



# FOOD, LAND & WATER

## Seeds: Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security

Everyone needs to eat. Yet some 795 million people do not have enough food to lead a healthy, active life. Modern food, and the way it is produced, traded, distributed, consumed and wasted at present is not sustainable. Conditions are only worsening: following current trends, by 2050 the demand for food will increase by 70%. At the heart of our broken food system are issues such as unequal power relations and gender inequality, insufficient good

governance, climate change, decreasing biodiversity, inequitable access to land, water and seeds, lack of investment in smallholder farmers, volatile food prices and more.

*//Crops are not just the expression of genes, but are also the expression of spirits.//*

– A participant in the Farmer Field School in Lares, Peru.



**OXFAM**

// If you're not a risk taker with an incredibly optimistic view of life and a deep belief in your own potential, then you better not think about wanting to become a farmer. //

– Zimbabwean farmer



## PURPOSE

*Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security* contributes to the empowerment of resource disadvantaged communities. The programme aims to develop capacities and supports communities to claim their rights. This enables people to manage biodiversity in the context of adapting to climate change. The programme influences local and global policies and institutions on both access to and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), in order to achieve food and nutrition security.

## PROMISE

*Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security* will support the rights of indigenous peoples and small holder farmers, largely women, to enable them to access and develop seeds suited to their needs. The programme supports communities to participate in decision-making processes related to their seeds and food security, and aims for structural changes by engaging in necessary policy reform.

## PERFORMANCE

*Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security* is a global programme that reaches 300,000 households through:

- Farmer field schools that strengthen farmers' seed systems, which constitute approximately 80% of global seed systems. Farmer schools focus on main staples such as rice, maize and potatoes as well as neglected and underutilised species such as millet, sorghum,

bambara, herbs and wild vegetables. The latter crops get little attention from science and the commercial sector, yet are vital to the food security of people in poverty.

- Farmer seed enterprises, public-private partnerships to bring farmers' seed innovations to a wider market, as well as improving farmers' access to good quality and diverse seeds.
- Women produce most of the world's food, however women also tend to be the most hungry. This work builds on local knowledge of how to use the biodiversity of food for a more nutritious diet.

## PROOF

*Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security* has already developed innovative baseline surveys and multiple activities for achieving change. Examples include:

- Setting up farmer field schools with communities in eight countries. These are schools without walls, drawing on the expertise of local farmers.
- Setting up community seed banks to allow farmers to store their own seeds in a safe place and to borrow new seeds when they need them.
- Participatory plant breeding to select and develop crops vital for climate change adaptation strategies.

*Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security* is implemented by a consortium of nine international organisations: ANDES, CTDI, CAWR, GRAIN, ETC Group, TWN, SOUTH CENTER, SEARICE and OXFAM.

## PLACES

Oxfam implements *Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security* globally as well as in the following countries:

**Africa:** Mali, Senegal, Zimbabwe

**Asia:** India, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam

**South America:** Peru

For more information, please visit [www.oxfamnovib.nl](http://www.oxfamnovib.nl) or [www.oxfamnovib.nl/en](http://www.oxfamnovib.nl/en).

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