

# Transition from Seed Aid to Seed Market

## The case of A3SEED in South Sudan

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# South Sudan Food Situation

South Sudan remains in a serious humanitarian crisis. Some 9.4 million people, 76% of the population, are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2023, an increase by half a million people compared to 2022.



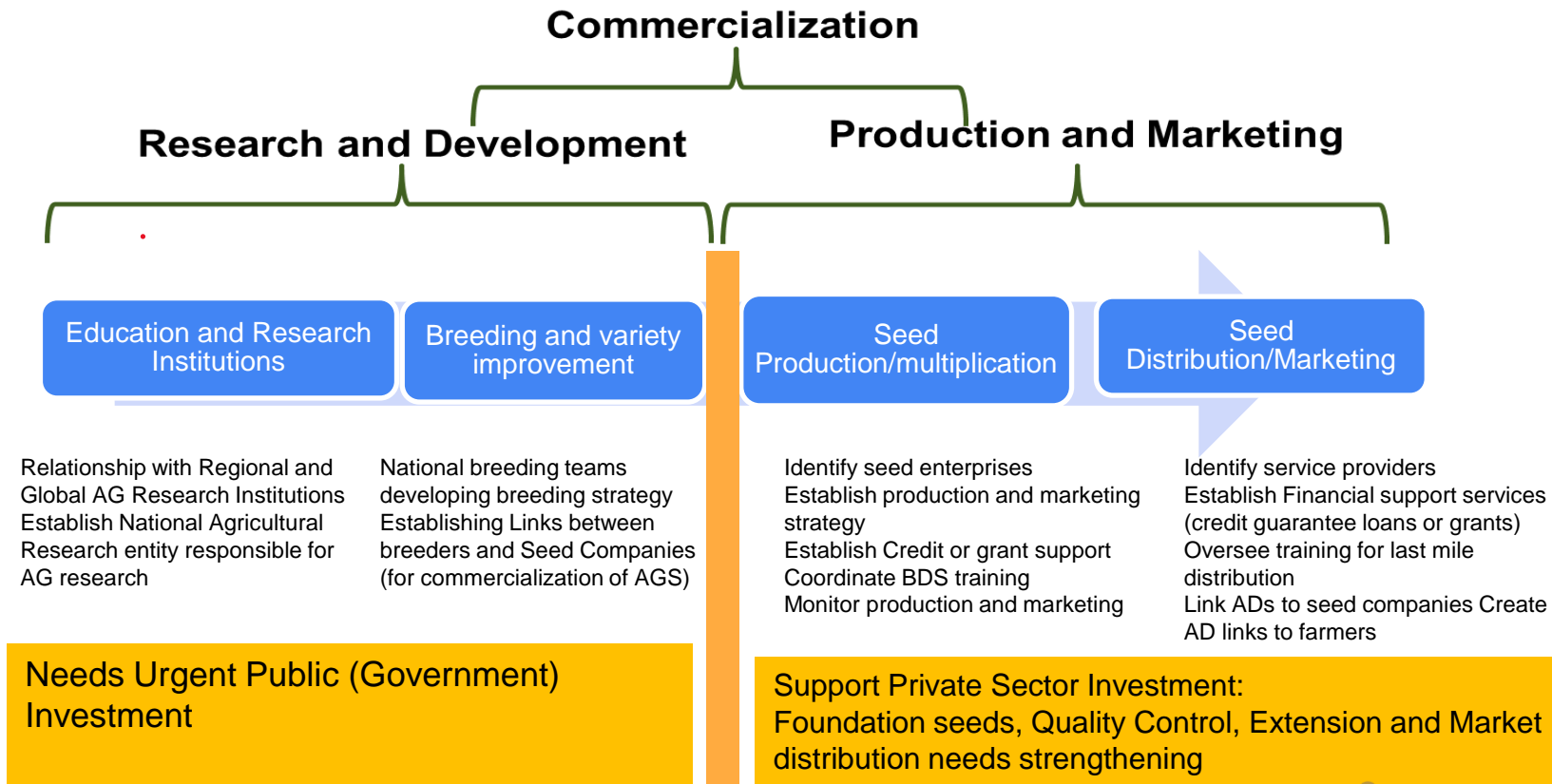
*“We cannot let people starve on our watch. I have seen how women and young people can **produce their own food and become self-sufficient** when provided with the **right support**,” she said. **“We must invest in sustainable and long-term solutions to build a famine-free future in South Sudan.”**”*

*December 2023*

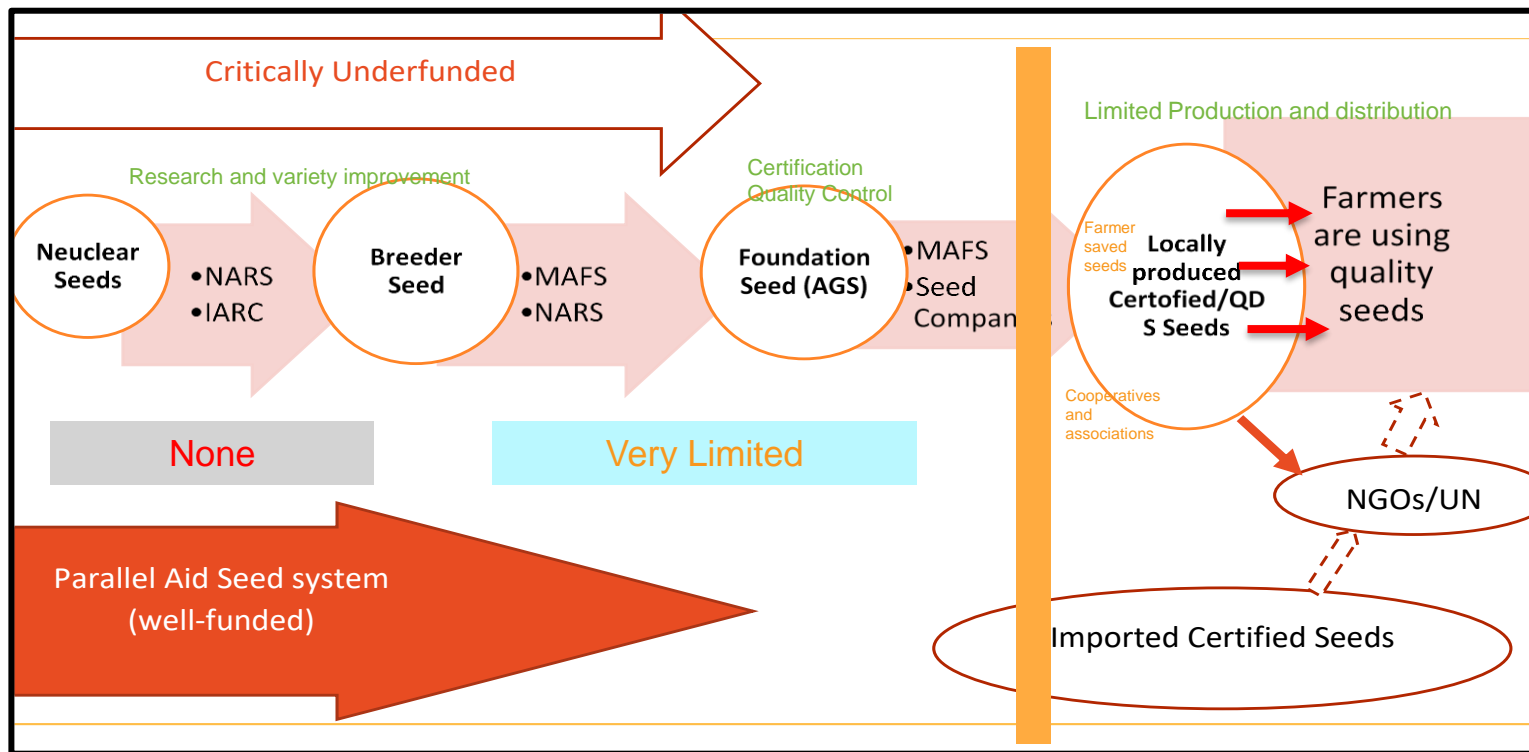


Reena Ghelani, the UN Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator

# SEED SYSTEMS GOVERNANCE



# SEED SYSTEMS GOVERNANCE IN SOUTH SUDAN



# Goals & intended impact

Primary Goal of our innovation is to ensure the availability of improved seed down to the last-mile through Agri-entrepreneurship. We support existing private sector seed companies to improve seed and input marketing, distribution and production practices.

## Objectives:

- To increase farmers access to improved seeds to enable them increase their production and productivity
- Relief seeds procured locally coordinated by STASS
- A network of sustainable Agro-dealer/seed sale Networks developed to provide points of interaction for farmers.

What common practices or mindsets do you want to change?

- **Continued seed aid is developmental and can increase food insecurity?**
- **Farmers cannot afford to buy seeds/inputs?**
- **The quality of seeds produced in South Sudan is low and not enough?**

What rules of the food systems game do you want to change?

- **Self sufficiency through local production**
- **Including local private sector in the food system game**





## Connecting to South Sudan's needs

### What needs addressed:

- Over reliance on imported seeds through seed aid have not significantly increased productivity due to quality issues – KIT/IFDC study 2022
- Limited extension services for improved crop management
- Limited government voice on seed regulations and quality assurances even on imported seeds.

### How does your idea specifically match or respond to these needs?

- Facilitating access to factors that would make local seed available and attractive to farmers.
- Supporting and advocating for government action to regulate and assure quality of local as well as imported seeds.

### What makes your idea different from or more effective than past attempts to solve the same problem?

- Creating network of businesses that interact together along the seed value chains – creating incentives.
- Embedding extension and awareness campaigns through demo plots, learning events, farm visits and exchanging visits
- Empowering government to make the right collective decisions that protect farmer interest – e.g., ban of low-quality imported seeds in Yambio and Rumbek.

## Results & impacts

### Positive Outcomes

- Farmers are adopting and paying for improved varieties of locally produced seeds and copying Good Agronomic Practices – pest and disease control etc.
- State governments are getting strengthen and make decisions on seed aid – e.g., **Yambio and Rumbek**
- Increased QDS production, more seed is being procured locally than in the past 5 years (35%). – marked increase in local seed procurement by NGOs reported in 2023 as a result of the ban.

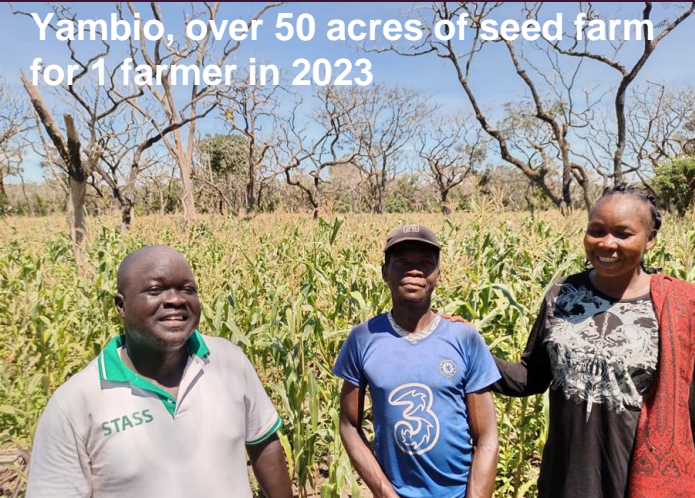
### Challenges

- **Limited/No Research** for improved varieties locally available. Reliance on old varieties produced in East Africa.
- **Access to finance**, the financial institutions in the country have low appetite to finance agriculture
- **Quality control and regulations** are in drafts and are not enforced



## The effects of seed aid ban in Rumbek and Yambio

Yambio, over 50 acres of seed farm for 1 farmer in 2023



Immediate impact of seed import ban!

In Rumbek, after the ban, reports have revealed that NGOs in the area have resorted in supporting local production of seeds. The only seed company AMASCO in Rumbek have increased sales and established a well stocked agro-dealer shop in the area. *Ref seed company capacity assessment, 2023 (draft)*

In Yambio, the only seed company there, has reported marked increase in sale of seeds to both NGOs and directly through agro-dealers to farmers. Some of the progressive farmers there have increased their production of seeds by over 60% in 2023 since there was assured market. *Ref Field visit to Yambio in Nov 2023.*

Rumbek records enhanced seed production and seed sales increases



What is the problem? Need to improve on local varieties for these areas, to enable farmers benefit from impacts of improved varieties

# THANK YOU

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