

CRP-DS

Activity title: Establishment of Seed System Platform

Output reported: Agencies involved in seed chain of crops

Action site: Aral Sea Region (Karaozak district), Uzbekistan

Reporting Center: ICARDA

Information collection:

A farmers' workshop was organized on 31 March 2015 to gather information about the agencies involved in seed chain in Karaozak district of Karakalpakstan. This was kind of a rapid appraisal to gather information about the agencies involved in seed chain of various crops. Such information was considered important to establish a seed sector platform in due course of time. This preliminary analysis to identify agencies involved in seed production focused on groups of crops primarily related to food security. A detailed analysis will be carried out later in 2015 for a holistic information for establishing seed system platform. Using the principal of rapid rural appraisal, the following information was received about the agencies involved in seed chain.

A list of different agencies involved in seed production, processing, storage and marketing is was developed for different groups of crops (Table 1). Even though this list is developed for Karaozak district, the situation is same for other rural districts of Karakalpakstan region of Uzbekistan.

Wheat:

Wheat seed production is primarily done by the selected farmers. The farmers are selected on the basis of preset criteria by the government to ensure that the seed producing farmers have technical knowhow and facilities required to produce certain quality grade of seed. Seed processing, storage, and sale are done by the Government Seed Agency. At present, there is not enough seed produced locally in the district and seed has to be brought from other provinces, in particular from Andijan. Since seeds of different quality grades are purchased by the farmers at 3-5 times higher price than that of the price of the grain, wheat grain producing farmers of the district have to spend substantial funds every year to obtain seed from outside the province. The district administration seems concerned about such loss of revenue to other provinces in purchasing wheat seed. Hence, the district administration as well as the wheat farmers are planning to increase area under wheat seed production to make the district self-sufficient in wheat seed.

Other cereals:

Seed of other cereals such as rice and coarse grains are not produced and marketed in planned way. Seed production is done by the local farmers as well as bought from other districts or provinces. Some farmers produce and keep seed for their own use. Surplus seed can be sold to

other farmers. There is a requirement of selling only high quality certified seed, however this practice is not always followed strictly. Some farmers also buy seed from the grain market.

Vegetables:

There is no organized vegetable seed production. Vegetable seeds are primarily bought from the market where private seed stores sell seed brought from cities or abroad. Even though there is quality assurance written on the seed package, farmers don't always find the seed they buy of high quality. Previous history of the seed stores in market in supplying good quality seed is taken as face value.

Potato:

Potato seed is not produced locally. Imported potato seed is available from local seed suppliers. Also, some farmers buy potato seed from the suppliers in the cities outside the district.

Fruits:

Finding good quality planting materials of fruits seems a huge problem. Farmers often depend on nurseries supplying the planting materials either locally or from other districts or cities outside the district. The varieties of fruits sold to the farmers are not always locally adapted, which results in low productivity and cause short life cycle of the fruit trees.

Conclusion

The agencies involved in seed production of major food crops in Karaozak district are diverse. For major food security crop wheat, the governmental agencies play major role. For minor cereals, farmers themselves and grain market are major providers of seed. For vegetables, potato and fruits, private seed suppliers play key role.

Table 1. List of agencies involved in seed chain of different crops in Karaozak district, which also reflects situation in other rural districts of Karakalpakstan region in Aral Sea Action Site, Uzbekistan/

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Crop name:	Seed producer:	Seed processor:	Seed storer:	Seed marketer:
Wheat	Farmers*	"ChimboyDonMahsulot" Ltd. of "UzDonMahsulot" JSC	"ChimboyDonMahsulot" Ltd. of JSC "UzDonMahsulot"	"ChimboyDonMahsulot" Ltd. of JSC "UzDonMahsulot"
Cotton	Farmers	"QoraqolpoqPakhtaSanoat" Regional Joint Stock Association of "UzPahtaSanoat" JSC	"QoraqolpoqPakhtaSanoat" Regional Joint Stock Association of "UzPahtaSanoat" JSC	"QoraqolpoqPakhtaSanoat" Regional Joint Stock Association of "UzPahtaSanoat" JSC
Vegetables	Farmers, private local peasants**	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants
Potato	Farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants
<i>Cucurbitaceous spp. (melon water melon, etc.)</i>	Farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants
Oil seeds	Farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants
Legumes	Farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants
Forages	Farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants
Rice (paddy)	Farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants
Maize	Farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants

Millet	Farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants	Private local/national seed traders, also farmers, private local peasants
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*Farmers refer to landowners

**Peasants refer to the groups or the families who rent, for one crop season, some piece of land from the farmers and cultivate the land according to their own wish and need.

Citation

Sharma, R.C. and J. Turok. 2015. List of agencies involved in seed chain in Karaozak district, Uzbekistan. Report. ICARDA, Tashkent.