducted as part of SD=HS in Peru. Farmer field days were organized in Zimbabwe, Myanmar and Vietnam where farmers showcased the FFS study plots and displayed local seeds, participated in cooking demonstrations with a focus on NUS, and visitors were encouraged to diversify their diet for better nutritional security while preserving agro-biodiversity. The development of food and seed fairs in Zimbabwe, Myanmar and Vietnam was successful for facilitating women's access to biodiverse sources for enhanced nutrition, and the creation of linkages that support the conservation and exchange of different types of seeds. Additionally, 95 farmers in Zimbabwe were trained to develop video diaries.

GLOBAL AWARENESS OF LOCAL BIODIVERSITY

Women farmers' knowledge and contribution served as catalysts of international awareness of biodiversity-based diets during Year 4. Major progress was also made in increasing their engagement in policy dialogue on claiming the Right to Food. For instance, woman farmer Sonia Quispe Tito from Peru participated in the 23rd United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (CoP 23) in Bonn, Germany. A side-event titled "Collaborating to scale up sustainable food systems in a changing climate" was co-organized as part of this event and Sonia gave a presentation. Another side-event on repatriation was organized by the Peruvian team during the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture CoP meeting in Kigali, Rwanda. A delegation of 23 representatives from the Potato Park and the Lares Park went to Lima, where they met with various ministries, shared proposals and made official requests concerning Farmers' Rights, infrastructure to support production and seed systems. In addition, ongoing collaboration with the International

Indigenous Maize Network focused on updating the content of the website and maintaining network activity. The engagement of farmers in policy dialogues and policy related events were also key activities in Vietnam and Myanmar. In Vietnam, three farmer leaders were invited to participate in the "International Experience Sharing and Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the Review of the Draft Crop Production Law of Vietnam". Vietnamese partners also participated in the preparation of the national strategy for food and nutrition security, and supported the review of the draft Crop Production Law to include agricultural biodiversity conservation, and the recognition, development and promotion of farmers' seed systems and Farmers' Rights. In Myanmar, about 100 people participated in national events where women's groups from each FFS village exhibited NUS. As part of these events, three women leaders shared their knowledge of NUS, seeds and nutrition based on their FFS experience.

Policy makers also participated in Pillar 3 activities. Representatives from the Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, as well as Women Affairs, were present at the food and seed fairs. Local community leaders, authorities and policy makers participated in the seed fair and field days organized in Vietnam, including representatives from the Commune People's Committee, Women's Union and Farmers' Union in Commune. The seed fair provided an ideal platform for discussion among farmers and policy makers about the quality and prices of seeds. Two seed forums were organized in Myanmar with the participation of representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Department of Health. The objective of these forums was not only to exhibit 84 seed varieties but also to facilitate discussions about sustainable seed exchange, NUS conservation and the role of women in nutrition. Farmer-

policy maker dialogues also took place in Myanmar during field days. In Peru, the second Biocultural Festival took place in Lares where communities presented and shared their traditional knowledge, practices and skills acquired during FFSs.

Finally, a total of 36 women leaders from Myanmar participated in two key training events, one on leadership and management, and the other on social mobilization. The training aimed at giving them the necessary tools to strengthen their participation in local governance processes in relation to seeds and nutrition.

REFLECTING ON THE PLANNING OF ACTIVITIES

Some activities that were planned for Year 4 were carried over to Year 5. This is mainly due to the gap period in Pillar 3 leadership at global level. For instance, the publication of a briefing note based on the consolidated baseline findings, the FFS global methodological framework for Pillar 3, and the international policy brief on nutrition, NUS and biodiversity. Recipes based on NUS have already been compiled in Peru, Vietnam and Zimbabwe, and the respective cookbooks will also be published in Year 5. The NUS Conservation Strategy will be finished by ANDES once the Potato Park and Chalakuy Park are officially recognized as Agro-Biodiversity zones by the Peruvian Government. The creation of women's seed networks to engage in barter markets, based on the analysis of seed systems through FFS in Peru, was also postponed to Year 5. The analysis of the policy landscape regarding food, women and nutrition will take place in Phase 2.

CASE STUDY: NANG KHAM YONE

"I am Nang Kham Yone, 29 years old. I live in Kho Hant village, Hopong Township, Southern Shan State. My family has five members. This is the first time I ever

joined a programme like SD=HS. During the starting Phase I was selected as the Chairperson for the Farmer Field School in our village because the other members of the team saw that I am confident in talking to other people. I led every meeting and selected the participants for training organised in other villages. Throughout the programme I learned a lot of things, and the knowledge and skills I gained – such as how to prepare a nutritious diet for my family – were very useful for my family. Before joining the program, I used to prepare food just 'to fill-in our stomach', but now I prepare meals thinking about the proper nutrition of my family. I used to buy vegetables in the market in the past, but now I am growing my own food in our home garden and collecting some wild food plants from the forest."

PILLAR 4: GOVERNANCE AND KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

Geographic focus: Global

Pillar 4 objective: ***Strengthen the capacities and knowledge base of developing countries and their IPSHF to secure national and global legislation and policies for the full implementation of Farmers' Rights and everyone's right to food.***

PROMOTING FARMERS' RIGHTS FROM LOCAL PRACTICES TO GLOBAL POLICIES AND VICE VERSA

Small-holder farmers and indigenous communities hardly have a voice in discussions on policies and regulations, while these have effects on, and can hamper, their daily management of plant genetic resources. SD=HS aims to empower small-holder farmers to participate in the policy-making processes that affect them.

A great example of this local-to-global advocacy in the past year was SD=HS Zimbabwean lead farmer Marjory

Jeke's opening speech for all delegates of the 7th meeting of the Governing Body (GB7) of the International Treaty in Kigali, Rwanda (see case study: Spokeswomen Farmer's Rights).²³ Marjory's speech was accompanied by several SD=HS side events, a photo exhibit of farmers from Laos and Zimbabwe, and lobby activities to make the global policymakers more aware of the urgent needs that small-holder farmers face in their daily fight against climate change. The SD=HS program submission and briefing note,²⁴ with clear recommendations on how countries can support the implementation of Farmers' Rights, was endorsed by the governments of Zimbabwe, Bhutan, Laos, Peru, Indonesia and Bolivia.²⁵ These advocacy efforts led to the adoption of a resolution establishing a technical expert group on Farmers' Rights, which will develop options for guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights.²⁶

One aspect of Farmers' Rights is the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the utilisation of plant genetic resources developed and conserved by small-holder farmers over millennia, which is one of the objectives of the FAO Treaty. It is, however, unclear whether and how benefit-sharing obligations will be triggered when companies use the 'Digital Sequence Information' instead of the actual plant material in their product development. SD=HS partners contributed to having this topic put firmly on the agenda of GB7. Earlier, this had already happened in the context of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)²⁷

and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), where SD=HS partner Third World Network is a member of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources.²⁸ SD=HS partners (South Centre, Third World Network, Oxfam Novib) were also highly involved – through reports and as members of various working groups – in the discussions regarding the enhancement of the functioning of the Treaty's multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing, but opinions remain strongly divided and no concrete results were achieved.²⁹

STRENGTHENING FARMERS' RIGHTS VIS-À-VIS PLANT BREEDERS' RIGHTS

In order to strengthen Farmers' Rights vis-à-vis the intellectual property rights of breeders and seed companies, SD=HS continued its advocacy work on several levels: ON is working in partnership with the private seed sector to create more space for small-holder farmers within the international Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) 1991 Convention and saw some of its recommendations being picked up by some UPOV members.³⁰ In parallel, Third World Network and SC co-organized an international capacity building workshop, which informed over 40 policymakers from countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia about the possibilities of establishing an alternative Plant Variety Protection (PVP) system.³¹ Both trajectories aim to promote a PVP system that takes into account the rights of small-holder farmers to use, exchange and trade farm-saved seed of any variety, including those protected by the intellectual property rights of seed companies, because these

23 <https://www.sdhsprogram.org/publications/opening-statement-of-7th-governing-body-meeting-of-the-international-treaty-on-plant-genetic-resources-for-food-and-agriculture-by-marjory-jeke/>

24 <https://www.sdhsprogram.org/publications/the-power-to-exercise-choice-implementing-farmersrights-to-eradicate-poverty-and-adapt-to-climate-change-briefing-note/>

25 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bs791e.pdf>

26 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv102e.pdf>

27 <http://www.fao.org/cgrfa/topics/digital-sequence-information/en/>

28 <https://www.cbd.int/abs/dsi-gr/ahteg.shtml>

29 See e.g. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mt935e.pdf>

30 See the inputs from Norway, Ecuador and the European Seed Association in http://www.upov.int/edocs/mdocs/upov/en/cc_93/cc_93_5.pdf.

31 See: https://www.publiceye.ch/fileadmin/files/documents/Saatgut/PlantVariety_English_complete.pdf

practices are the main source of seed for the majority of small-holder farmers in developing countries.³²

Similar advocacy work targeting the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) has remained challenging due to the non-transparent and inaccessible policy process. To counter this situation, Third World Network contributed to an open letter being sent by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food requesting the ARIPO members not to endorse the PVP Protocol and its draft regulations. Instead, she urged them “to begin a new process that is transparent, evidence based and inclusive of civil society and small-holder farmer representatives (...) and to develop a new legal framework that (...) reflects the needs and interests especially of farmer managed seeds systems in the ARIPO region.”³³ Despite this letter, the regulations were quietly adopted with no revisions or consultations taking place.

The research on the current practice of patenting plant genetic material in the global South will be finalised in Year 5 and the international workshop to discuss the findings and future advocacy strategies will take place on 16–18 October 2018. Also, many of the SD=HS partners and other organizations have indicated a need to learn more about the possibilities of drafting and implementing seed laws that are conducive to the needs and realities of small-holder farmers and the seed systems they operate in. For that purpose, a big international workshop in Uganda will be organized on the topic of registration and certification of farmer varieties at the end of 2018.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITIES FOR NEW TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

One other important component of SD=HS is to improve the knowledge and capacities of policymakers and other stakeholders regarding (new) technological developments and their (potential) impacts on small-holders and global food security. In this context, an interesting partnership has developed between ETC Group and approximately 300 small enterprises from the North American Natural Products Industry. These companies depend upon hundreds of flavour and fragrance crops and uncultivated species, which are almost entirely derived in the global South through small-holder producers and Indigenous Peoples. Now, these companies and small-scale producers are threatened by synthetic biology developments that could move production from the field into factories in industrialised countries impacting \$28 billion worth of small-holder exports per annum.³⁴ Together, they aim to protect their reputation as providers of “natural” products, challenge the safety of synthetic biology products, and promote the rights of small-holder producers. ETC has produced an ingredients database identifying the natural products and their sources that are under threat from synthetic biology. This database was developed as an educational resource for consumers, policy-makers and manufacturers of consumer products to shed light on how widely synthetic biology techniques are being used to make everyday ingredients.³⁵ Some reports the program partners have produced or contributed to in Year 4, to improve the knowledge and capacities of stakeholders to influence seed and food systems and related national and international policies, are: 1) “To Big to Feed”,³⁶ exploring the impacts of

32 See Oxfam’s position paper: <https://www.sdhsprogram.org/publications/reconciling-farmers-and-plant-breeders-rights/>

33 https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Food/OpenLettertoARIPOMemberStates_24.11.2016.docx

34 <http://www.synbiowatch.org/flavour/>

35 <http://database.synbiowatch.org/>

36 http://www.ipes-food.org/images/Reports/Concentration_FullReport.pdf



Marjory Jeke at GB7. Photo: ISSD

the mega-mergers and concentration of power in the agri-food sector; 2) the “Who Will Feed Us” report and animation,³⁷ analysing the social and climate impacts of the peasant food web versus the industrial food chain; 3) the “Bad Big Fix”,³⁸ which makes the case against climate geo-engineering; and 4) a 40-minute documentary video³⁹ and short animation⁴⁰ on “Seeds in resistance”, explaining local seed management and paying tribute to all those that defend native seeds as the basis of peoples’ food sovereignty in Latin America. In the first

two months of its publication, the short animation was already viewed by more than 100,000 people via Vimeo, YouTube and GRAIN’s website.

CASE STUDY: SPOKESWOMEN FARMER’S RIGHTS

On 30 October 2017, Marjory Jeke, lead farmer from one of the program’s FFS in Zimbabwe, presented her keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 7th Governing Body meeting of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in Kigali, Rwanda. In front of the 144 member countries, including the Minister of Agriculture of Rwanda and the Secretary of the Treaty, she described her experiences from the FFSs, the seed fairs and CSBs and asked the delegates for their support in assisting farmers to “keep the rich

³⁷ <http://www.etcgroup.org/content/who-will-feed-us-industrial-food-chain-vs-peasant-food-web>

³⁸ <http://www.etcgroup.org/content/big-bad-fix>

³⁹ <https://www.grain.org/es/article/entries/5740-el-colectivo-de-semillas-de-america-latina-presenta-el-documental-semillas-bien-comun-o-propiedad-corporativa>

⁴⁰ <https://www.grain.org/article/entries/5915-seeds-in-resistance>

crop diversity in their hands (...) for ourselves and for the rest of the world now and in future”.⁴¹

A few weeks later, Sonia Quispe Ttito from the community of Choquecancha (Peru) spoke at a side-event during the 23rd session of the CoP to the UN Convention on Climate Change. In her statement, she acknowledged that she was “worried about the world my children will inherit” and described the changes in weather patterns and the challenges this causes for her and other people in her community.⁴²

These testimonies are great examples of how the SD=HS program empowers small-holder farmers and indigenous communities to participate in policy-making processes that affect them. By making their voices heard, these women contribute to the development of a policy environment that strengthens Farmers’ Rights and supports the farmers’ seed systems they operate in.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Overall, SD=HS is on track with its project implementation. The activities for Pillars 1, 2 and 4 were executed as scheduled in the Year 4 annual plan to reach their respective objectives. Especially after the implementation of the successful scaling-up strategy in Pillar 1, several activities exceeded the initial expectations that were set at the start of the Programme. In Pillar 3, there are some delays, mostly due to the Pillar 3 Lead position that was vacant for 6 months. Most Pillar 3 activities that could not take place in Year 4 are planned to take place in Year 5. We expect that the objectives for all Pillars will be met at the end of Year 5.

⁴¹ <https://www.sdhsprogram.org/publications/opening-statement-of-7th-governing-body-meeting-of-the-international-treaty-on-plant-genetic-resources-for-food-and-agriculture-by-marjory-jeke/>

⁴² <https://www.sdhsprogram.org/sdhs-side-event-at-cop23-in-bonn/>



Photo from the Behind the Barcodes campaign in the Netherlands. Photo: Oxfam

3. GROW CAMPAIGN

This chapter focuses on those activities and accomplishments of the GROW campaign during the reporting period to which Sida made a direct contribution. Sida's contribution builds upon and strengthens Oxfam International's GROW campaign, which has focused since 2011 on policies at local to global level on climate change, land rights and agricultural investment. The Sida contribution is allocated to the first two spearheads. These policies are reflected in each of the Sida GROW objectives:

- Specific objective 1: building a multi-stakeholder movement
- Specific objective 2: improving global policies and governance
- Specific objective 3: improving national policies and governance, as well as linking these with global level campaigning.

Oxfam uses a multi-strategy approach in its campaigns, combining research, alliance-building, media outreach,

public actions and direct engagement with stakeholders. Moreover, it tries to link local, regional, national and global issues in order to accomplish coherent campaigning grounded in the realities of its ultimate beneficiaries.

Due to the reduction of Sida funds for the period 2016–17, Oxfam had to reprioritize the GROW campaign, taking into account the lessons learned from the GROW evaluation 2013–15 (which served as a midterm review for the Sida grant). This resulted in a revised logical framework for the period of 2016–17 as submitted to Sida in July 2016, with an explanation of which areas were deprioritized. The logical framework was linked to Oxfam's GROW advocacy objectives 2016–19 as the latter serves as the thematic framework for the campaign. The bridge grant for the calendar year 2018 from Sida builds on the choices made in 2016 and below, an overview is provided of how Sida funds were planned in relation to these objectives.

OXFAM GROW ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES 2016–19	SIDA SUPPORT TO GROW FOR APRIL 2017–MARCH 2018 TOWARDS:	UNDER SIDA OBJECTIVE
1. By 2019, there will be an increase in the quantity and quality of international public financial support from both Northern and Southern donors for both small-scale sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation.	- Global advocacy on UNFCCC process on climate finance/adaptation - Agricultural investment for small-scale food producers	2
2. By 2019, there will be an increase in the quantity and quality of domestic public financial support in three countries for both small-scale sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation.	-GROW campaign of Pakistan	3
3. By 2019, at least three actors in the financial sector will be investing more in sustainable renewable energy projects than in fossil fuels, and/or will have adopted policies and practices that protect and promote women's and communities' land rights, [while being held accountable to communities in at least five cases through access to justice.]	- Global advocacy on land rights implications of International Finance Intermediaries (IFIs) lending to financial intermediaries	2

OXFAM GROW ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES 2016–19	SIDA SUPPORT TO GROW FOR APRIL 2017–MARCH 2018 TOWARDS:	UNDER SIDA OBJECTIVE
4. By 2019, policy and practice changes will be adopted by three governments and/or international bodies to protect and secure the land rights of women and marginalised communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global advocacy on SDG land rights indicators at the High level Political Forum (HLPF) - Support to Land Rights Now public campaigning (Earth day) - GROW campaign of Uganda 	1,2 & 3
5. By 2019, five private sector actors from the food sector will have set science-based targets to reduce their supply chain emissions, and/or made commitments that recognise and safeguard the land rights of women and communities across their supply chains, and/or taken steps that increase their supply chain transparency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indirect alignment 	N/A
6. By 2019, the EU's 2030 Climate and Energy Package will include correct GHG emissions accounting and binding sustainability criteria, in particular Free Prior and Informed Consent, so that the projected share of land-based bio-energy in achieving the EU's 2030 renewable energy target will be reduced to sustainable levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global advocacy on the EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED-II) & Emissions' Trading Scheme (ETS). 	2
7. By 2019, a new international climate-forced displacement and relocation coordination mechanism will be established (e.g. within the UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) on Loss and Damage).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global advocacy on the Task Force on Displacement of the WIM 	2
8. By 2019, policy changes in the rice sector that support the transition towards sustainable agriculture and resilient livelihoods will have been secured in two countries and amplified through engagement at the FAO Civil Society Forum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indirect alignment 	N/A
9. By 2019, at least two actors from the food retail sector will have made commitments that improve the rights of people working in their supply chains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global Behind the Barcode/Price (BtB/P) campaign - BtB/P campaign in Brazil - National advocacy in Vietnam 	1 & 3

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: BUILDING A STAKEHOLDER MOVEMENT

"In Thailand, over 90% of surveyed workers at seafood processing plants reported going without enough food in the previous month. Of those, 54% of the women workers said there had been no food to eat at home of any kind on several occasions in that time."

Taken from Oxfam report "Ripe for Change" (2018, p14)⁴³

OUTCOME 1.1 INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS AND CONSUMERS

To help build an influential, global multi-stakeholder movement focused on addressing and improving the broken food system.

Short term outcomes planned for 2017-18
At least 210,000 people take action in response to the public actions launched by Oxfam.

Oxfam was compelled to delay the launch of the Behind the Barcode/Price (BtB/P) and the first public action taking on a specific commodity (seafood) to influence retailers to address inequalities in the value chain. Hence, the outcomes set for the reporting period could not be met. The planned campaign launch on 19 March 2018 was postponed until 21 June due to the Haiti safeguarding crisis which gave rise to a new context in which Oxfam had to revise launch plans, campaign

materials and to lower its ambition in line with reduced

space to operate, legitimacy and budget. Despite the major challenges Oxfam had to deal with in overcoming the impact, it managed to launch this campaign on the 21 June 2018 (see box on page 42).

In the reporting period 2017-18, Oxfam made the bulk of the preparations for launching the campaign: taking the background research to produce a wide range of publications: one launch report telling the story of inequalities in value chains, supported 6 case studies, of which one on seafood. A number of countries wrote a national annex and there is an alternative business model report.⁴⁴

Furthermore, story gathering took place, a scorecard was built (covering 16 of the biggest and fastest growing supermarkets in Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) in consultation with experts and allies, and all the retailers invited to comment on the scorecard. The team also worked on public materials to support the launch in June 2018: a petition, a seafood video, infographics and social media posts and stories. Many countries have been engaged across the confederation, leading to 19 countries promoting the launch. Not all countries would be focusing on the first thematic public action following the launch (with a focus on worker rights in the seafood sector), but would rather use the launch to support their own national work, for example on milk in West Africa.

⁴³ https://d1tn3vj7xz9fdh.cloudfront.net/s3fs-public/file_attachments/cr-ripe-for-change-supermarket-supply-chains-210618-en.pdf

⁴⁴ For all reports, see: <https://indepth.oxfam.org.uk/behind-the-price/>

CASE STUDY: BEHIND THE BARCODE/PRICE

Following an extensive preparation period in Year 4, on 21 June 2018, Oxfam launched the Behind the Barcode/Price (BtB/P) in 19 countries that will serve as the GROW's private sector campaign in the years to come. The campaign will ask retailers as a focus group – but also traders and governments – to address inequality in food value chains, particularly as they impact women workers and producers (unfavourable working conditions including long working hours, low pay and high work pressure, which do not cover the costs of sustainable production). Oxfam is much concerned that those who grow and produce the food we eat are often at highest risk of going hungry themselves and will mobilise supporters to help change this. The campaign will ask for:

- An end to inhumane and dangerous working conditions
- Fair pay
- Safe and decent work for women



In line with the overall development in the Oxfam confederation, the BtB/P campaign has been developed in a much more decentralised way, with countries and affiliates setting the direction as opposed to a standalone global team. The ambition is genuine co-creation and opens opportunities for public campaigning with new audiences (especially in the global south) the expansion of our private sector campaigning (also in the global south), a deeper focus on urban consumer supporters (also in the global south), linking like-minded supporters in the global south and north to each other in a true worldwide movement and campaigning off the back of programme priorities.

At the time of submitting this report, the campaign was supported by over 50,000 supporters and Oxfam is in dialogue with several retailers on reforming their supply chain policies. The launch and the first commodity public action will be subject to an external review to draw lessons for improving its effectiveness for the remainder of the campaign. Oxfam will highlight the outcome of the evaluation in the final report to Sida, covering the period 2014–18.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ See for more info: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/behindtheprice>

Sida funds also made a contribution to the Land Rights Now (LRN) campaign, which initiated a range of public actions in the week of Earth day (22 April 2017). From 22–29 April, 42 diverse mobilisations in 30 countries took place calling upon decision makers to recognize secure community land rights as a key solution to climate change. Many more people joined the action online – 11,000 individuals signed up to join LRN, the Earth Day video⁴⁶ had 800,000 views and 5,000 signed the petition calling on President Temer of Brazil to protect indigenous land rights and the Amazon⁴⁷. Moreover, thousands of people engaged with featured stories from Guatemala, Kenya, Brazil and Taiwan.



REFLECTING ON PREVIOUS PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS

- Successes of (public) campaigning takes time to materialise. Though this is well-known and understood by Oxfam (see the risk management table), the delay between the campaign and tangible results was strikingly relevant when looking back to the past year. For example, reference is made to the progress made in settling land rights issues in Cambodia (four

years after the Behind the Brands), and both Perú and Sri Lanka see gains only now (both one year after the public action of the Fall 2016). One must consider that Oxfam and/or partners have been working for a much longer time on the land rights issue and that engaging publics for limited periods of time is part of a conscious strategy to help further debates and solutions.

- Related to the prior point, is the cost-effectiveness of joint campaigns with partners/allies having firm roots in local community. Forging (global) alliances for joint public campaigns requires a significant investment of staff time, both in starting up and sustaining it, but clearly pays off in the case of land rights now when considering the successes referred to above.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: GLOBAL LEVEL POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE

To effectively steer relevant stakeholders to improve global level policies and governance regarding climate change and its impact on food security, the land use rights of local communities and the negative impacts of biofuels on food security.

OUTCOME 2.1

The description of progress made under this chapter will take place along the two spearheads of the GROW campaign: climate change and land rights.

CLIMATE CHANGE

“Climate change is having far-reaching effects on agricultural productivity and food security. It is among the main reasons for the record numbers of people compelled to migrate from rural areas to towns and cities around the world. Importantly, the Paris Climate Change Agreement recognizes the

⁴⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4yA39ltjE8&feature=youtu.be>

⁴⁷ <http://www.landrightsnow.org/en/news/2017/04/21/rights-under-attack-indigenous-peoples-brazil-renewed-struggle-protect-amazon/>

need to protect vulnerable populations, including migrants, and establishes a dedicated task force to advance strategies that avert, minimize and address displacement related to climate change,”

UN Migration Director General William Lacy Swing ⁴⁸

Sida support to Oxfam’s GROW advocacy on climate change had two components in 2017–18. The first was Oxfam’s engagement in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The second was national and regional advocacy for the support of agricultural investment (in the context of climate change) to small-scale holders.

UNFCCC

As in previous years, Oxfam remains involved in the worldwide discourse on climate change by engaging with the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (CoP) and preceding intercessional). For 2017, the island state of Fiji served as chair of CoP23, with all negotiations hosted in Bonn, Germany. At both the main intersessional negotiation and the CoP, delegates from Oxfam Pacific, supported by Sida, were present to advocate for increasing finance for adaptation and loss and damage, and a rights-based approach to addressing climate-forced displacement and relocation. Sida funds were also allocated to ensure sound participation of Southern countries in the CoP with representatives from Dominican Republic and Uganda participating in the event.

In doing so Oxfam strengthened southern voices, both by strongly supporting Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN) in their communications work, and through prioritizing Oxfam in the Pacific and other southern

SHORT TERM OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2017–18

Oxfam forges alliances on climate (CAN) and Land (EuroIFI, NGO Forum on ADB, Global Call to Action on Land)

Global stakeholders incorporate Oxfam asks in their policy propositions. These concern:

- a) UNFCCC (adaptation finance and mitigation targets)
- b) European Union (ETS review)
- c) World Bank (Safeguards– revised safeguard on land and resettlement)
- d) IFC (reforms to financial intermediary lending), AIIB (progress on accountability mechanism, information disclosure policies), FMO (intermediary lending)
- e) Number of governments (including Netherlands & UK) take up propositions of Oxfam regarding land and climate in preparation of regional/global summits

colleagues as spokespersons at high level events and press conferences.

Prior to COP 23, Oxfam released the (non-Sida funded) “Uprooted by climate change: Responding to the growing risk of displacement”, ⁴⁹ revealing that 21.8 million people were reported newly internally displaced by sudden-onset extreme weather disasters on average each year between 2008 and 2016, with people in low- and lower middle- income countries around five times more likely to be affected than those in high-income countries. This paper was presented during the CoP at press conferences and tabled for discussion at side events (such as the high-level event for the UN Secretary General’s office and Women’s Perspectives on Climate

⁴⁸ <https://unfccc.int/news/climate-change-is-a-key-driver-of-migration-and-food-insecurity>

⁴⁹ <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/uprooted-climate-change>

Change Impacts hosted by PICAN and WGC⁵⁰ member DIVA for Equality Climate Catastrophe, Adaptation and Indigenous Peoples). The report attracted significant media attention with coverage from Le Monde, BBC World, Financial Times, Inside Climate News, The Guardian, Reuters, The Washington Post and national outlets in the Pacific, Australia, Brazil, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, Italy and Taiwan. Media mentions to Oxfam amounted to 3,782 times and was three times higher compared with the previous CoP.

In reflection, Oxfam's main contribution to CoP23 was raising the profile of human impacts of climate change in media coverage around the CoP, as well as advocating for finance for adaptation and Loss and Damage (L&D), a rights-based approach to climate-forced displacement and increased mitigation ambition. Oxfam did this together with allies and ensured the lack of progress on support for the poorest was part of Climate Action Network's verdict messaging.

L&D was considered a priority by national delegations in the run up to the CoP. Negotiations on the topic were challenging, with an agenda item on L&D finance disappearing initially, before civil society pressure – including Oxfam together with several developing countries – helped to bring it back. Ultimately progress on L&D finance was limited to agreement on an expert dialogue, to which advocacy from civil society contributed in support of G77/China members. Oxfam will continue to advocate for the need for adequate financing of L&D, although given the intransigence of developed countries in making new finance-related commitments. It will complement these efforts with advocacy on the principles and policies underpinning the global govern-

ance of climate-forced displacement and relocation. A key advocacy target in this regard will be to ensure that the recommendations to CoP24 of the Taskforce on Displacement of the Warsaw International Mechanism on L&D follow a rights-based approach.

For a number of years, Oxfam has played a lead role within civil society on climate finance, that equity, gender equality and human rights considerations are recognized and integrated notably in the principles and proceedings of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and that certain policy wins were realised on Loss & Damage and long-term goals on mitigation. In this reporting period, Oxfam focused much more on the need to address impacts of climate change, as reflected in the negotiations around L&D. The renewed attention on climate change and its impact on migration is expected to gain in significance in the international climate discourse. Oxfam has a niche to influence this discourse by bringing its experience in humanitarian relief (Rights in Crisis campaign) to climate campaigning under GROW.

EUROPEAN UNION

Oxfam continued its constructive advocacy efforts towards the Parliament of the European Union (EP) in advance of votes on EU 2030 policy and legislation (RED II), i.e. the EP Environment Committee, EP Industry Committee, Energy Council of Ministers, EP Plenary in coordination with EU affiliates and allies.⁵¹ A coordinated EU-wide strategy of direct engagement with lawmakers, as well as engagement through media and social media, was successful in tabling and adoption of significant amendments to the proposed legislation. In October 2017, the European Parliament's Environment Committee voted in favour of a complete phase out the

50 Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) is a CSO working group to ensure that women's voices and their rights are embedded in all processes and results of the UNFCCC framework

51 <http://oxfameu.blogactiv.eu/files/2017/10/ngo-bioenergy-media-brief.pdf>

use of biofuels made from food crops by 2030 but failed to introduce adequate social sustainability criteria. In January 2018, the plenary of the European Parliament did not endorse the full phaseout but voted instead in favour of freezing consumption at 2017 levels. In January 2018, the Council of Ministers voted to put the limit at 7% of the energy consumption in transport.

In February 2018, the EP and the Council of Ministers adopted the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) Directive for 2021–2030 with a non-binding provision of ETS revenues that has to be set apart for international climate action. Mobilisation of ETS revenues for climate finance will depend on a decision to be taken by each Member State.

AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT

For the second component of GROW's climate work, financing agricultural investment to small scale food producers, Oxfam pooled together with Gates, the Dutch government and Sida funds to release the global briefing paper "Financing Women Farmers", presenting research data on funding for agriculture, including adaptation finance, from Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Tanzania, EU, The Netherlands, Philippines and Pakistan. It was launched ahead of the G7 Agricultural Ministers meeting in Italy. There were more than 60 media hits on this publication.

The paper was also launched at the African Union summit in February 2018, where it led to concrete outcomes: Oxfam key messages were adopted in the solemn declaration of the 30th assembly key decision document. Heads of State committed to take into consideration Oxfam's key messages, such as:

- calling for an inclusive validation process within African Union and providing information on the progress in achieving common goals on agricultural transformation in Africa;
- scaling-up of the current levels of climate finance,

through agreement among stakeholders on concrete pathways and accounting methodologies for achieving the collective goal by developed countries to mobilize USD 100 billion a year for climate finance by 2020 and beyond.

On a final note, in collaboration with Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace, Oxfam-Novib filed a complaint with the national contact point for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises against the Dutch bank ING for its failure to set a target and report on greenhouse gas emissions reduction. As a result, ING sharpened their coal policy to bring it in line with nature of the complaint made.

LAND RIGHTS

"We must do better in ensuring that our work helps create a more responsible banking system."

Phillipe Le Houérou, International Finance Corporation's CEO and Executive Vice-President

In the period 2017–18, Sida funds were allocated to support two streams of advocacy work, i.e. International Financial Intermediaries (IFIs) and the land indicators part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

LAND INDICATORS IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The main aim of Oxfam's advocacy is to put in place a robust methodology for monitoring the implementation of land indicators under the SDGs. In previous years, Oxfam has engaged together with a range of civil society organizations and as an active member of the Global Land Indicator Initiative (GLII) of UN-Habitat, in technical discussions with UN's Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on how to define and measure improved land governance. In particular, Oxfam co-organized with GLII an important expert group meeting in New York (July

2017) on women's land rights, resulting in improved guidelines on how to perform household surveys on land entitlements.

At the beginning of 2017, these land indicators were categorized by (IAEG) as Tier III, meaning the methodology was insufficiently developed; the categorisation would discharge countries to report on them. Together with civil society organisations (CSO) network Landesa, the Global Donor Platform and champions among UN agencies and national statistical offices, Oxfam managed to bring them to Tier II in November 2017, meaning that all the countries are now formally asked to report on progress, which will have a positive effect on land governance. This includes, among other things, a requirement that monitoring should go beyond "ownership" as the way to measure land rights and this is relevant for indigenous people who often do not have registered land titles with the cadastre or have a system of communal land rights (not recognised by cadastre).

The knowledge and experience obtained during this process has been used in a pilot project to develop a tool that allows communities to monitor their land governance (Enabling Voices, Demanding Rights: A guide to gender-sensitive community engagement in large-scale land-based investment in agriculture).⁵² The objective is to increase evidence-based dialogue in land governance, and rural people's ability to participate meaningfully. Oxfam's global work on land indicators is embedded in the national GROW campaigns. Sida funds have been allocated to Uganda in 2018 to develop a report on Uganda national Land Rights policies in achieving SDGs on land indicators.

Between 3–6 October 2017, a large Oxfam delegation

participated in the Conference "Reducing Inequality in a Turbulent World: Scaling-up strategies to secure indigenous, community, and women's land rights" (Stockholm, 4–5 October) organized by the Rights and Resources Initiative, and a number of back-to-back events, including the launch of the Tenure Facility at the Sida Offices (3 October), and the ILC Global CSO Meeting at the We Effect Offices (6 October).

On 3 October 2017, Oxfam organized a learning event on influencing strategies on land rights, which saw the participation of Oxfam staff from Malawi, Tanzania, Senegal, Nepal, India, Australia, United States of America, The Netherlands, and Oxfam International. In this event, challenges on women's land rights and lessons learned from the GROW campaign were shared. During the conference, Oxfam was on the opening panel and talked about land and inequality, connecting land issues to wider inequality in societies at large. It also led Strategy Session 3 on Influencing, which resulted in updated strategies for participants, some of which have then been implemented through the Land Rights Now campaign. On 6 October 2017, Oxfam participated in the ILC Global CSO meeting and discussed joint national engagement strategies, joint projects on women's land rights and brainstormed on the Land Rights Now campaign. This led to the first steps of the Liberia campaign delivered in spring 2018.

ON IFIS

Sida funds were directed towards supporting research into how IFIs can, and should, improve their approach to transparency in their financial intermediary lending – tackling the various technical and legal frameworks often presented as barriers to transparency. This report is now under revision and expected to be launched during the October 2018 World Bank Annual Meeting.

⁵² <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/enabling-voices-demanding-rights-a-guide-to-gender-sensitive-community-engagement-620474>

In the reporting period, Oxfam participated in the spring (April 2017) and annual (October 2017) meetings of the World Bank advocating that IFC – part of the World Bank group – should be more transparent in its lending practices, such as disclosing information on clients it is working with and applying due diligence by improving its screening of its top high-risk financial intermediary clients. All these measures are part of an overall reform of its policy on managing environmental and social risks. Oxfam also provided input on the further development of part 2 of the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) (draft) guidance notes, which will guide governments on how to protect communities and the environment when implementing World Bank-financed projects.⁵³ Specifically, Oxfam commissioned and submitted to the World Bank a Gender Assessment of the ESF (not Sida funded) – right before the World Bank Annual Meetings in October 2017 – to highlight areas where the guidance notes need to be strengthened to properly address women’s protection and empowerment. While submitting its gender assessment and recommendations, Oxfam asked the Bank to develop a specific gender guidance note and will follow this up in the year to come. Oxfam also submitted a set of detailed recommendations in terms of the Bank’s guidance notes for financial intermediaries. In support of the recommendations made, Oxfam wrote a blog summarizing its overarching concerns on the notes.

⁵³ Be referred to: http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:L2_8sJHr0AJ:pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/508101515446352920/ESFGuidanceNoteCommentsonESS5byIDlandOXFAMDec222017.pdf+&cd=1&hl=nl&ct=clnk&gl=nl

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: NATIONAL LEVEL POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE

To effectively steer relevant stakeholders to improve global level policies and governance regarding climate change and its impact on food security, land use rights of local communities and reduction of negative impacts of biofuels on food security.

“We have closely felt the disastrous effects of climate change in our neighbourhood in the form of heat waves and shortage of rainfall. We now feel ourselves compelled to grow more and more trees in our surroundings, but we are held back due to shortage of irrigation water and request Government to help us in this regard.” Mr. Khuda Bux from community Fisherman from Pakistan

In the reporting period, Pakistan continued to implement its GROW campaign for the fourth consecutive year, the Sida contribution (2014-2017) to the Niger GROW campaign was evaluated and the countries Brazil, Uganda and Vietnam received support from Sida for their ongoing GROW campaigns.

Pakistan

Oxfam launched a series of public actions to mobilise various segments:

- a) Oxfam launched a national public campaign during the month of Ramadan (May–June 2017) #savefoodfighthunger. The 15-day spike plan engaged the urban middle class, asking for attention to the food insecurity of small-scale producers. Taking persuasive facts from the different reports, Oxfam developed share graphics, info graphics, engaged university students, launched a social media

campaign, conducted radio programmes and theatre performances, reached almost 15,000 people through online and offline platforms, and created awareness about food wastage and its impact on society.

- b) During the week of World Food Day, GROW Pakistan launched a range of public actions from district to national level asking the government to support small-holder women farmers and increase climate finance to reduce their vulnerability. This was based on a global briefing paper and launched on the world food day in Pakistan. It was presented to the Federal Minister National Food Security and Research in Pakistan. These activities were featured in numerous districts, provincial and national level newspapers, TV and radio programmes. Through engaging different experts, political leaders and government officials at our seminars, rallies and events, we raised the voice of small-holder women farmers. Examples are the Oxfam Pakistan Country Director made an appearance on a BBC talk show on climate change leading to displacement and poverty in Pakistan⁵⁴.
- c) As in previous years Oxfam conducted a Climate Public Expenditure Review for the province of Punjab and this was presented during the Grow cultural festival in December 2017. This was attended by the Provincial Food Minister Punjab, Mrs Bilal Yaseen, and a further 2,000 guests joined the event, including parliamentarians, environmentalists, academics, government officials, students and development organizations.⁵⁵

With the numerous rallies at district level, the GROW campaign mobilized 13,000 small-scale food producers (both men and women) in the two provinces.

SHORT TERM OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2017–18

Pakistan

- 5,000 people take part in public action
- National government takes a position during CoP23 in which Oxfam asks are reflected
- 2 Provincial governments draft climate policies in which Oxfam asks are reflected
- 11 District governments take over and implement parts of the local action plans

Advocacy

The public actions by Oxfam (and partners Indus Consortium, Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) and PFF) are aimed at supporting advocacy towards the two provincial governments of Punjab and Sindh. Last year, Oxfam reported that the Punjab government had already launched a climate change policy bill along with their 16 government departments, but the bill is yet to be tabled for discussion with the provincial assembly.

A similar process is in motion for the provincial government in Sindh. A consultative multi-layered process (with the involvement of a technical Policy Advisory Group, a governmental Working Group and a public-private Steering Committee) has started to provide input to and develop an initial draft of a climate change policy bill. Oxfam contributes to the consultation process with the findings of the vulnerability and risk assessment information and recommendations of the local adaptation plans of actions (LAPAs) as developed in the period 2014-16.

The LAPAs are available for 11 districts of Pakistan in Punjab and Sindh. Apart from deriving input for policy reforms on a provincial level, the plans are also used to influence district governments for addressing the

⁵⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEXCZ-vLHLY&t=8s>

⁵⁵ <https://www.punjab.gov.pk/node/2696>



Women's Rallies in Sindh. Photo: Oxfam Pakistan

impacts of climate change. They provide an interface between communities, small and otherwise invisible civil society actors, journalists, lawyers, academics and, most importantly, government line agencies. The aim is to have their recommendations incorporated in the district annual development plans and budget is allocated to these. Current challenges with district government are the limited budget available, conflicting interests with other priorities and limited opportunities to influence decision-making.

From its district and provincial advocacy, Oxfam takes part in the national discourse on climate change at a national level, i.e. Ministry of Climate Change and its national commission. In preparation of the CoP, the ministry organized a series of consultative dialogues to frame Pakistan's Agenda at CoP23.⁵⁶ The proposed dialogues were spread over six weeks with a day-long session each week to deliberate on the following climate change thematic areas: (i) Adaptation & Mitigation, (ii) Loss & Damage, (iii) Means of Implementation, (iv) New Market Mechanisms, (v) Transparency & Measurement, (vi) Reporting and Verification, (vii) Nationally Determined Contributions. The focus areas of discussion were in line with the Paris Agreement.

⁵⁶ See for a full account https://pk.boell.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2017/11/cop_23_brief.pdf

Oxfam in Pakistan is supporting provincial governments' climate change policies in Sindh and Punjab. At the women's convention held in Lahore, rural women from eleven districts presented a charter of demands to their provincial ministers, to allocate resources to the small women farmers and also to ensure their participation in budget planning and decision-making processes.

Bridge grants to Brazil, Uganda and Vietnam

Sida granted the Oxfam GROW campaign a one-year extension for the calendar year 2018 (bridge grant). The Sida financial contribution has been utilised to support three countries in anticipation of the course of the GROW campaign in the years to come, i.e. Brazil and Vietnam (value chains and the private sector) and Uganda (Land Rights) for the year 2018. This report covers the first three months of the bridge fund, in which these countries conducted a range of preparatory activities. All three countries started recruitment for campaign coordinators who could guide the implementation of the national GROW campaign. In addition, countries performed the next activities:

- Brazil: Oxfam entered into a partnership with 'Reporter Brazil' to develop and implement a national communication strategy around inequality in the value chains of the primary commodities Brazil is producing and exporting. Together with Reporter Brazil, Oxfam Brazil will reach out to unions and small-holder farmers associations to organise them.
- Uganda: Oxfam started the preparation for conducting research on the challenges and opportunities for Uganda national Land Rights policies in achieving SDGs on land indicators. The report is expected to be ready in the summer of 2018.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

Sida supported the GROW campaign in Niger in the period January 2014 to March 2017. To draw lessons from the

campaign, Oxfam conducted an external evaluation in the autumn of 2017. The most significant points from the evaluation were:

- The relevance of the campaign was undebated. It aligned to the Millennium Development Goals/SDG framework in the international arena, but also to the national political discourse in the Niger. Cultivons aimed to influence the policy (legislative) reform in three domains, i.e. 'Loi d'orientation Agricole' (agricultural law), 'Loi Cadre sur le droit à l'alimentation' (Right to Food Security) and 'Loi sur la protection social' (law on social protection).
- The campaign was partner led with as many as 28 CSOs signing the memorandum of understanding to support joint advocacy and campaigning. Although the broad range of CSOs was considered an asset, it also put a burden on the campaign as (being consensus based) it required substantial coordination.
- The evaluator remarked that the objectives of the campaign were too ambitious, considering the complex political environment of Niger. Yet, the campaign managed to ask attention for the plight of small-scale producers with members of parliament during the national producers festival ('curee sallee') by means of research and related statement. Another example was 'Droit des Femmes à la propriété foncière agricole au Niger' (Women's Right to Agricultural Land Ownership in Niger), which can be scaled up if partners forge a strategic alliance.

The campaign did not manage to exploit its strength as a broad civil society movement in campaigning for the legislative reforms favouring small-scale producers. There were numerous issues related to coordination, management of alliances and partnerships, and weak back support to partners, were among the limiting factors of the Campaign. In 2016, a decision was taken to reduce the number of thematic spearheads of the campaign from four to one and to reduce the budget,

so as to improve the focus and management of the campaign (see Sida annual report 2016-17).

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS:

In year 4 Oxfam had to postpone the launch of its flagship public campaign and was not yet in the position to accomplish its goals. The campaign was launched in June 2018 and will be accounted for in the next report. The follow up of the implementation of international treaties (SDG, Paris agreement) proved to be a complex and evolving process with its own dynamics. New political realities in the international arena slow down progress made -especially on the climate Paris agreement - and Oxfam efforts are directed to keep topics (f.e. Loss and Damage) on the agenda, rather than influencing actual commitments made.



Sonia Quispe Ttito in a field of flowering potato plants. Sonia attended the 23rd Conference of Parties in Bonn, to speak about experiences and concerns of indigenous women and smallholder farmers and their role in agriculture, conservation of biodiversity and food and nutrition security. Photo: Ilvy Njiokiktjien/Oxfam Novib

4. SYNERGIES

SD=HS and GROW work on addressing the broken and unsustainable food system through different but complementary interventions. The activities of both programmes before and during the 23rd session of the CoP to the UN Convention on Climate Change in Bonn are exemplary of the synergy between the close interaction with farmers and local-to-global stakeholders of SD=HS and the global campaigning and expertise on food chains and systems by GROW.

Oxfam was present with a delegation to influence several discussions under the UNFCCC work programme, with a focus on climate finance. Developed countries have committed to providing \$100 billion per year to support climate adaptation and mitigation action in developing countries as agreed in the Paris Agreement. Oxfam aims to influence the accounting rules that determine what counts and what doesn't count as climate finance, and calls on developed countries to increase the shares of adaptation (compared to mitigation) and of grants (compared to loans), as grants for adaptation action is what is most needed for the most vulnerable groups.

In a related side event, Oxfam presented the on-the-ground experience and lessons on how farmers are affected by climate change, especially given the neglect of public institutions. In response to that neglect, SD=HS women farmers participants presented how they organize and establish solidarity among women farmers locally as well as globally.

"I have met with other indigenous farmers from many other countries [...]; we all share similar stories, the same fears, and this is why we feel we need to create alliances as indigenous people, so we can raise our voices stronger together. This is a call for collaboration and action I am launching today to you all: NGOs, public institutions, and the private sector. You have the power to engage in actions that will see a world less affected by climate change and global disorders. This year you will discuss the promises you made in the Paris agreement, of transparency, funding, collaboration with developing countries and you have to keep your word. It was also decided to create a platform for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices of local communities and indigenous peoples on adaptation to climate change. We advocate strongly for the implementation of such a platform and of other initiatives recognizing the role indigenous women have to play in this common fight against climate change." By Sonia Quispe Ttito, translated from Quechua to English



Workers process cassava leaves at one of five Oxfam supported collection centres in Rwanda's Rulindo district.

Photo: Eleanor Farmer/Oxfam

5. MANAGEMENT

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND GOVERNANCE

Meetings of the Oxfam Novib SeedsGROW Steering committee (composed of the Manager Thematic Unit 'Food, Land and Water' and the Director of Programmes) have been held twice. Given the importance and size of the SeedsGROW programme the full Board of Directors of Oxfam Novib directly monitors the quarterly progress of SD=HS and GROW.

SD=HS MID-TERM REVIEW

During Year 4, the results of the mid-term review (MTR) were communicated to Oxfam Novib and submitted to and fully approved by Sida. The SD=HS MTR was conducted in the first quarter of Year 4 and yielded a number of useful lessons to consider for the remainder of the current programme. Furthermore, the recommendations allowed for reflection, not only for the Oxfam Novib team but the partners on the Programme as a whole, as SD=HS looks to expand and improve in the future. With the feedback from the MTR, the SD=HS programme can improve and tailor its approaches to ensure sustainability and to guide future directions of the programme.

Specific recommendations highlighted in the MTR report and the Oxfam Novib management response will be addressed or implemented in Year 5. These include:

1. Optimizing the Global Programme Committee as an expert advisory group rather than as a consortium;
2. Drafting a Farmer Field School (FFS) costing tool that can be used across countries to assess the inputs required to establish and operate FFSs in different settings;
3. Continuing close monitoring and support of the Farmer Seed Enterprise (FSE), Champion Seeds, to ensure that its implementation is complementary with FFS activities and farmer seed systems as a whole; and
4. Strengthening the link between local to global and

engaging communities (also in representation at global fora).

CAWR ADDENDUM

The MTR initially did not include a review of former partner CAWR [*Centre of Agroecology, Water and Resilience* (CAWR; Coventry University, UK)] and its mini consortium. At the time of the MTR, CAWR undertook legal action towards Oxfam Novib to come to a formal settlement. Pending the legal settlement, the MTR could not include CAWR in its assessment. However, as soon as the legal settlement was reached on 10 July 2017, the MTR Steering Committee (composed of Andrew Mushita [Community Technology Development Trust], Alejandro Argumedo [Association ANDES], Pat Mooney [ETC Group], Bert Visser, Gigi Manicad [Oxfam Novib SD=HS team], and Karen Biesbrouck [MTR commissioning manager]), in agreement with Oxfam Novib Steering Committee and SIDA, decided to carry out an additional assessment related to CAWR and its partners and the relationship with Oxfam Novib. These findings including the management response of ONL have been added as an addendum to the existing and approved MTR.

GROW MID-TERM REVIEW

The GROW MTR also provided valuable input to further improve the program. The management response dealt with the ten main conclusions and recommendations.

Recommendations that we have accepted for future programming, and have started implementing in Year 4, will continue in the bridge grant. The recommendations Oxfam fully accepted and started implementing in Year 4 are:

1. Embedding advocacy agendas in the reality of the "field" is a critical condition for creating ownership, and guiding strategies (global and local) and objectives. At the same time, it must be accepted that

global advocacy agendas can be of a different nature from national ones, demanding different kinds of expertise and having different strategies at different levels.

2. Oxfam will take a clear stand on the importance of public campaigning for advocacy work. It will adopt distinct goals and make clear how and why public campaigns will contribute to the influencing of policy. It will also invest in capacity building of the country offices in preparing and implementing public campaigns, using comprehensive power analyses and developing advocacy strategies based on these analyses.
3. It is recommended that the Oxfam confederation continues to employ policy advocates/lobbyists who operate in different global policy arenas.

Oxfam acknowledges in its response that without significant public mobilisation, the changes we are able to influence will usually remain at policy level. Oxfam is committed across all its campaigns to engage more closely with social movements and to put people power front and central in all our campaigns.

HUMAN RESOURCES

As a result of the long-term illness of the SeedsGROW Programme Leader, the SeedsGROW Steering Committee decided to enable Seeds and GROW to operate as separate programmes, although they continue to be managed administratively by the Manager Thematic Unit 'Food, Land and Water'. Oxfam Novib's SeedsGROW Steering Committee continues to oversee both programmes. The SD=HS Senior Programme Manager was appointed as the SD=HS Programme Leader, enabling the continuous leadership and management of the programme.

As of July 2017, a new Contract Manager started her work. Unfortunately she fell ill in March 2018. The SD=HS and GROW Programme Leaders took over key functions with the support of their teams. Also, to replace long-term sick leaves of the Support Officers in both teams, management has implemented interim solutions to cover for their absence.

There was a delay in the recruitment of the Pillar 3 Lead and her tasks were divided between other Pillar Leads, the Scientific Adviser and the Programme Leader. Despite task division, this inevitably slowed down implementation.

RISK MANAGEMENT

In the annual plans for year 5 we have shared the risk and the mitigation measures. In the reporting period the risk mitigation measures for GROW have been effective. The risk related to the Haiti crisis has materialized causing delay in the launch of the BtB/P campaign. Based on the evaluation we have updated the risk matrix. Continuous efforts need to address the changing international political context (e.g. Brexit and the US and at implementing country level) and the way gender is being addressed in the Campaign. As we have changed perspective to "comply or explain" putting women always.

On the Seeds side the main risk have been identified around the sustainability of the program. The risk mitigation measures so far have proven to be effective, close monitoring will remain required.



27 year old Nyiranziza Donatha picks a pineapple on Tuzamurane cooperative farm in Kirehe District, Eastern Rwanda. She uses this income to support her family and 2 children. Photo: Oxfam International

6. FINANCE

This chapter provides information on actual cash expenditures versus budgets for the period April 2017 – March 2018 (SeedsGROW Year 4 and 'Zaaigoed in Zimbabwe' Year 5). We present a consolidated analysis for the SeedsGROW overall programme and separate detailed analyses for SD=HS, GROW, and the Dutch Postcode Lottery (NPL) funding. In addition to detailing the cash-flow position and foreign currency gains and losses, we also describe the follow-up of the recommendations of the Sida systems audit of Oxfam Novib related to the SeedsGROW programme.

SEEDSGROW FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The total expenditure for the Sida funded activities for Year 4 was €3,221,891 against a budget of €3,601,259 with an absorption rate of 89%. The absorption rates for SD=HS and GROW excluding contract management were 96% and 77%, respectively. The contract management absorption rate was 88%.

TABLE 1. SEEDSGROW FINANCIAL SUMMARY, APRIL 2017 – MARCH 2018 (ALL IN EUROS)

SEEDSGROW FINANCIAL SUMMARY YEAR 4		FROM APRIL 1 2017 UNTIL MARCH 31 2018			
		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	ABSORPTION
1	Pillar 1. Scaling Up Models	552.680	549.938	2.742	100%
2	Pillar 2. Farmer Seeds Enterprises	514.326	428.131	86.194	83%
3	Pillar 3. Women, Seeds & Nutrition	527.528	555.710	-28.182	105%
4	Pillar 4. Global Policy Engagement *	438.693	413.420	25.273	94%
TOTAL DIRECT PROGRAMME SDHS		2.033.227	1.947.200	86.028	96%
1	Building a Stakeholder movement	172.005	80.165	91.840	47%
2	Global level policies and governance	428.877	401.717	27.160	94%
3	National level policies & Governance	343.444	268.705	74.739	78%
4	Linking & Learning	3.125	6.471	-3.346	207%
5	MEL	37.958	-	37.958	0%
TOTAL DIRECT PROGRAMME GROW		985.409	757.057	228.352	77%
0	Contract management	347.026	306.856	40.170	88%
TOTAL PROGRAMME COSTS		3.365.663	3.011.113	354.550	89%
Indirect: Admin Fee 7%		235.596	210.778	24.818	89%
TOTAL OVERALL		3.601.259	3.221.891	379.368	89%

* In Pillar 4 actual contains differential cost of Third World Network Year 2 Euro 12,756 due to late submission of revised audit report

Other donors contributing to the SeedsGROW program in this period have been.

SEEDS	AMOUNT
Dutch Postcode Lottery	€ 394,422
Dutch Government Strategic Partnership	€ 83,000
Hilde Buma Foundation	€ 42,500
Oxfam Novib Innovation Fund	€ 50,000

GROW	AMOUNT
Dutch Government Strategic Partnership and CSR	€ 575,000
ILC	€ 43,000
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	€ 195,000
Ford Foundation	€ 48,500
Oxfam International	€ 100,000
Others	€ 65,000

Table 1 shows that the total expenditure of €3,221,891 for Year 4 of the SeedsGROW project against the budget of €3,601,259 with an absorption of 89%. Most under expenditure is due to the SeedsGROW expenditure, which is explained under SeedsGROW.

SD=HS absorption was 96%. The programme was on track in Year 4, including its contract management activities. In Year 4, we had a Contract Manager employed from July 2017. SD=HS successfully executed contracts to the partners.

- The **Pillar 1** activities were largely on track. There were some publications that were carried over to Year 5.
- The team welcomed a new **Pillar 2** Lead in September 2017. A contingency of €90,000 was initially budgeted to initiate piloting of a second FSE. However, based on the cost indications of the pilot in Zimbabwe, the decision was taken not to initiate another FSE

within this phase of the programme. The funding was therefore redirected towards support of a seed multiplication centre in Peru and **Pillar 1** activities in Zimbabwe. Overall implementation within **Pillar 2** was largely on track in terms of the pilot in Zimbabwe.

- Another change with budgetary implications in Year 4 was the departure of the **Pillar 3** Lead and this position was only filled in Year 5. Due to this, some activities were delayed to Year 5, resulting in an underspend.
- The **Pillar 4** partners ended their last year in the Phase 1 programme. They delivered to the budget allocated to the partners. There was considerable underutilisation due to the postponement of two international workshops and small savings on staff costs.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) activities** were done in Year 3 where they were budgeted, but the cost came in Year 4 resulting in an overspend. This MEL cost is shared equally among all four pillars.

SeedsGROW absorption was 77%. The main variances that occurred are as follows. SeedsGROW was originally approved for the period until December 2017, but later a no-cost extension was approved. A total of 75% of the budget for this no-cost extension had been spent by 31 March 2018 but more spending was expected for the period April 2018 – December 2018, reaching 100% by the end of this period. The no-cost extension was approved due to the delayed Behind the Barcode/Price (BtB) Campaign / Spike and expenses for this Campaign/ Spike will still be made from April 2018 to December 2018.

Only 4% of the budget for the SeedsGROW bridge fund (additional approval by Sida of €1,500,000 for period January 2018 – December 2018) had been spent by 31 March 2018 but more spending was expected for the period April 2018 – December 2018, reaching 100% by the end of this period.

In contrast, 97% of the internal budget was spent in the first three months (January 2018 – March 2018). The internal budget for this quarter was only €68,934 (5% of total budget for the €1,500,000 bridge funding) and can be explained by the following:

- expenditure for Oxfam Novib and Oxfam International was planned and has been reported;
- expenditure for the four countries will only be reported in 2019 as they will be audited separately by local auditors for period January 2018 – December 2018);
- only salary costs of Oxfam Novib contract management staff have been included; the salary costs of Oxfam Novib programme staff were covered by other sources in the period January 2018 – March 2018; and
- most spending of the Activity budget is planned for the period April 2018 – December 2018.

For these reasons, the following results are shown in the report:

- Objective 1 has under expenditure of €91,840 and an absorption of 47%: mainly because of the staff costs for the closure phase (planned to be €42,877), which have not yet been spent, and the costs for the BtB campaign (planned to be €48,202), which have not yet been spent.
- Objective 2 has under expenditure of €27,160 and an absorption of 94%: mainly because of staff costs for the closure phase (planned to be €19,927), which have not yet been spent, and costs for the BtB campaign (planned to be €22,374), which have not yet been spent, and travel costs paid in advance (€14,560).
- Objective 3 has under expenditure of €74,739 and an absorption of 78%: mainly because of costs for the BtB campaign (planned to be €72,820), which have not yet been spent.
- Objective 4 has over expenditure of €3,346 and an absorption of 207%: mainly because of the costs of a

program development workshop (€6,471) were already paid in March 2018.

- The MEL budget has not been utilised, hence saving €37,958 that will be used in the following year for an external evaluation of the BtB campaign and an End Term Review of the SeedsGrow project for the period from 2013 to December 2018.

SIDA SD=HS FINANCE

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT SPENDING

The Human Resource budget under contract management Year 4 was €143,651 against which €142,383 was spent, an absorption rate of 99%. There were variations in staff cost due to the unfilled position of Contract Manager for the part of the year. The small variance in activities expenses was due to travel by contract management staff.

PILLAR 1

The budget for Pillar 1 Year 4 was €552,680 against which spend was €549,938 ending with an absorption rate of 100%.

Pillar 1 had small savings because of lower staff costs. This was due to the Pillar Lead also handling other projects, Oxfam Novib Pillar 1 had less travel expenses and the movement of the baseline report into Year 5. This was partly off-set by higher partner costs. The higher partner costs were due to Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE) re-aligning more activities in Pillar 1 and reducing the activities in Pillar 3.

For the global activities, Year 4 saw the finalisation of a video for the SD=HS scaling-up pathway, completion of an illustrated guide for the plot design module of the FFS curriculum, successful implementation of three refresher courses for Training of Trainers (ToTs) in the

TABLE 2: SEEDSGROW SIDA FINANCIAL SUMMARY, APRIL 2017 – MARCH 2018 (ALL IN EUROS)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018					
		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	ABSORPTION
0	SD=HS Contract Management				
1,1	HR for Contract Management	143.651	142.381	1.270	99%
1,2	Activities Oxfam Novib Project Management & Governance	16.000	17.915	-1.915	112%
1,4	External audit	20.000	19.706	294	99%
	Subtotal Project Contract Management	179.651	180.001	-351	100%
1	Pillar 1. Scaling Up Models				
2,1	HR Oxfam Novib programme implementation	79.443	64.798	14.645	82%
2,2	Consultancies (scientific validation)	25.000	25.353	-353	101%
2,3	Activities Global (Oxfam Novib) Programme Implementation	63.500	54.799	8.701	86%
3.1.1	Activities Country1: Peru	85.173	82.584	2.589	97%
3.1.2	Activities Country2: Zimbabwe	35.100	38.005	-2.906	108%
3.1.3	Activities Country3: Vietnam	142.228	144.506	-2.278	102%
3.1.4	Activities Country4: Laos	118.465	124.544	-6.079	105%
	MEL Activities Pillars 1-4	3.771	15.348	-11.577	407%
	Subtotal Pillar 1	552.680	549.938	2.742	100%
2	Pillar 2. Starting up Farmer Seeds Enterprises				
2,1	HR Oxfam Novib programme implementation	97.146	98.804	-1.658	102%
2,2	Consultancies (scientific validation)	25.000	25.353	-353	101%
2,3	Activities Global (Oxfam Novib) Programme Implementation	7.500	6.763	737	90%
3.2.1	Activities Country Zimbabwe	290.909	281.863	9.046	97%
3.2.2	Activities Country2: still to be selected	90.000	-	90.000	0%
	MEL Activities Pillars 1-4	3.771	15.348	-11.577	407%
	Subtotal Pillar 2	514.326	428.131	86.194	83%
3	Pillar 3. Women, Seeds & Nutrition				
2,1	HR Oxfam Novib programme implementation	114.529	97.520	17.009	85%
2,2	Consultancies (scientific validation)	25.000	25.353	-353	101%
2,3	Activities Global (Oxfam Novib) Programme Implementation	15.800	31.233	-15.433	198%
3.3.1	Activities Country1: Peru	76.638	75.636	1.003	99%
3.3.2	Activities Country2: Zimbabwe	43.354	52.595	-9.241	121%
3.3.3	Activities Country3: Vietnam	120.017	135.130	-15.113	113%
3.3.4	Activities Country5: Myanmar	128.419	122.896	5.523	96%
3.3.5	Activities Country6: Mali	-	-	-	-
3.3.6	Activities Country7: Senegal	-	-	-	-
3.3.7	Activities Country8: India	-	-	-	-
3.3.8	Contingencies			-	-
	MEL Activities Pillars 1-4	3.771	15.348	-11.577	407%
	Subtotal Pillar 3	527.528	555.710	-28.182	105%

TABLE 2: SEEDSGROW SIDA FINANCIAL SUMMARY, APRIL 2017 – MARCH 2018 (ALL IN EUROS)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018					
		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	ABSORPTION
4	Pillar 4. Global Policy Engagement				
2,1	HR Oxfam Novib programme implementation	80.643	68.612	12.031	85%
2,2	Consultancies (scientific validation)	25.000	25.353	-353	101%
2,3	Activities Global (Oxfam Novib) Programme Implementation	76.928	34.863	42.065	45%
4,1	Activities global: Counterpart grants	-	-	-	-
4.1.1	Research: Global trends & policies *	163.204	130.319	32.885	80%
4.1.2	Research: Country trends & policies *	3.937	12.928	-8.991	328%
4.1.3	Stakeholders' capacity building *	17.985	30.284	-12.299	168%
P4.1.4	Develop, test and publish innovative models that facilitate innovation and cooperation in farmers' seed systems and increase farmers' freedoms to operate. *	10.341	10.388	-47	100%
P4.1.5	Policy engagement and/or capacity building outputs and initiatives grounded in SD=HS programme outcomes and/or contributing to strengthening other elements of the programme *	15.728	15.101	627	96%
P4.2.1	Public advocacy & alliance building *	19.353	33.930	-14.577	175%
P4.2.2	Targeted Advocacy *	21.803	29.791	-7.988	137%
3,1	ANDES Seed Multiplication Centre		4.070	-4.070	-
3,1	Workshop	-	2.431	-2.431	-
	MEL Activities Pillars 1-4	3.771	15.348	-11.577	407%
	Subtotal Pillar 4, SMC, Workshop	438.693	413.420	25.273	94%
	TOTAL 4 PILLARS	2.033.227	1.947.200	86.028	96%
	TOTAL DIRECT SDHS	2.212.878	2.127.201	85.677	96%
5	TOTAL all 4 PILLARS				
1,1	HR for Contract Management (Progr Devt. & Fundraising)	143.651	142.381	1.270	99%
1,2	Activities Oxfam Novib Project Management & Governance	16.000	17.915	-1.915	112%
1,4	External audit (Oxfam Novib Group Audit)	20.000	19.706	294	99%
2,1	HR Oxfam Novib programme implementation	371.761	329.734	42.028	89%
2,2	Consultancies (scientific validation)	100.000	101.413	-1.413	101%
2,3	Activities global (Oxfam Novib) programme implementation	163.728	127.658	36.070	78%
3,0	Contingency, Pilot for second FSE	90.000	-	90.000	0%
3,1	Activities Country1: Peru	161.812	164.721	-2.910	102%
3,2	Activities Country2: Zimbabwe	369.363	372.463	-3.100	101%
3,3	Activities Country3: Vietnam	262.245	279.636	-17.391	107%
3,4	Activities Country4: Laos	118.465	124.544	-6.079	105%
3,5	Activities Country5: Myanmar	128.419	122.896	5.523	96%
3,6	Activities Country6: Mali	-	-	-	-
3,7	Activities Country7: Senegal	-	-	-	-
3,8	Activities Country8: India	-	-	-	-
4,1	Activities global: Pillar 4 activities (Grants) *	252.351	262.742	-10.391	104%
5	MEL Activities Pillars 1-4	15.084	61.394	-46.310	407%
	TOTAL DIRECT SD=HS PILLARS 1-4	2.212.878	2.127.201	85.677	96%
	Indirect: Admin Fee 7%	154.901	148.904	5.997	96%
	TOTAL OVERALL	2.367.779	2.276.105	91.674	96%

* In Pillar 4 actual contains differential cost of Third World Network Year 2 €12,756 due to late submission of revised audit report

Mekong Delta and Laos, a Laotian version of the FFS curriculum on maize, as well as a chapter on Disaster Risk Reduction in the FFS curriculum. Monitoring activities were conducted back to back with the ToTs as well as during the implementation of FFS end-season evaluation in Zimbabwe. The writing of the FFS curriculum on rice for Laos and Vietnam partly took place, but based on countries' needs, an outline field guide on waxy corn, mungbean and sesame will be prioritised and completed instead in this year. The implementation of FFS on Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) in the four countries were on track. The clustered ToT in Zimbabwe was not conducted as planned but was moved to Year 5 and will be conducted prior to the 2018/19 cropping season.

PILLAR 2

The budget for Pillar 2 Year 4 was €514,326 against which spend was €428,131 ending with an absorption rate of 83%.

The Pillar 2 budget has a big underspend because of the 'provision for unplanned activities' of €90,000. This amount is redistributed in Year 5 for other pillar activities. There was a slight increase in staff costs as a new Pillar Lead was recruited mid-year and there was some overlapping cost with the earlier lead. The partner Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT) maintained their actual activities to budget level with a small underspend. This underspend was slightly off-set by the allocated share of the MEL cost. Programme implementation within the pillar was largely successful within the context of implementing the FSE business plan and a second year of production. Documentation of lessons learned in Pillar 2 has been deferred to Year 5 to allow for lessons learned across two growing seasons.

PILLAR 3

The budget for Pillar 3 Year 4 was €527,528 against which spend was €555,710 ending with the absorption rate of 105%.

There were savings in the staff costs as the Pillar 3 Lead vacancy remains unfilled until the next year, but Oxfam Novib's expenses set off the savings. The Oxfam Novib Pillar 3 expenses incurred were against carry forward from the last year. The slight over absorption was also due to the allocated share of the MEL cost. The partner spending was more in Vietnam Pillar 3, otherwise Pillar 3 costs were almost on target.

Due to changes in Pillar 3 leadership, the publication of the global consolidated baseline report, briefing note based on the report, policy brief, and FFS global methodological framework was postponed to Year 5. The participatory peer review and external review of the FFS curriculum, and the SWOT analysis of the national policy landscape regarding food and nutrition security did not happen. Regarding main partners' activities, the creation of women seeds networks to engage in barter markets in Peru, and the finalisation of the Neglected and Underutilised Species (NUS) Conservation Strategy in Peru were postponed to Year 5. The publication of the manual addressing tools describing methodological pathways and best practices on NUS and nutrition in Zimbabwe was carried over to Year 5.

PILLAR 4

The budget for Pillar 4 Year 4 was €438,693 against which spend was €413,420 ending with the absorption rate of 94%.

Pillar 4 had big savings due to staff costs as the Pillar Lead also worked on another project. The big savings on Oxfam Novib expenses was largely due to a policy mechanism workshop on farmers varieties, which is hap-

TABLE 3: GROW FINANCIAL SUMMARY, APRIL 2017 – MARCH 2018 (ALL IN EUROS)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT APRIL 2017-MARCH 2018, GROW (INCL. BRIDGE) FUNDED BY SIDA					
ALL IN EUROS		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	ABSORPTION
0	0 Contract management	167.375	126.854	40.521	76%
	Audit	35.000	32.685	2.315	93%
	Human resources	129.375	93.446	35.929	72%
	Travel & duty trips	3.000	724	2.276	24%
1	Stakeholder movement	172.005	80.165	91.840	47%
	Human resources	96.432	53.554	42.877	56%
	Publications	69.574	21.371	48.202	31%
	Travel & duty trips	6.000	5.239	761	87%
	MEL	37.958	-	37.958	0%
2	Global level policies and governance	428.877	401.717	27.160	94%
	Contribution to local office operating costs	1.945	1.945	-0	100%
	Engagement with Allies	6.000	7.022	-1.022	117%
	Human resources	289.325	274.968	14.357	95%
	Publications	-	-	-	-
	Studies, research	103.501	76.315	27.186	74%
	Travel & duty trips	28.106	41.466	-13.360	148%
3	National level policies & Governance	343.444	268.705	74.739	78%
	Grant to partners	139.761	146.360	-6.599	105%
	Human resources	44.999	46.100	-1.101	102%
	Project activities	22.906	13.749	9.157	60%
	Publications	18.340	15.417	2.923	84%
	Studies, research	93.287	20.467	72.820	22%
	Translation, interpreters	-	3.767	-3.767	-
	Travel & duty trips	24.150	22.844	1.306	95%
	MEL	37.958	-	37.958	0%
	MEL	37.958	-	37.958	0%
	4 Linking & Learning	3.125	6.471	-3.346	207%
	Project activities	3.125	6.471	-3.346	207%
	5 AKV	80.695	61.874	18.821	77%
	AKV	80.695	61.874	18.821	77%
GRAND TOTAL		1.233.480	945.786	287.694	77%

pening in Year 5. Overall Pillar 4 partners have maintained their budget for the policy work in Year 4. Year 4 was the last year for Pillar 4 partners. Overall, Pillar 4 partners have maintained spending against the allocated budget. The huge underutilisation of Pillar 4 will be used to partly cover the staff and consultant costs of South-to-South capacity building and strengthening of developing the skills of local farmers in implementing FFS.

Third World Network (TWN), one of the Pillar 4 partners, sent in a revised Year 2 audit report after the Year 2 annual report was finalised. The differential cost of €12,756 is now accounted in Year 4.

MEL

The major budget for MEL was shown in Year 3. The costs for MEL came in Year 4 and hence show big variance over budget. The overall spend for MEL was within the total budget allocated.

GROW FINANCE

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

The Year 4 budget for contract management was €167,375 and actual expenditure was €126,854. Hence, the total expenditure rate for contract management was 76% absorption, mainly because of staff costs for the closure phase of the (no-cost extended) five-year SeedsGROW programme, which have not yet been spent.

OBJECTIVE 1: BUILDING A STAKEHOLDER MOVEMENT

Objective 1 had under expenditure of €91,840 and an absorption of 47%: mainly because of staff costs for the closure phase (planned to be €42,877), which have not yet been spent and costs for the BtB campaign (planned to be €48,202), which have not yet been spent.

OBJECTIVE 2: GLOBAL-LEVEL POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE

Objective 2 had under expenditure of €27,160 and an absorption of 94%: mainly because of staff costs for the closure phase (planned to be €19,927), which have not yet been spent, costs for the BtBP-campaign (planned to be €22,374), which have not yet been spent) and travel costs paid in advance (€14,560)

OBJECTIVE 3: NATIONAL-LEVEL POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE

Objective 3 had under expenditure of €74,739 and an absorption of 78%: mainly because of costs for the BtB campaign (planned to be €72,820), which have not yet been spent.

OBJECTIVE 4: LINKING & LEARNING

Objective 4 had over expenditure of €3,346 and an absorption of 207%: mainly because costs of a program development workshop (€6,471), planned for period January 2018 – June 2018, were already paid in March 2018.

MEL

The MEL budget was not utilised, hence a saving of €37,958 that will be used in the following year for an external evaluation of the BtB campaign and an End Term Review of the Sida SeedsGrow project over the period 2013 to December 2018.

CTDT

Due to additional activities done by CTDT in Zimbabwe, additional funding from the Dutch Postcode Lottery (NPL) was allocated to Pillar 3 for the final year (Year 4)

The NPL project funds for Year 3 are for the period April 2017 to March 2018. The budget for Year 3 was €554,112 and actual expenditure was €394,422 ending with an absorption rate of 71%. This low absorption was largely

TABLE 4 DUTCH POSTCODE LOTTERY (NPL): SOWING GOODS IN ZIMBABWE (ALL IN EUROS)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT APRIL 2017-MARCH 2018 SD=HS, FUNDED BY DUTCH POSTCODE LOTTERY (NPL)					
SNO	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	ABSORPTION
0	Personnel Costs	279.197	215.008	64.190	77%
Activity 1	Inception period and awareness raising	1.350	566	784	42%
Activity 2	Baseline Survey	9.450	8.270	1.180	88%
Activity 3	FFS	21.204	22.565	-1.361	106%
Activity 4	Video Exchanges	9.400	8.780	620	93%
Activity 5	Establish Community Seed Banks in 4 districts	25.050	25.563	-513	102%
Activity 6:	PPB/PVS/FFS training of trainers (ToT) workshop; bulking to produce progeny (Planted ear to row); Evaluation Trials (Preliminary Variety Trial at two sites) Each site will be 0.5ha;	40.800	37.807	2.993	93%
Activity 7:	Research the role of women farmers	57.157	37.720	19.437	66%
Activity 8:	Monitoring and Evaluation	46.990	11.482	35.509	24%
	Communications	30.476	-	30.476	0%
	Project management and audit	8.160	8.954	-794	110%
TOTAL		529.235	376.714	152.521	71%
Admin fees (4,7%)		24.877	17.707	6.847	71%
GRAND TOTAL		554.112	394.422	159.368	71%

due to staff costs, lower activities of “research the role of women”, monitoring and evaluation, and communication costs. The under spent amount will be used for delayed activities. NPL approved the extended project period until November 2018. We are expecting to use the full budget against the valuable contribution from NPL.

In Year 4, all communications activities and products (including the animation on pathways, modules for the Facilitator’s Field Guide, and photograph and story gathering trips to Laos and Peru) were funded by Sida funds

as part of the Pillar outputs. The NPL funded activities that were planned (and that will partly be enabled by the aforementioned Year 4 activities) were moved to the final year and will include a photo exhibition on the programme and the finalising of the Field Guide modules.

CASH-FLOW FROM DONORS

The below table shows that the cumulative forex loss at the end of Year 4 was €191,884. Oxfam Novib received its fifth instalment of SEK 20 million in Year 4. There was a

TABLE 5 BALANCE OF INCOME VERSUS EXPENDITURES, OCTOBER 2013 – MARCH 2018

BALANCE OF INCOME VERSUS EXPENDITURES OCTOBER 2013 - MARCH 2018 SIDA CONTRIBUTION	GRANTS TO RECEIVE UNTIL 31 MARCH 2018		GRANTS RECEIVED UNTIL 31-03-2018	GRANTS RECEIVED UNTIL 31-03-2018	FX GAINS / LOSSES ON DONOR GRANTS
SIDA	Euro	SEK	Euro	SEK	Euro
2013					
SD=HS	3.520.362	32.172.587	3.663.837	32.172.587	143.475
GROW	1.731.854	15.827.413	1.803.134	15.827.413	71.280
2014-15					
SD=HS	2.346.908	21.448.391	2.259.081	21.448.391	-87.827
GROW	1.154.569	10.551.609	1.110.936	10.551.609	-43.633
2015-16					
SD=HS	1.100.113	10.053.933	1.091.731	10.053.933	-8.382
GROW	541.204	4.946.067	537.040	4.946.067	-4.165
2016-17					
SD=HS	1.669.871	15.628.803	1.566.469	15.628.803	-103.402
GROW	787.581	7.371.197	770.630	7.371.197	-16.951
2017-18					
SD=HS	1.437.930	13.405.244	1.342.565	13.405.244	-95.365
GROW	707.394	6.594.756	660.480	6.594.756	-46.915
Total Sida	14.997.787	138.000.000	14.805.903	138.000.000	-191.884
FX rate	9,201		9,321		

big forex loss when converted into Euros. The loss was €142,280 of which the SD=HS share was €95,365 and the GROW share €46,915. This loss has not been shared by partners as we are in the final year of the programme. Due to this forex loss, Oxfam Novib expects expense overrun, which adds immense pressure on monitoring and controlling the expenses. Subject to Sida's approval of our Year 4 annual report, we expect our last disbursement in November 2018. We foresee similar forex losses in the future. We will propose a final agreement before the Year 5 overall report.

The SeedsGROW cash balance is sufficient until the final instalment of SEK 18 million due on approval of the annual and audit reports of the Sida contracts. The cash position at the end of March 2018 was positive of €288,528. On top of this, a bridge loan for SEK 15 million was released for the GROW part of the project in Year 5. All the partners are contracted. Please note that the final payments will happen on meeting the contractual obligations, which are scheduled beyond the end of Phase 1 and will be in the closure period.

The cash position under NPL is €160,604. The disbursement was an instalment at the beginning of NPL project. The NPL project will end in November 2018. The project concerns one partner, CTDI, and the final contract has already been awarded.

SIDA SYSTEMS AUDIT

In August 2017, KPMG conducted a system review audit at Oxfam Novib and this was funded by Sida. On 8 September 2017, Oxfam Novib shared the management response to this review with Sida.

There were two recommendation directly linked to the SeedsGROW programme.

- Oxfam Novib should communicate with the auditors of the SeedsGROW Programme and ensure all audit reports are submitted within the required internal timetable in future periods to ensure Sida reporting targets are achieved.
 - Our management response was: Oxfam Novib will continue to work closely with partners and affiliates to ensure that local audit reports are submitted per agreed deadline in order to meet the consolidated audit report deadline to Sida, which is 30 September 2017. Reminders and guidance will be sent well in advance of the audit report deadline and Oxfam Novib will follow up with partners as the deadline approaches.
- Oxfam Novib should communicate with all auditors of the SeedsGROW Programme and ensure all auditors submit audit management letters, even if there are no audit issues.
 - Our management response was: Oxfam Novib will include in its audit preparation a requirement that auditors of the SeedsGROW Programme submit a final audit management letter stating whether or not the audit is unqualified or qualified and relevant system recommendations. This letter will be part of the audit final report.

In the Year 4 audits conducted by Mazars, it was concluded that all audit reports were submitted in time and the management letters were included. In one case the management response from the audited version was missing.

In the case of the recommendations for the Country Office in Niger, Mazars asked for follow-up on the recommendation. The reply of the Country Office has been included in the audit report.

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