Rooted in Diversity (RiD): Partnership for Food Security and Livelihood Annual Progress Report - Narrative for Year 1.

PELUM Uganda

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Rooted in Diversity (RiD): Partnership for Food Security and Livelihoods

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Annual Narrative Report for Year 1

Reporting period:	**January 2024 – December 2024**
Agreement Period:	**2024 – 2028 (5 years)**
Date of Submission:	**6th June 2025**
Implementing Countries:	**Uganda, Niger and Malawi**
Total Grant Amount:	**Norwegian Kroner One Hundred and Seventy-five Million (NOK 175 M)**

Context

"Rooted in Diversity: Partnerships for Food Security and Livelihoods", commonly known as RiD, is a five-year project implemented in Uganda, Malawi, and Niger and managed by a consortium of PELUM Uganda, Oxfam Novib, and CIRAD. It is implemented in Uganda by the NGOs PELUM Uganda, ESAFF, and Oxfam in Uganda in the in Iganga, Serere, Amuru, and Kalaki districts; in Malawi by the NGOs CICOD, ELDS, and Oxfam in Malawi in the central districts of Dowa and Kothakota; and in Niger by the farmer federations Fuma Gaskiya and Mooriben and the NGO Oxfam in Niger in Tillaberi, Dosso, and Maradi regions. The project aims to enhance the local knowledge, skills, and capacities of small-scale food producers to improve food production and consumption in highly variable and unpredictable agroecologies.

The project is based on the premise that agrobiodiversity is the best way to promote food and nutrition security and adapt to unpredictable weather. It intends to:

1. Build on and contribute to increased availability and use of locally adapted crops and varieties, including local food plants and neglected and underutilized species.
2. Improve access to market and income opportunities for small-scale food producers to commercialize a greater diversity of crops and varieties.
3. Build and enhance functional networks of exchange and opportunities for joint learning among a range of actors including farmers, CSOs and researchers.
4. Create a collaborative environment for systemic food and agricultural policy change.

In the first year, the project implementation proceeded mostly as planned. There was no change in context for Malawi or Uganda. In Niger, however, sub-granting to in-country partners through CIRAD was made difficult by changes in French law following a diplomatic rift between the countries. The Project Management Team decided in response to channel funds instead through Oxfam Novib and Oxfam in Niger, which now also supports Outcome 4 implementation.

The severe flooding in Niger in 2024 has impacted the implementation of the RID project, particularly in its areas of intervention in Dosso, Tillabéry and Maradi. To address this urgent situation, the two farmer organizations from Niger have applied for additional budget through the Crisis Modifier which has been granted by NORAD.

Overall progress and achievements

The first year centered on two global workshops to shape the project's management structure and implementation strategies.

- The inception workshop (27 May to 1 June 2024) convened 47 participants (34 men and 13 women) at Imperial Golf Course View Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda. It laid the foundations for governance, decision-making, capacity strengthening, financial management, and communication.
- The methodological workshop (November 2024) brought together 48 participants (42 men and six women) at Kalipano Hotel in Dowa, Malawi, to focus on refining and sharing methodologies for implementing activities. An online depository has been created with shared tools and manuals.

Following the inception workshop, the project put in place agreed modalities for stakeholder engagement.

- A finance structure – including templates for reporting, monitoring, and tracking expenditures – was developed and implemented across the partnership.
- The consortium partners and regional and country partners (CIRAD, Oxfam Novib, ESAFF, Oxfam in Malawi, CICOD, ELDS, Oxfam in Uganda, Fuma Gaskiya, Mooriben, ICRISAT, COU-TEDO, and EADEN) signed agreements on structured collaboration and financial accountability.
- Nine inception meetings were conducted with government officials at national, regional, and district level in Iganga, Serere, Amuru, and Kalaki in Uganda; Nkotakotah and Dowa in Malawi; and Dosso, Tillaberi, and Maradi in Niger. These meetings aligned the project with local development plans and broader national strategies, secured the necessary approvals, and facilitated community engagement. MoUs were signed between country partners and local district governments, setting out governance frameworks and operational protocols.
- Four NARES institutions endorsed the project: NaSARRI in Uganda, DARS in Malawi, and INRAN and IMAAN in Niger. Agreements were being finalized but had not yet been signed by the end of the reporting period.

The consortium recruited specialist personnel to meet the project's technical and managerial requirements.

- PELUM Uganda recruited a Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Finance and Compliance Manager, Gender Advisor, and Participatory Plant Breeder.
- Oxfam recruited three additional technical advisors in the areas of local markets and value chains, land rights, and food security.
- CIRAD supported the project through an internal data manager in the first year, while starting the recruitment process for a project specific data manager. The recruitment process for an international volunteer working with PELUM and ESAFF on Outcome 3 has been finalized in 2024. Both roles are to be filled in Year 2 of the project.

Project implementation was initiated.

- During the inception phase, country teams each held four working sessions with project partners to revise workplans, improve the accuracy of the figures in the results framework, and ensure alignment with the overall project target of reaching 30,000 small-scale food producers.
- Workplan revisions were aligned, leading to corresponding revisions of the respective budgets.
- The project partners established communication strategies and defined roles and responsibilities in Outcome Delivery Groups (ODGs) and Country Implementation Teams (CITs). This involved five workshops and meetings in Niger, five in Uganda, and two in Malawi. CITs and ODG advisors held online meetings to plan and harmonize year 1 and year 2 project activities.

- In advance of the methodological workshop in November, all countries conducted pre-diagnostics and selected intervention districts, communities, and farmer groups, as well as priority crops and areas of research interest.

The project experienced some deviations and delays.

- PELUM's recruitment of a project manager was delayed until November 2024, while CIRAD's recruitment and posting of an international volunteer to implement activities on Outcome 3 in Uganda was postponed until May 2025.
- The baseline survey in Uganda, planned for 2024, was postponed to February 2025 due to delays in work permits and identification of control populations. Guidelines, questions, intervention sites, and the sampling strategy were finalized by end of 2024.
- The signing of contracts with farmer federations in Niger was delayed by the need to change from contracting with CIRAD to Oxfam in Niger, due to emerging political limitations around French organizations working in Niger. However, both federations were able to pre-finance and start implementation, and the inclusion of Oxfam in Niger – which has longstanding experience in advocacy – in the consortium is seen as an opportunity to facilitate further collaboration.
- Research involving Cornell University that had been planned in Malawi had to be cancelled as it relied on finance from USAID which was withdrawn. Some of the planned research questions, on integrating traditional and formal systems to develop sustainable seed systems for local food plants, will instead be treated by the ODG 3 team.
- The Seeds Academy, planned for 2024, was moved to 23 March to 3 April 2025. Bringing together 28 PhD students, researchers, and practitioners to study seed systems of opportunity crops and the diversification of food systems, the academy is organized by PE&RC at Wageningen University, NMBU, CIP, Oxfam, and MaRCCI at Makerere University, and supported by the BOLD project, Rooted project, ACB, NORAD, the Crop Trust, ESAFF, PELUM Uganda, and the NWO-SEP program.

Specific results related to the four outcomes

Outcome 1

The pre-diagnostic phase and surveys engaged communities and identified sites for interventions on participatory plant breeding and local food plants.

- ESAFF and PELUM formed 40 Farmer Field Schools to work on participatory plant breeding and local food plants, covering four districts in Uganda and directly reaching 1783 participants.
- Land agreements were signed to establish two community seed banks in Serere and Amuru districts in Uganda. In Niger, the project mapped 15 input shops working with Farmer Research Networks and 22 seed-selling locations, for which eight seed banks will be established or supported.
- In two districts in Malawi, 2500 small-scale farmer participants (comprising 864 men and 1636 women, and including 700 youths and 75 people with disabillities) were registered during the reporting period. Registration continued after the end of the reporting period.
- In Niger, farmer federation Fuma Gaskiya registered seven Farmer Unions for the project with more than 4000 members, and Mooriben registered 10 Farmer Unions with more than 5000 members.

The project developed an initial list of priority crops for participatory plant breeding, along with local food plants or neglected and underutilized species.

- In total the implementing countries selected 13 different priority crop species and 21 local food plants or neglected and underutilized species (LFP/NUS), which are neglected by research and the formal seed system. These lists, shown in the table below, will be refined during the diagnostic phase to specify trait preferences and research objectives.

Priority crops and local food plants / neglected plants (LFP/NUS) identified during pre-diagnostic surveys in Malawi, Uganda and Niger during year 1 of the project

	Malawi	Uganda	Niger*
Priority crops	**8**	**9**	**5**
	Local maize, bambara nuts, sorghum, finger millet, yams, cow peas, pigeon peas, green gram	Ground nuts, cassava, simsim, bambara nuts, finger millet, beans, soybeans, sorghum, maize	Sorghum adapted to dunes, pearl millet, bambara nuts, cow peas, fonio
LFP/NUS	**7**	**6**	**8**
	Okra, amaranthus, chidede, limanda, chisoso, zumba, mtaimati	Amaranthus, pumpkin, okra, eggplant, nakatti, echadoi	Cassia tora, corchorus tridens, amaranthus spinosus, ceratotheca sesamoides, gynandropsis gynandra, portulaca oleracea, sesamum indicum, moringa oleifera
*In Niger, seed of three local sorghum cultivars, four varieties of Bambara nuts, four accessions of yodo, four accessions of foubaye, and four accessions of cassia tora were collected during 2024 for multiplication, and 40 sorghum accessions have been identified in international gene banks from CIRAD and ICRISAT to be sent to Niger.			

Diversity plots were initiated in Malawi.

- Malawi was the only country where the planting season started after the inception phase and methodological workshop in 2024. Partners in Malawi established 21 diversity plots with lead farmers in the selected communities to introduce other farmers to new varietal options of priority crops, with seeds sourced from the Malawi Genebank.

Outreach and training on agroecology began in Uganda and Niger.

- During the Agroecology Week of Action in Uganda, which was organized and implemented by PELUM, 47 participants (27 female and 22 male) were trained on the economic importance of neglected and underutilized species and how NARO can enhance varietal development in communities.
- The Uganda CIT supported agroecology clubs in Amuru and Iganga to organise debates in three schools that reached 90 students.
- A media sensitization workshop was organised for in Uganda for 20 journalists (15 male and five female) and four small-scale farmers (three male and one female) to improve reporting on agroecology.
- In Niger, Fuma Gaskiya started to develop training modules on agr-ecology by creating an overview of existing agroecological management option available in the basket of choice of the federation, which will be completed by farmer's strategies and priorities.

Outcome 2

During the first year all country teams focused on the identification of Cooperatives and farmer groups interested to engage in Value Chain Development and seed production as soon as Y2

- Malawi identified two cooperatives in Dowa District
- Uganda identified two cooperatives: Nawandala Cooperative, Namungaalwe Cooperative

- Niger: identified six cooperatives and/or large seed producer (3 for each Federation). Fuma Gaskiya also evaluated their experiences in seed multiplication and the gaps to be filled.

Further, during the first year Uganda partners focused on exposure visits and participation in events, while the Niger partners focused on identification of priority intervention areas for Outcome 2

Uganda participated in 07 event related to value-chain development

- 8 cooperative members attended an indigenous food fair in Uganda
- 3 farmers from Amuru & Serere were supported to participate at the World Food Day at NaSARRI
- Supported farmers at the National Agriculture Show.
- Co-organized the 6th National Organic Week during the Agroecology Week of Action.
- Hosted a seed discourse with 56 participants, including small-scale farmers, district officials, and media.
- Organized the 3rd Agroecological Market Systems Expo (AMASE) the Expo brought together 266 participants (100 female, 166 male) for value chain farmers, entrepreneurs to self-teach on how to access markets.

Niger identified three priority areas to be addressed by Outcome 2

1. Storage, processing, packaging, and marketing needs for yam, cassava, sweet potatoes, moringa, and banana.
2. Infrastructure Development to reduce women's workload & post-harvest losses: milling machines, solar dryers, marketing hangars, and special silos.
3. Leveraging experiences from Networking for Seeds project for knowledge transfer and dissemination, adapting strategies like input shops, mobile input shops, seed fairs, and caravans

Outcome 3

Identify eight focal points in NARES: two in Uganda, two in Malawi and three in Niger.

- In Niger, two meetings with project partners were held to introduce the project to the Director General and technical staff of INRAN (the National Institute for Agricultural Research). INRAN nominated three researchers to provide support and facilitation. Additionally, the farmer federations collaborate with one researcher from the private IMAAN Research organization and one researcher working with the NGO Agropast.
- In Malawi, the Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) is leading implementation of Outcome 3. During the reporting period DARS supported seed sourcing of priority crops for the 20 on-farm diversity blocks
- In Uganda the two focal point are breeders from the NaSARRI institute at NARO.

All researchers nominated participated in the methodological workshop and received first initial training on tools and methods relevant to the projects' outcomes. They also shared their experiences and methodologies.

Progress was made on sharing of methodologies and training.

- CITs presented and exchanged various tools and methods during the methodological workshop. They also established a working group on adapting the Agro Ecosystem Analysis (AESA) tool to the project's needs.
- An on-line repository was built (hosted in "BOX") to make all tools and methods available to partners.

- All CITs contributed to developing the baseline and gender survey questionnaire for implementation in January and February 2025.
- PELUM and CIRAD developed terms of reference for an international volunteer to work on methodologies and collaboration models, linking research, NGOs and Farmer Field Schools.

Outcome 4

A three-day global seeds legislation workshop was co-organized by Oxfam Novib and attended by six Rooted in Diversity project partners (ESAFF, ELDS, CICOD, Oxfam in Uganda, Oxfam in Niger, and PELUM Uganda)

"From Breeding For Diversity to Seed Regulations/Laws – how to promote an enabling environment for farmer seed systems" was organized by the FAO secretariat, CTDT, Rete Semi Rurale and Oxfam Novib, in Zimbabwe in November 2024, and brought together participants from 89 countries to share experiences between Europe and Africa. Conclusions of the meeting are used for joint position papers to present to the African Union and ITPGRFA GB11 meeting in Peru.

The Uganda CIT was involved in five events related to policy and advocacy.

- It organized the sixth National Agroecology Symposium during the Agroecology Week of Action (AWA) attended by 194 participants (58 female, 136 male).
- It organized a retreat to refine the national agroecology strategy, attended by 17 participants (seven female, ten male).
- Participated in regional consultative meetings on the Food and Nutrition Bill, and
- facilitated the representatives of 15 civil society organizations (five female, ten male) to develop a position paper on the National Land Policy.
- It collaborated with other strategic partners to launch "Keep Your Land, Keep Your Seed" campaign.

In Niger, Mooriben organized a forum on seed legislation.

- The forum brought together ten key actors from government and local and international CSOs in the seed sector.

Program Management

Implementation

Please describe any deviations from the latest approved implementation plan

- In Uganda and Malawi, there were no deviations from the latest approved implementation plan during the reporting period, except for delays in implementing some project activities.
- Following the deterioration of the diplomatic relationship between Niger and France, CIRAD – the French-based consortium partner responsible for technical support to the Niger CIT – was unable to sub-grant to local implementing partners. Oxfam Novib assumed the role of sub-granting through Oxfam in Niger.

A brief assessment of how efficiently project resources have been turned into outputs.

All interventions have been guided by the principle of value for money. The project applied the risk management approach tool PRISMA to anticipate any challenges in project implementation and propose solutions. All organizations were found to have in place appropriate policies to ensure efficient implementation of the project, in areas such as finance, human resources, and MEAL.

Risk assessment

Include risks affecting project achievements and risks for negative consequences from the project on its surroundings.

New risks	*Risk rating*	*Mitigation measures (proposed)*
Climate change effects (e.g. prolonged droughts) impacting project activities.	**High**	Promoting the adoption of agroecological farming practices, local food plants, and participatory plant breeding.
Fuel scarcity and forex shortages affecting project progress in Malawi.	**Moderate**	Flexibility in planning and implementation of project activities.
Project risks	***Risk rating***	***Mitigation measures***
Uganda Political interference in project activities because of the upcoming elections and misinterpretation of project intentions.	**High**	Maintaining transparency, engaging all political actors, and positioning the project as non-partisan.
Weak local government structures to support project implementation, i.e. extension and land structures.	**Moderate**	Inducting them in partnership with the government and including them in training courses.
Late project disbursements hampering the organization of project work plans.	**High**	Encouraging implementing partners to prefinance activities where possible.
Outbreak of bird diseases in Niger.	**Low**	Vaccinations.

Financial management

Comment on and justify significant deviations (both positive and negative) between actual costs (financial statements) and the latest approved budget.

The overall project expenditure in the reporting period was only 39.14% of the approved budget. This was primarily due to the long inception phase which was characterized by assessment of the partners, the signing of sub-grantee agreements and the negotiation of Memorandum of Understandings. After the project's inception in May, the harmonization of the implementation methodology and tools was delayed until November 2024. Planned activities that were not implemented in 2024 have been rolled over to 2025.

Unprecedented levels of flooding in Niger led to a humanitarian crisis in project implementation areas, and the activation of the project's crisis modifier.

Comments from the auditors' report

Description of the auditor's finding	Planned action(s) for resolution, as initially agreed	Planned date of completion		Current status	If applicable: Revised action(s) to be taken	Expected date of completion	Comments / explanatory notes

Evaluation/Reviews

Were any evaluations or reviews of the project carried out during the reporting period? If so, briefly describe the key findings and attach the report(s) (if not already submitted/otherwise agreed).

No evaluations were made in the reporting period.

Date and attestation
I am authorized to enter into legally binding agreements on behalf of the grant recipient, and attest that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information given in this report is correct.

Date: 1st June 2025

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Josephine Akia Luyimbazi
Country Coordinator
PELUM Uganda

Annexes

Result Framework Year 1: Targets and numbers reached in the reporting period

Rooted in diversity: partnerships for food security and livelihoods						
Increased food and nutrition security for small-scale food producers and their communities in Malawi, Uganda, Niger.						
Improving recognition of and access to crop diversity for local food and nutrition security						
Activities	**Indicators**	**Revised Target (end of 2028). Disaggregated by male (m) and female (f)**	**Year 1 Target**	**Numbers reached**	**Comments**	**Sources, means and frequency of verification**
	Indicators					
n/a	% of households reporting improved availability of food throughout the year compared to the beginning of the project.	70%				* All activity reports, and M&E reports * field visits * assessments * stories of change (annual)
	% of households who report spending less income on food compared to the beginning of the project.	70%				* All activity reports, and M&E reports * field visits * assessments * stories of change (annual)
	% of households reporting a change in knowledge and adoption of nutrition and dietary practices as a result of project activities.	70%				* All activity reports, and M&E reports * field visits * assessments * stories of change (annual)
	Indicators					
n/a	# of households with increased food diversity	33,600	800	0	# Number of farmers have been registered (data base available)	* Household dietary diversity score (HDDS)
	# of households reporting good to high acceptance of locally available plants for nutrition	33,600	800	0		* All activity reports, and M&E reports * field visits * assessments * stories of change (annual)
	# of small-scale food producers (60% women) that have applied newly acquired skills and knowledge on local diversity management	14,400	100	1783 were trained		* All activity reports, and M&E reports * field visits * assessments * stories of change (annual)
	Indicators					
n/a	# of climate-resilient locally adapted crop varieties evaluated by communities	616	0	21	Varieties were planted in Malawi in the 24/25 growing season but evaluations to be done in 2025. Sorghum accessions were identified from CIRAD and ICRISAT	* All activity reports, and M&E reports * field visits * assessments * stories of change (annual)
	# of locally adapted crop varieties improved by communities to adapt to changed growing conditions	21	0	0		
	# of breeding cycles performed and populations produced towards the development of new crop varieties for local growing conditions	3*3	0	0		

	# of novel food products resulting from the work on local food plants	110	0	0	gene banks and to be sent to Niger in 2025.	
Activities	**Indicators**	**Target (end of 2028)**				**Sources, means and frequency of verification**
Act 1.1.1 Participatory identification of priorities for plant breeding (breeding objectives/desired crop traits) and nutrition/local food plants (nutrition bottlenecks, including access to and affordability of nutritious food) depending on farmers' needs to determine shared research agenda.	# of national level research agendas on PPB/crop diversity and local food plants/nutrition/processing containing priority crops and research objectives, by researchers (NARES), smallholder farmers (M/F) and CSOs	18	0		5 NARES researchers attended the methodological workshop in Malawi and undertook some preliminary training on PPB tools.	* All activity reports, and M&E reports * field visits * assessments * stories of change (annual) * Farmer profiling list
Act 1.2.1 Implement participatory plant breeding (FFS-based) to i) evaluate novel material in local growing conditions for direct use ('participatory variety selection'), ii) adapt and improve important local/farmer varieties ('participatory variety enhancement') or iii) develop new varieties ('participatory variety development'). Key considerations to guide these activities: nutrition-sensitive, broad-genetic base (stable/sustainable), open-pollinated varieties.	# small-scale food producers, NARES researchers and breeders (60% women) that are trained in participatory plant breeding, variety evaluation and genetic resources/diversity	2550+16 researchers	0		diversity blocks have been established in Malawi in 20 villages. In Uganda and Niger FFS sites were identified to facilitate PPB activities Five NARS breeders received initial training on tools for PPB during the Methodological workshop in Malawi	
Act 1.2.2 Contribute to the FFS-based PPB activities in the form of support/capacity strengthening for NARES and farmer organizations in (participatory) breeding, variety evaluation and genetic resources/diversity management methods. This could include the characterization of existing germplasm and identification of donor parents for desired traits and/or interesting varieties; the design of crop- specific participatory breeding processes such as decentralized participatory breeding with early generation selection; population development and evolutionary plant breeding methods or shuttle breeding.						
Act 1.3.1 Implement activities to improve nutrition through the better utilization of local food plants (LFPs) (FFS-based) e.g. through processing, novel cooking methods, domestication/conservation of wild and semi-wild species, seed production, conservation and access. Linked to consumption/household level.	# of farmers (70% women) using novel processing/cooking methods of LFPs	13,000	0	0		
	# of LFPs species newly introduced or reintroduced into diets.	24	0	0	Collected seed of LFPs by Niger CIT	
Act 1.4.1 Provide training and capacity strengthening for smallholder farmers and NARES on agroecological crop and land management to ensure PPB efforts respond to and are embedded in local agroecosystems and are climate-resilient. This includes training on practices that reduce labor burden and the identification and replication of potentially promising practices based on previous research which are tested and adapted.	# of small-scale food producers (60% women) and researchers using agroecological practices	30,600	800	1,783	During the Agro-ecology week of action.	
Act. 1.4.3 Provide support to apply agroecological techniques to boost the productivity of key crops (for selected products/value chains - linking with Outcome 2).						
Act 1.5.1 Develop strategies for the shared bulking of seed of locally adapted varieties for recovery after shocks In risk-prone environments - conflict or natural disaster.	# of small-scale food producers (60% women) that use seed storage systems to store and preserve seed.	12,400	0	0	Community identified and land agreements negotiated	
Act 1.5.2 Support Community Seed Banks (existing or to be established) as hubs where diversity management, seed bulking, commercialization and knowledge sharing come together, and develop local management strategies for their sustainable functioning.						
Act 1.6.1 Disseminate results of (to create interest in/market for) PPB and nutrition work to other communities and broader FO networks through e.g. diversity fairs, demonstration plots.	# of dissemination activities by smallholder farmers (M/F), farmer organizations or FFS	50	0			
Improving opportunities to increase small-scale food producers' income and livelihoods through local value chains of agrobiodiverse products						
Activities		**Target (end of 2028)**				**Sources and means of verification**
	Indicators					

n/a	# households with capacity to cope with environmental shocks without depleting assets					* All activity reports, and M&E reports * field visits * assessments * stories of change (annual)
	# of households reporting improved household incomes	7,400	0			
	# of these households ascribing their improved incomes to commercializing agro-biodiverse products	5,850	0			
	Indicators					
n/a	# of small-scale food producers (60% women) reporting new opportunities for them to improve their income by commercializing agro-biodiverse products	4,300	100	0		* All activity reports, and M&E reports * field visits * assessments * stories of change (annual)
n/a	# of small-scale food producers (60% women, and including youth and people with disabilities) that have applied newly acquired skills and knowledge for food production and value creation/addition	8,300	100	0		* All activity reports, and M&E reports * Field visits * End of season assessments
Activities	**Indicators**	**Target (end 2028)**				**Sources and means of verification**
Act 2.1.1 Support smallholder farmers/cooperatives in the production of seed. This will depend on national policies and seed systems. For crops or countries where there is no formal system, training will focus on maintenance and seed production for quality seed. For crops or countries where there is a formal system, training will focus on production of early-generation (breeder) seed. These trainings also include knowledge on seed certification processes, with involvement of national Seed Certification Services from the start.	# of farmer organizations that are producing and disseminating good quality seed of locally adapted varieties to producers	240	0			* All activity reports, and M&E reports * Field visits *cooperatives identified with experience in seed production
Act 2.1.2 Produce good quality seed of locally adapted varieties (farmer varieties and improved varieties, registered and unregistered – outcome of the PPB work under outcome 1) by smallholder farmers/cooperatives.						
Act 2.1.3 Develop seed promotion and dissemination strategies adapted to local contexts with farmer organization networks.	# of crop varieties (farmer varieties and improved varieties) produced	52	0			
Act 2.2.1 Provide training and capacity strengthening to smallholder farmers (M/F) (people with disabilities and youth) in climate resilient production methods adapted to their specific needs and contexts. (Linking with Outcome 1).	# of small-scale food producers (70% women) that participated in food production and processing activities	9,900	800			
Act 2.2.2 Adapt and adopt existing initiatives that support the participation of persons with disabilities in food production and processing efforts.						
Act 2.2.3 Provide training, capacity strengthening and peer-to peer learning for smallholder farmers (80% women) on value addition activities (post-harvest support, storage, effective processing, attractive packaging, marketing, branding) for local seed, product and produce (including staple crops and local food plants).						
Act 2.2.4 Promote the adoption of tested tools and techniques for food processing that reduce women's household burden, strengthen women's position as food producers and improve/maintain nutritional values.						

Act 2.3.1.1 Identify systemic challenges/barriers for smallholder farmers to access markets (seed, production, collection, storage, products) and define strategies to overcome them in each project country. Act 2.3.1.2 Support farmers' access to financial services and opportunities for business development, including microcredit, revolving funds (that do not lose value), savings accounts and insurance products. Act 2.3.1.3 Demand stimulation activities with local communities and consumers (market analysis, local food needs and preferences), especially focused on (nutritional) local food plants, for example through (local) promotional campaigns, fairs, exhibitions, “local” brand ambassadors.	# of value chains that facilitate the sale of agrobiodiverse products supported	36	2		Training on tools for value chain identification happened during the methodology workshop in Malawi	
Act 2.3.2.1 Develop and support measures and (digital) tools to promote information sharing for market development along the market chain/between market chain actors. Act 2.3.2.2 Support farmer cooperatives and producer groups to establish linkages with existing private sector parties (local businesses, retailers/off takers, restaurants, local market actors, among others) for improved market access of agrobiodiverse products.	# of market linkages among value chain actors	28	0		Training on tools for identification of Market linkages were done during the methodological workshop	
Act 2.4.1 Support the development of farmers' cooperatives and (seed) producers groups, with the aim of promoting collective and fair access to markets, reducing transaction costs and hence supporting increased income. Act 2.4.3 Develop (during inception phase) and implement an action plan to identify needs and opportunities for youth to have access to activities that support income increase.	# of farmer organizations supported # of small-scale food producers supported	150	0		Identified farmer organizations and small-scale food producers to work with in the subsequent years	
Supporting innovative farmer-researcher partnerships and collaborative ways of working among farmer organizations and researchers						
Activities		**Target (end of 2028)**				**Sources and means of verification**
	Indicators					
n/a	# of research agendas formulated and operationalized with smallholder farmers	9	0	0	4 preliminary research agenda were identified in Niger	* all activity reports, and M&E reports * Number of research studies conducted * Number of publications produced
	Indicators					
	# of agreements/MoUs between smallholder farmers and researchers around variety development, choice and/or seed production	26	0	0	Negotiations of the MoUs started and to be completed in 2025.	* MoUs and/or agreements
	Indicators					
n/a	# of small-scale food producers (60% women) that have applied their newly acquired skills and knowledge for farmer-managed seed and food systems research	9,700 small-scale food producers	0	0		* All activity reports, and M&E reports * field visits * assessments * stories of change (annual)
	# of research institutes/NARES that have applied their newly acquired skills and knowledge for farmer-managed seed and food systems research	6	0	0		

	# of farmer organizations that have applied their newly acquired skills and knowledge for farmer-managed seed and food systems research	235	0	0		
Activities	**Indicators**	**Target (end of 2028)**				**Sources and means of verification**
Act 3.1.1 Raise awareness by researchers, aiming at changing attitudes in relation to participatory approaches as well as strengthening the understanding of the needs of different actors from different disciplines and socio-cultural backgrounds (researchers, producers, etc.) for more balanced and effective collaboration, which ensures recognition and valuing of traditional/indigenous knowledge in all research activities.	# of farmer organizations involved in jointly creating new options (of seeds, crop diversity, processing techniques) with researchers	98	0	0	7 focal points been identified	* all activity reports, and M&E reports * field visits * assessments * stories of change (annual)
Act 3.1.2 Establish and implement a strategy based on existing experiences and findings from seed system research, to demonstrate to farmers organizations and researchers how farmers mobilize crop diversity to allow coexistence and/or integration of 'formal' and 'informal' options.						
Act 3.1.4 Elaborate collectively and implement, based on existing frameworks and guidelines (FRN principles, COeX guidelines), a project-wide protocol of collaboration for securing and sharing generated knowledge among project partners.						
Act 3.2.1 Train and support farmer organizations and researchers throughout the project to strengthen their understanding on research methodologies, data collection and data cleaning through experimentation, preliminary analysis techniques and data visualization. This supports decision-making based on the understanding of data and the outputs of (statistical) analyses adapted to on-farm selection contexts. It will also improve experimentation and the quality of data, which in turn improves collaboration between farmers and researchers.	# of small-scale food producers (60% women) supported in participatory plant breeding research schemes	13,000 small-scale food producers 62 researchers	20	20	20 diversity plots were established and evaluation done in 2025.	
	# of researchers supported in participatory plant breeding research schemes		2	5	Provided tools to 5 researchers during the methodological workshop in Malawi	
Act 3.3.2 Promote learning exchanges and mobilize collective intelligence between countries with successful experiences in farmer-researcher collaboration with other countries.	# of field visits and exchanges between farmers and local processors of different countries	15	0	0		
A collaborative environment for systemic food and agricultural policy change						
Activities		**Target (end of 2028)**				**Sources and means of verification**
	Indicators					
n/a	# of (inter-)national policies around seed systems, nutrition, markets, land rights and gender that have changed to support smallholder farmer managed food systems	10	0	0		* all activity reports, and M&E reports * policy papers produced * assessments * stories of change (annual)
	Indicators					
n/a	# of farmer organizations and/or CSOs actively participating in policy dialogues with national policy makers on seed systems, nutrition, markets, land rights and gender	75	2	10	Mooriben organized a forum on seed legislation, gathering 10 key actors from government, local and international CSOs, in the seed sector	* All activity reports, and M&E reports * Draft policy papers submitted * Number of dialogues conducted

	# of farmer organizations and/or CSOs having submitted draft texts for policy change around seed systems, nutrition, markets, land rights and gender that support smallholder farmer food systems	16	0	0		
Activities	**Indicators**	**Target (end of 2028)**				**Sources and means of verification**
Act 4.1.1 Conduct policy analysis to increase understanding of and assess the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in existing food and agricultural policies, including land access.	# of influencing strategies created and operationalized	8	0	0		* All activity reports, and M&E reports * Draft policy papers submitted * Number of dialogues conducted * Policy briefs with policy recommendation reports in place
Act 4.1.2 Conduct power analysis and build integrated influencing strategies on local, national and global levels together with identified policy champions.						
Act 4.1.3 Develop evidence-based policy reform proposals (policy briefs, position papers, statements).	# of policy reform proposals (policy briefs, position papers, statements) developed and disseminated	13	0	0		
Act 4.2.1 Organize policy influencing events at different levels including dialogues, workshops, and meetings to facilitate constructive discussions on policy reforms and their implications for smallholder farmers.	# of policy influencing activities undertaken (e.g. events, dialogues, information campaigns) in support of agrobiodiversity conservation (including seed laws, intellectual property rights, conservation incentives and land rights)	44	3	3 events	Organized the sixth National Agroecology Symposium (NAAS) in Uganda attended by 194 (58F, 136M), Organized a retreat to refine the National Agroecology strategy attended by 17 participants (7F: 10M) and facilitated the representatives of 15 (5W, 10M) CSOs to develop a position paper after reviewing the Natioanal Land Policy.	
Act 4.2.2 Establish/subscribe to multistakeholder inclusive and participatory platforms that bring together smallholder farmers, policymakers, researchers, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders that take advantage from collective intelligence to promote shared learning, consensus-building, and joint policy formulation.			0	5	Oxfam Novib co-organized and 6 Rooted in Diversity project partner staff attended a global farmer variety registration workshop in Zimbabwe "From Breeding for Diversity to Seed Regulations/Laws - how to promote an enabling environment for farmer seed systems	
Act 4.2.3 Advocate for policies and regulations that support agrobiodiversity conservation, including seed laws, intellectual property rights, conservation incentives and land rights.			0	0		
Act 4.3.1 Provide training and capacity strengthening programs for farmer organizations on policy analysis, advocacy techniques, and engagement with policymakers.	# of small-scale food producers (60% women) that are trained on policy analysis, advocacy techniques and engagement with policy makers	9,400	500	0		
Act 4.3.2 Facilitate farmer organizations' engagement in policy making processes at different levels to effectively voice their concerns and influence policy decisions.						

Act 4.3.3 Build an influencing network at different levels (country, regional, international) to share lessons learned and coordinate advocacy activities among farmer and civil society organizations.	# of stakeholders (disaggregated by country, regional and international level) that are involved in an influencing network to share lessons learned and coordinate advocacy activities among farmers and CSOs	24	0	0		