

WED
NOVEMBER 26

18:15 – 19:30

PURUCHUCO
403 ROOM

EXPLORING POLICIES TO PROMOTE & STRENGTHEN FARMER-MANAGED SEED SYSTEMS

*presented by the International CoP for FMSS
& the McKnight Foundation*

*How do policies and laws impact farmers?
What can I do - as practitioner, policymaker,
researcher?*

Organized by:

*The McKnight Foundation – Global Collaboration for
Resilient Food Systems/Andes Community of Practice,
Oxfam Novib, Oxfam Peru, Universidad Nacional
Agraria La Molina (UNALM), Peruvian Society for
Environmental Law, FOVIDA, GRISEN, CTDO, Rete
Semi Rurali, and SKI*



This event has been made possible with the financial support of the European Union.

Eleventh Session of the Governing Body, Lima, Peru, 24—29 November 2025

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Farmer-managed seed systems (FMSS) are increasingly recognized as a vital source of agrobiodiversity, shedding light upon the importance of conserving, sustainably using and developing genetically diverse and locally adapted varieties. However, a fundamental shift is needed in policy to **strengthen the role of farmers as developers and custodians of agrobiodiversity** within the community-based systems that they work in. The International Community of Practice for FMSS (CoP for FMSS) and the McKnight Foundation will explore different policy mechanisms and approaches to strengthen FMSS, presenting **four case studies from the Philippines, Peru, Zimbabwe and Italy**.

A lively **panel discussion** will follow, featuring:

- Beatrice Egulu (the African Union (AU))
- Francisca Acevedo (National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO))
- Dr. Mary Teddy Asio (Assistant Commissioner of the Ugandan Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries)
- Israel Navarette (the International Potato Center (CIP))
- Representative from the International Treaty Secretariat.

There will also be the opportunity for a **Q&A session** with the audience.

The session will be moderated by Ana Lucía Núñez from Oxfam in Peru.

Interpretation services will be available (EN/SP). Food & drinks will be provided.



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Introduction: Why the Community of Practice, and why is it important now? (Maya Piotrowska, Oxfam Novib)

Origins, evolution, and objectives of the CoP for FMSS and the McKnight Foundation's CRFS (Nyaradzai Chisango (CTDO), Manuel Ruiz Muller)

Policies for FMSS: Case Studies

1. The Philippines: Adopting a SUI Generis approach to Plant Variety Protection (Joy Angelica Doctor, SEARICE)
2. Peru: The new National Seed Framework: from a local to a national process (Eusebio Vasquez/Rosalía Clemente, GRISEN-FOVIDA/Seed Group)
3. Zimbabwe: CTDO's Journey in recognition of FMSS (FVR) (Andrew Mushita, CTDO)
4. Italy: Organic Heterogeneous Material in the EU & CSB Interlinkages (Riccardo Bocci, RSR)

Panel Discussion

How can policies support farmers as innovators within FMSS and broader seed sector development? What are the current issues surrounding economic, trade, and agriculture that impact FMSS?

Policy Recommendations

Presentation of the key findings and recommendations from the CoP (Nyaradzai Chisango, CTDO)

Conclusion

Lessons learned so far, best practices to scale, and the way forward from Lima (Manuel Ruiz Muller)



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