Delivering improved sorghum and pearl millet seeds in Senegal using a community-based approach

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In Senegal, as in many other developing countries, about 80 to 90% of the seeds used by farmers are sourced from informal seed systems, especially for subsistence crops like sorghum and pearl millet.

Meanwhile, there are accredited seed multipliers within farmer organizations that can supply their fellow members with certified seeds of improved varieties if they have access to early generation seeds.

With the support of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for collaborative research on Sorghum and Millet (SMIL), the Regional Center of Excellence for dry cereals and associated crops, led by ISRA/CERAAS, is experimenting a new approach that localizes formal seed production and distribution at the community level.

Decentralizing seed production in the major sorghum and pearl millet growing areas

PILOT TEST
(2 steps)

On farm variety demonstration by lead producers

On-station production by the responsible breeders & the seed production unit of ISRA

Seed production by entrusted community-based seed multipliers

Breeder Seeds (G0-G3)

Foundation Seeds (G4)

Certified Seeds (R1-R2)

On-farm by entrusted accredited seed multipliers within farmer organizations

Quality control and seed certification by the qualified government services

In each location, the accredited seed multipliers entrusted by their organization are empowered to produce certified seeds locally and to distribute them to their fellow farmers.

Seed multiplier Farmers

This model is ensuring last mile delivery of quality improved seeds even in remote areas that are far from commercial distribution points.

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