SEED SYSTEMS GROUP

Because *All* Farmers Deserve Good Seed

Annual Report | 2025

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GROUP

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SSG Vision

Seed Systems Group is driven by the belief that an Africa free from hunger is achievable in our lifetime.

SSG Mission Statement

SSG's mission is to ensure that every farmer across Africa has access to affordable, high-quality seeds of a wide range of nutritious food crops.

Address

Seed Systems Group
140 Manyani West Road, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254700258888 / +254750258000

SSG Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre,
rue 4 HDN Lomé, Togo.
Telephone: +22893820000 / +22897691919

Email: info@seedsystemsgroup.org
Website: https://seedsystemsgroup.org/

Cover photo: Pearl Millet Harvested by a Farmer from a Small Seed Pack Upper East Region, Ghana

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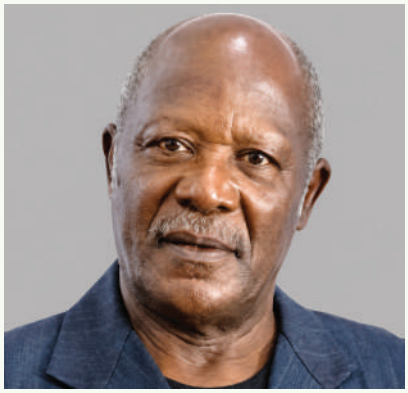
Acronyms

ABPRC	Institute of the Apostles of the Good Shepherd and of the Queen of the Cenacle
AED	Agricultural Extension Department
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
ANADER	National Extension Service for Rural Development
CERD	Djiboutian Centre for Studies and Research
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CNRA	Centre National de Recherche Agronomique de Côte d'Ivoire
DAF	Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry
DGMAVAE	The General Directorate of Mobilization for Self-Development and Agricultural Extension
DPA	Direction de la Production Agricole
ESM	Mabuga Seed Company
FIFAMANOR	Fiompiana Fambolena Malagasy –Norveziana
FOFIFA	National Center for Applied Research in Rural Development
ICAT	Institute of Consulting and Technical Support
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IER	Institute of Rural Economy
IIZIM	Ikigo c'Imbuto Zirobanuye I Muyaga
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
INERA	National Institute of Agronomic Studies and Research
INPA	National Agricultural Research Institute
ISABU	Institute of Agronomic Sciences of Burundi
ISRA	Senegal's public agricultural research institute
ISTA	International Seed Testing Association
ITRA	Togolese Institute of Agronomic Research
KALRO	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
KEPHIS	Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture

MoAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
NARC-SLARI	Njala Agricultural Research Center-Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
RARC	Rokupr Agricultural Research Centre
RESOPP	Réseau des Organisations Paysannes Et Pastorales du Sénégal
SARI	Savanna Agricultural Research Institute
SETRACO	Seed Trade Company Ltd
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VBAs	Village Based Advisors
WFP	World Food Program

Message from Board Chair



It is with great pride and gratitude that I present the Seed Systems Group (SSG) Annual Report for 2025. This year tested the resilience of our organization in profound ways, yet it also revealed the strength, adaptability, and unwavering commitment that define SSG at its core.

Despite significant disruptions in the donor landscape, including the unexpected closure of USAID and the resulting loss of millions of dollars in potential funding, SSG demonstrated remarkable agility and focus. With fewer resources than anticipated, the team achieved more than could reasonably have been expected. The successes highlighted in this report are testament to the dedication of our staff, the power of our partnerships, and the clarity of our mission.

Where we stand today

Since its establishment in 2019, SSG has grown into one of the most respected and widespread agriculture development organizations in Africa. SSG is devoted exclusively on building sustainable seed production and supply systems, focusing especially on countries and communities that have historically been underserved. In 2025 alone, SSG and its partners produced over 2,282 MT of certified seed, engaged thousands of Village-Based Advisors, supported agro-dealers, strengthened research institutions, conducted policy reviews and endline evaluations that continue to shape national and regional seed agendas. These accomplishments reinforce our belief that an Africa free from hunger is within reach.

Where we are headed

Looking forward, SSG is positioning itself to deepen its impact by refining and expanding the proven public-private-partnership (PPP) model of seed systems development. We are also embracing innovation, including digital tools to bridge the last-mile gaps between farmer demand and seed supply. SSG aims to continue addressing systemic bottlenecks, scaling national capacities, and catalyzing investment into sustainable seed systems across the continent.

Acknowledgments

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the SSG staff across all countries. Your professionalism, tireless commitment, and innovative spirit continue to drive this mission forward. You have demonstrated, especially this year, that SSG can deliver exceptional results even under difficult circumstances.

I also wish to recognize the critical oversight and advisory role played by our Board. Each member has brought invaluable perspective, continuity, and accountability during a challenging year.

Allow me to pay special tribute to our long-serving Board Secretary, **Ms. Aline O'Connor**, who retired from the Board in December 2025 after six years of exemplary, selfless, and generous service. Her professionalism, meticulous attention to detail, and unwavering dedication have been indispensable to the governance and growth of SSG. We are immensely grateful for the standards she set and the legacy she leaves behind.

Dr. Joe DeVries, SSG's Founding President, retired from the position of President on December 31st after seven years of devoted and selfless service to the organization. His vision of reaching farmers who previously had no access to improved seed are advancing well under a committed and effec-

tive management structure. It was thus an appropriate moment for him to step down from the position of President and continue his service to Africa in another position. I am pleased that Dr. DeVries agreed to join the SSG Board from the 1st of January 2026. His vast experience, contact with funding and other partners and his dedication to serving Africa's smallholder farmers will be of great benefit to SSG's Board.

Appreciation to our partners

On behalf of SSG, I extend our sincere gratitude to all our donors for their continued trust and partnership; to the governments of countries where SSG maintains offices or implements programs; to the national and international agricultural research institutions which breed new varieties; to the local seed companies, extension agents, agro-dealers, and all local implementing partners; and to the many institutions and individuals across the agricultural and research ecosystems who contribute to this work. None of SSG's achievements would be possible without your collaboration.

Finally, I congratulate **Dr. Issoufou Kapran** on his appointment as President of SSG. His deep expertise, long-standing commitment to smallholder farmers, and passion for strengthening Africa's seed sector position him well to guide SSG into its next chapter.

Together, we move forward with optimism and determination to ensure that every farmer across Africa has access to high-quality seed of improved, nutritious, and climate-resilient varieties.

Dr. Namanga Ngongi
Board Chair
Seed Systems Group

Message from the President

The year 2025 brought significant achievements, even amidst unprecedented challenges. SSG continued to expand access to improved seed across sub-Saharan Africa, working in 15 countries and partnering with governments, research institutions, private seed companies, extension systems, input distributors and other local organizations. Our interventions supported:

- 19 variety trials conducted across multiple agroecological zones,
- Production of 2,282 MT of certified seed by 51 supported seed companies,
- Dissemination of a cumulative 1,063,953 small seed packs to farmers,
- Training of 2,746 Village-Based Advisors,
- Training of 264 agro-dealers and supporting 37 with matching grants
- Conducting seed systems assessments and policy reviews, and
- Building the capacity of researchers, regulators, and seed producers.

These results affirm the strength of SSG's integrated, farmer-centered approach and highlight the dedication of our teams and partners across the continent.

2025 was also a year of financial and operational strain. The closure of USAID and the termination of both ongoing and prospective projects created substantial funding gaps and uncertainty. Yet SSG's staff, far from retreating, mobilized around our mission with renewed determination. We adapted programs, tightened operations, and continued to deliver high-impact services to farmers and national partners.

This resilience speaks not only to our expertise but also to our shared belief in the importance of this work. I commend every colleague for safeguarding the continuity, credibility, and impact of SSG during a demanding year.

Our priorities as we move forward include:

- Strengthening national breeding and seed production capacities.
- Supporting the professionalization of seed companies and agro-dealers.
- Enhancing the enabling environment for seed sector growth.
- Expanding digital innovations, for improved farmer outreach.
- Deepening partnerships across governments, donors, and research institutions; and
- Mobilizing new funding to ensure continued service to smallholder farmers.

We remain committed to reaching left-behind farming communities with climate-resilient varieties and ensuring seed systems are sustainable, inclusive, and market driven.

I express my sincere gratitude to our donors for their trust and partnership; to national governments for guiding and facilitating our work; to our research and extension partners; to private seed companies and agro-dealers who form the backbone of last-

mile delivery; and to all institutions and communities that collaborate with us.

I also thank the SSG Board for their guidance, and especially recognize the illustrious service of **Ms. Aline O'Connor**, whose departure at the end of 2025 marks the conclusion of an extraordinary chapter of dedication and excellence. We remain indebted to her contributions.

Finally, I am delighted to welcome **Dr. Joe DeVries** to the Board. His continued involvement strengthens our strategic direction at a pivotal moment in SSG's evolution.

It is with optimism and resolve that we step into 2026, grounded in our mission and inspired by the farmers and partners who walk this journey with us.

Dr. Issoufou Kapran,
President, Seed Systems Group

Executive Summary

Seed Systems Group (SSG) is dedicated to strengthening seed systems across sub-Saharan Africa. SSG collaborates with governments, research institutions, private seed companies, extension services, and development partners to ensure that smallholder farmers have reliable access to affordable, high-quality seed of diverse, nutritious, and climate-resilient crops. Our work is guided by the belief that functional and inclusive seed systems are fundamental to food security, agricultural transformation, and rural economic development.

SSG intervention is anchored in a public–private–partnership model of seed systems development that integrates crop breeding, seed multiplication, farmer awareness creation, and agro-dealer development. Through this model, we support national agricultural research groups to test and release farmer-preferred varieties, work with local private seed companies to produce quality seed and collaborate with extension services to promote awareness and informed farmer choices. This approach emphasizes sustainability by providing commercial incentives including business linkages for private-sector actors while maintaining strong public-sector coordination and regulatory oversight.

SSG promotes farmer-centered delivery mechanisms that lower barriers to adoption of improved seeds. This includes the use of Village-Based Advisors (VBAs) model and small seed packs approach to facilitate on-farm testing, learning, and feedback. By enabling farmers to evaluate new varieties under their own conditions, our approach builds confidence, stimulates demand, and supports informed decision-making. These delivery mechanisms are complemented by efforts to strengthen agro-dealers as critical last-mile input suppliers.

Capacity strengthening is a cross-cutting priority in all SSG interventions. We provide technical support and training to national research institutions, seed regulatory agencies, private seed enterprises, extension systems, and agro-dealers. Areas of focus include plant breeding, quality seed production, internal seed quality control, seed inspection and laboratory testing, and seed business management. In parallel, SSG supports long-term human capital development through postgraduate scholarships in plant breeding.

In addition to field-level interventions, SSG engages in seed policy analysis, dialogue, and advocacy to provide an improved enabling environment for seed sector development. The organization also conducts seed system assessments and evaluations to inform evidence-based programming and investment decisions. Looking forward, SSG is increasingly exploring digital innovations to improve coordination, transparency, and efficiency in seed distribution. Through these integrated efforts, SSG seeks to build resilient, inclusive, and market-oriented seed systems that sustainably serve smallholder farmers across Africa.

1.0 SSG Model of Seed Systems Development

SSG employs a proven public-private partnership model for seed systems development that can reach farmers with new seed, sustainably, based on farmer demand. The model was developed and has been implemented in a wide range of contexts and countries by the leaders of Seed Systems Group.

The public-private-producer model for seed systems development involves targeted investments in crop breeding, seed production by private, local companies, farmer outreach, and the establishment of rural agro-dealers. Actors in each component likewise receive training in their areas of responsibility and hold regular coordination meetings to document progress, next steps, and take note of lessons learned. The sustainability of this model is embedded within its second and fourth components, wherein private seed producers and private input suppliers derive profits from sales, and are incentivized to grow their operations, either by producing greater tonnages of seed or establishing additional sales outlets. This model for seed supply and adoption by smallholder farmers is depicted visually in Figure 1, below.

By making coordinated investments in national crop breeding teams, seed companies, extension services, and agro-dealers, improved seeds of farmer-preferred varieties can now be made sustainable and available to farmers at affordable prices. The activities in each component are:

Crop Breeding. National crop research institutions test selected varieties for local adaptation and are then multiplied in small quantities for supply as "foundation seed" to seed companies.

Seed Company Development. Private local small and medium seed companies are supported to multiply foundation seeds of new varieties into certified seed for promotion and sale at affordable prices to smallholder farmers. The certified seed is packaged into small packets of 50 to 100g for free distribution to the farmers for on-farm trials.

Farmer Awareness. Extension agencies are trained as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) in the VBA/Small Pack approach. These agencies, in turn, recruit and train Village-Based Advisors (VBAs). VBAs are lead farmers selected by their peers and trained to supply farmers within their villages with small seed packs for on-farm testing. They also host demonstration plots using recommended management practices where farmers learn.

Agro-Dealers. VBAs who excel in their roles as purveyors of new seed are trained and given matching grants to establish shops selling seed, fertilizer, and other inputs.

This public-private-producer model for seed systems development can be modified to suit differing crop species and socio-economic contexts. It has shown proof-of-concept in multiple countries of West, East, and Southern Africa. Equally important, once put into place the model continues to grow under its own forces through private sector incentives to respond to farmer demand.

Figure 1. Public-Private-Producer model for seed systems development.

2.0 Projects SSG Implemented in 2025

In 2025, SSG implemented several projects, many of which started in previous years. Some projects were completed during the year, while others are still ongoing (Table 1). Each project has priority crops presented by country in Table 2.

Table 1: Projects Implemented in 2025

#	Project	Country	Donor	Project Duration	Status
1	The Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS)	Ghana, Kenya, Senegal	USAID-Feed the Future	October 2023 to September 2026	Ongoing
2	Sustainable Seed Systems for Drought-Response in the Greater Horn of Africa	Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan	IFAD	March 2024 to November 2026	Ongoing
3	Catalyzing Seed Systems Development for Improved Food Security and Economic Empowerment of Smallholder Farmers	Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Kenya, and Togo	FIPS-Africa	July 2025 to June 2026	Ongoing
4	Diversifying and Intensifying the Production of Food Crops for Food Security Through Inclusive Seed Systems Development	Guinea-Bissau	WFP	June 2025 December 2026	Ongoing
5	Seed System Development Project in Kasai Oriental Province	DR Congo	WFP	December 2024 to June 2025	Completed
6	Inclusive Seed Systems Development	Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Togo	AGRA	November 2023 to June 2025	Completed
7	Somalia Seed Systems Recovery Initiative	Somalia	World Bank	July 2023 to April 2025	Completed
8	Consultancy on Seed Policy Review	Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Togo	AGRA	September 2024 to February 2025	Completed
9	Farmer-Driven Assessment of Climate-Resilient Crop Varieties and Downstream Impacts for Improved Food Systems	Madagascar, Togo	IDRC	February 2022 to January 2025	Completed
10	Accelerated Innovation Delivery Initiative (AID-I) Haut Katanga	DR Congo	USAID	December 2024 to March 2025	Completed
11	Accelerated Innovation Delivery Initiative (AID-I) Great Lakes	Burundi, Rwanda, DR Congo	USAID	December 2024 to March 2025	Completed

Table 2: SSG Focus crops by country

Country	Focus Crops
Burundi	Hybrid maize, beans, rice, cassava, soybean
Côte d'Ivoire	Rice, maize (hybrid and OPV), cowpea
Democratic Republic Congo	Hybrid maize, beans, cowpea, soybean
Djibouti	Forage crops; vegetables (tomato, onion, eggplant, okra)
Eritrea	Maize, beans, pearl millet, mung bean, wheat, barley, chickpea, sorghum
Guinea-Bissau	Hybrid maize, cowpea, rice,
Ghana	Pearl millet, cowpea
Kenya	Amaranth, cowpea, finger millet, mung bean, pigeon pea
Madagascar	Maize (hybrid and OPV), beans, groundnut, rice, soybean, potato
Malawi	Cowpea
Senegal	Cowpea, pearl millet
Sierra Leone	Rice, cowpea, groundnut
Somalia	Hybrid maize, sorghum, mung bean, cowpea, fodder
South Sudan	Hybrid maize, sorghum, beans, cowpea, groundnut
Togo	Hybrid maize, sorghum, rice, cowpea, groundnut

3.0 Activities Implemented in 2025

SSG managed several activities which were implemented by partners shown in Table 5. These activities included variety testing across different agroecological zones to identify the most suitable varieties; production of early generation seed (EGS) and certified seed of the selected varieties; distribution of small seed packs of certified seed to smallholder farmers via VBAs for on-farm testing; establishment of demonstration plots and farmer field days to support on-farm learning; and last-mile delivery by agro-dealers. Capacity-building activities included targeted training of NARS, seed company personnel, and agro-dealers, some of whom also received matching grants. The outputs from these activities are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of Outputs in 2025

Variety trials conducted	EGS produced (MT)	Certified seed produced (MT)	Small packs distributed	Farmers reached	VBAs recruited & trained	Agro-dealers trained	Agro-dealers supported with matching grants
19	112.70 MT	2,282.26 MT	1,063,953	288,528	2,746	264	37

3.1. Testing and Release of New Crop Varieties

SSG conducted a total of 19 variety trials, DR Congo Kasai Oriental Province (6), Djibouti (2), South Sudan (2) and Somalia (9).

3.2. Seed Production

SSG implemented seed production activities across the project countries. A total of 112.70 MT of early generation seed (EGS) and 2,282.26 MT of certified seed were produced (Figure 3 and 4), representing a 176% and 54% increase in total seed production recorded by SSG by December 2024.

Figure 2: Rice variety Exbaika demonstration plot, Togo

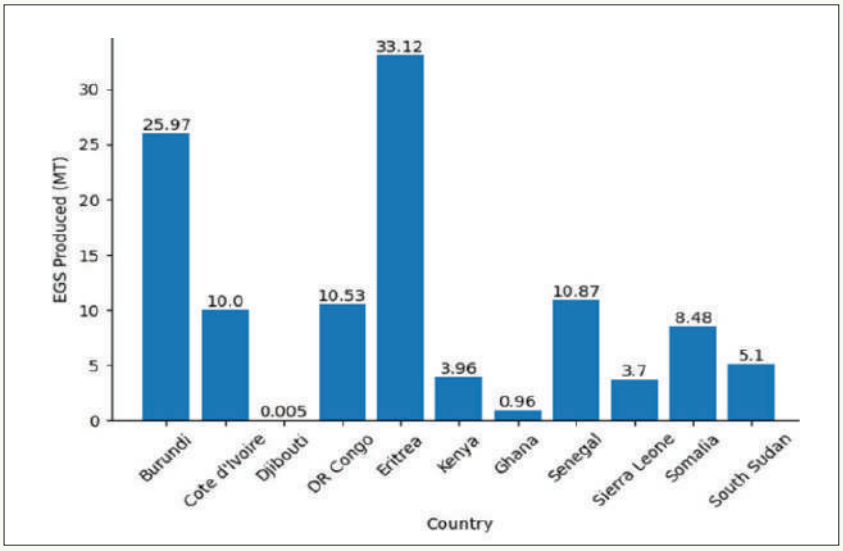


Figure 3: Early generation seed produced in 2025 by country

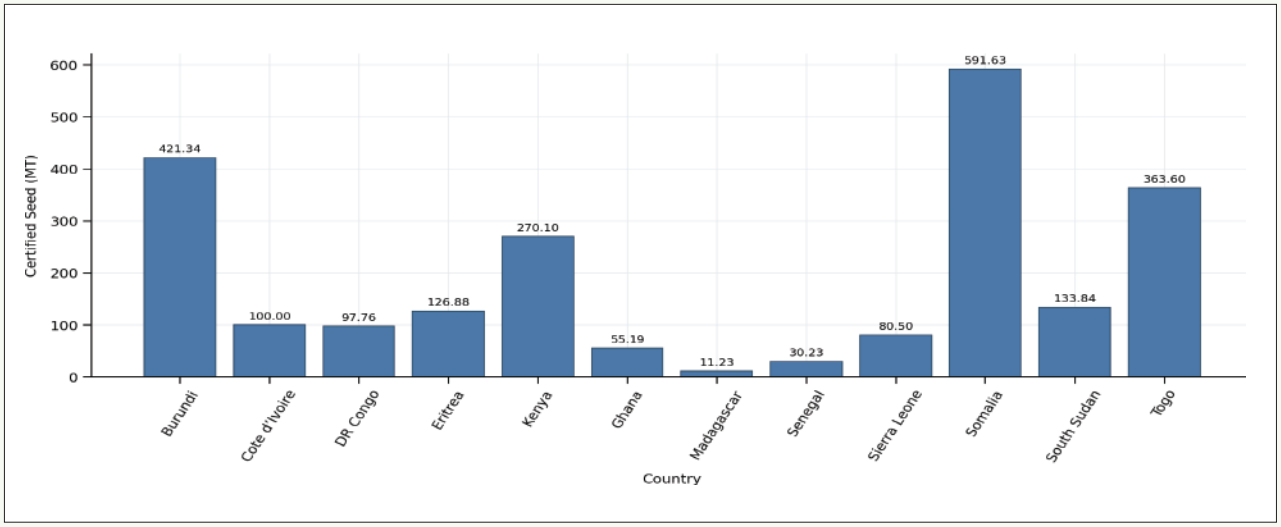


Figure 4: Certified seed produced in 2025 by country

Figure 5: Ms. Tsige Denut (in the middle) hybrid maize seed grower at Zoba Maekel, Eritrea

3.3. Farmer Outreach

1,063,953 small seed packs were distributed, reaching 288,528 farmers (Figure 6 and 7). This represents a 57% increase in the number of small seed packs distributed and a 34% increase in the number of farmers reached from the previous years.

2,746 VBAs were engaged, representing a 56% increase over the total number of VBAs engaged by SSG by December 2024 (Figure 8). Field days were conducted in each country on VBA-established demonstration plots (mother demos), where farmers received hands-on learning, and are sites for farmer field days (Figure 9). VBAs supported the farmers to establish trials on their fields using the small seed packs provided. Farmers planted improved varieties alongside their local landraces, enabling them to directly observe performance differences, which generated strong interest and positive impressions of the improved varieties.

3.4. Capacity Building Initiatives

3.4.1. Training of NARS Personnel in Plant Breeding and Quality Seed Production

SSG conducted training for Eritrea's NARS personnel in October 2025involving 31 participants (14 from National Agricultural Research Institutions, 13 from Agricultural Extension Department, and 4 from Regulatory Services Department). The training focused on quality seed production, particularly hybrid maize, and covered seed crop agronomy, field quality control, detasseling, rogueing, post-harvest handling, seed processing, storage

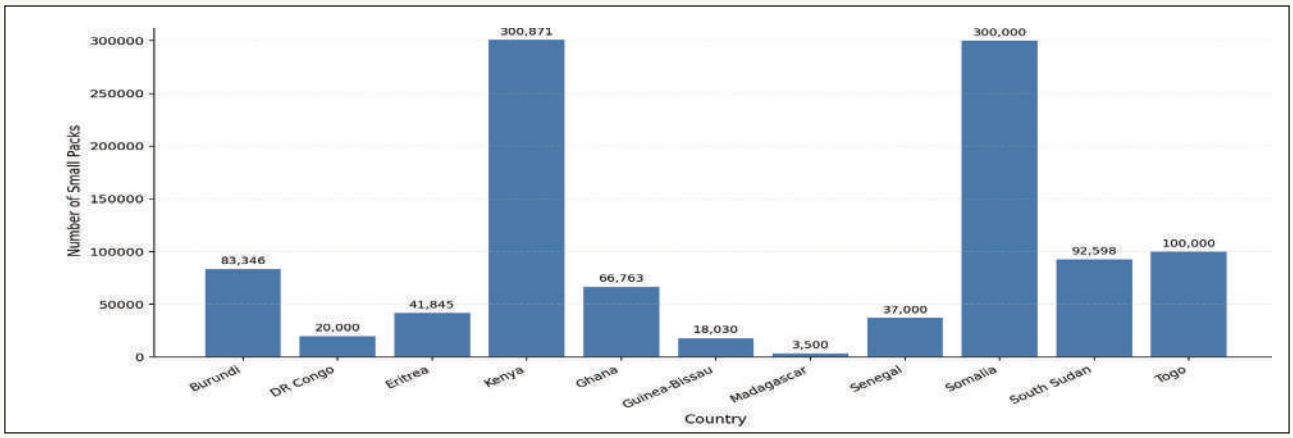


Figure 6: Number of small packs distributed in 2025 by country

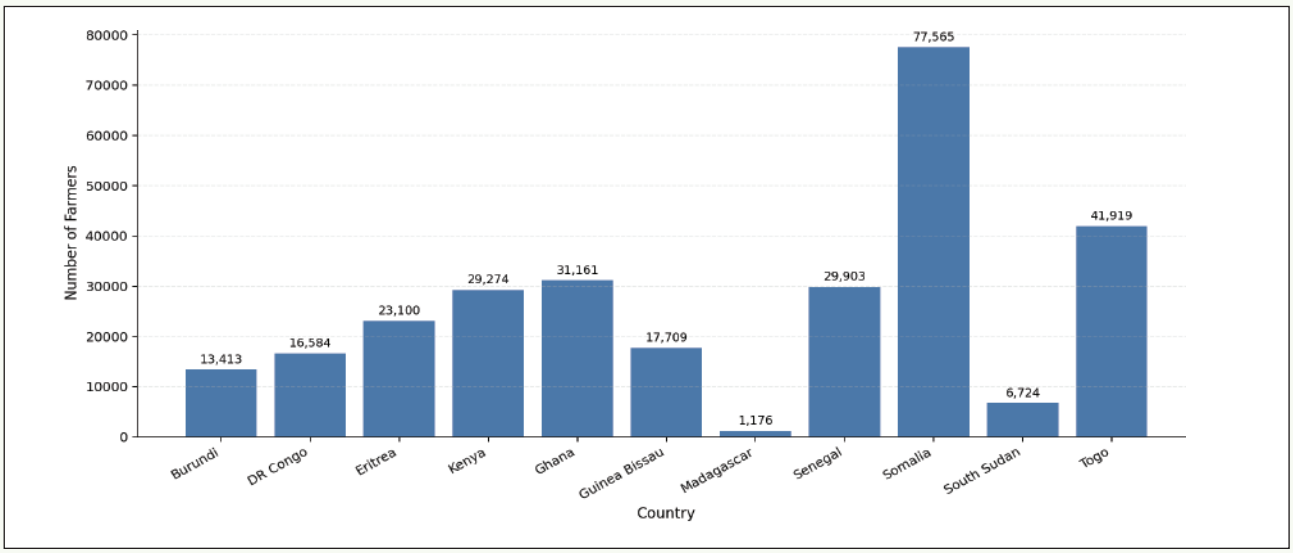


Figure 7: Farmers reached in 2025 by country

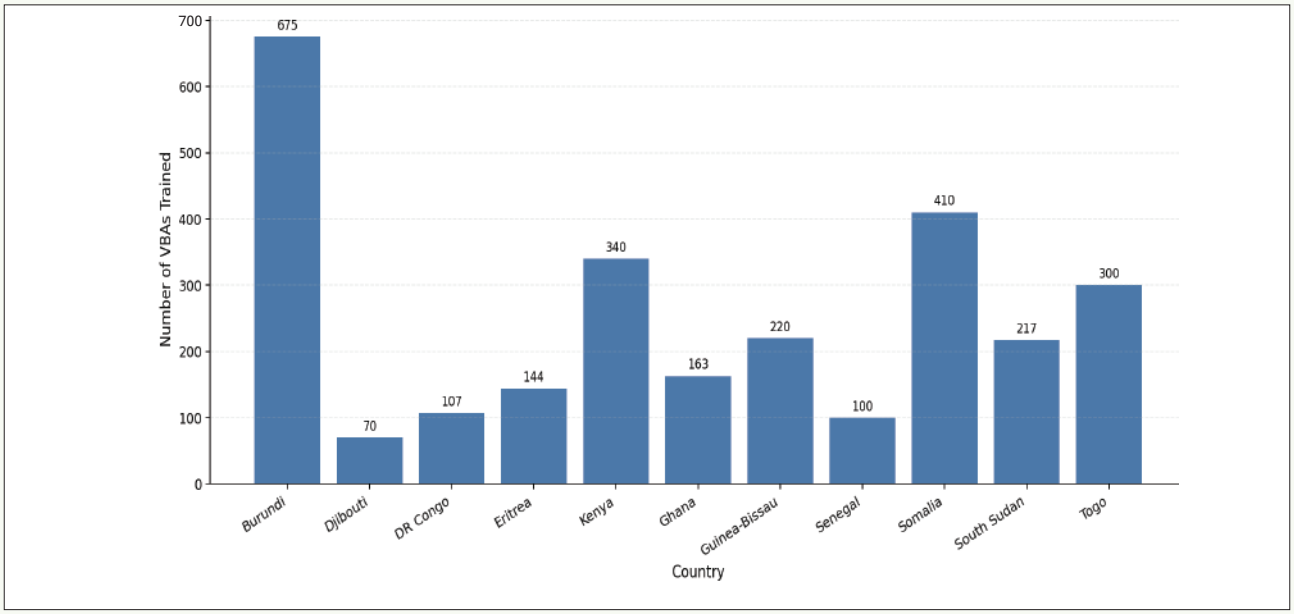


Figure 8: VBAs trained in 2025 by country

management, and farmer-oriented seed promotion approaches.

Variety testing, release and registration training was held in Somalia in March 2025 attended by 18 participants drawn from the Somali Agricultural Regulatory and Inspection Service (SARIS) (4), the Research and Extension Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) (4), and partner private seed companies (10). Participants from SARIS and the Research Division of the MoAI represented the Hirshabelle, Jubaland, and Southwest States, as well as the Federal office.

The objective of the training was to strengthen national capacity to conduct National Performance Trials (NPTs) to determine the Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU), including the adaptability and suit-

Figure 9: Farmer field day focused on Pigeon Pea management practices, Kenya

ability of new crop varieties. The training covered practices and procedures related to field trial layout, agronomic management, data collection, data analysis and reporting, and the application of trial data to inform variety release decisions and subsequent registration (listing) for commercialization in the national variety catalogue.

3.4.2. Training for Seed Company Personnel in Quality Seed Production, Seed Business and Marketing

Countries for which the training was conducted: South Sudan, Somalia and Togo.

The aim of the training was to strengthen the capacity of seed enterprises and growers in seed production and internal quality control practices.

South Sudan: In January 2025, 18 seed company personnel and five participants from the Directorate of Research under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security were trained in Juba. The training focused on the general principles and practices of quality seed production and covered key activities such as seed crop agronomy and field management, seed harvesting, post-harvest handling, conditioning and processing, seed treatment, packaging, and storage. Additional topics included internal seed quality control, as well as promotion and awareness creation through small seed packs, demonstration plots, and field days. Special attention was given to hybrid maize seed production throughout the training.

Somalia: Staff from partner seed companies in Somalia were trained in Internal Seed Quality Control (ISQC) and hybrid maize seed production in August 2025 at Palms Hotel in Mogadishu. The training focused on the general principles and practices for internal seed quality control and quality assurance. This captured areas such as (i) Attributes of quality seed, (ii) Factors affecting quality seed production, (iii) Principles of internal seed quality QA/QC, (iv) Internal seed quality assurance in the growing season, (v) Post-harvest internal seed QA/QC practices, (vi) Preparation of a Seed Quality Manual for a company's internal seed QA/QC, (vii) Hybrid maize seed production – covering agronomy, detasseling, rogueing and harvesting. Ten (10) participants were trained (Figure 10).

Togo: In May 2025, SSG conducted a regional training workshop in Lomé, Togo, focusing on seed business management and the production of hybrid maize seeds. The event brought together 37 participants representing national research organi-

Figure 10: A Training session for Internal Seed Quality Control (ISQC) and hybrid maize seed production in August 2025 in Mogadishu, Somalia

zations and seed companies from Togo (17), Sierra Leone (6), Ghana (6), Côte d'Ivoire (5), and Senegal (3). Core themes included Seed business modelling, profit planning, hybrid seed production workflows, and organizational structuring. The workshop also addressed marketing techniques and assessed indicators of company health. Emphasis was placed on aligning operational plans with financial targets and sustainably scaling seed enterprises. The training concluded with discussions on quality control, warehousing, and key performance indicators, equipping participants with actionable insights for strengthening regional seed systems.

3.4.3. Capacity Building in Forage Crops Production

Countries for which the training was conducted: Somalia, Djibouti, and Eritrea

The training aimed at strengthening the capacity of agro-pastoralists in the production of seed of arid and semi-arid adaptable grass varieties and food crops.

Somalia: The training was held at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Campus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 30th September to 3rd October 2025. Five (5) staff from the MoAI participated in the training. The training equipped participants with practical knowledge in forage seed production as well as agronomic practices for forage crop production, covering both grass pastures and leguminous forages.

Djibouti: The training was conducted in May 2025 in Djibouti and was attended by a total of 25 participants from six regions. These included 10 farmers, who are key to implementing improved techniques at the grassroots level; six Village-Based Advisors (VBAs), who play a vital role in knowledge dissemination, advisory services, and quality control; and nine technicians from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry (DAF), demonstrating strong institutional support for training-of-trainers and capacity-building.

Eritrea: The training was conducted in October 2025 and was attended by 17 participants, National Research Institution (6), Agricultural Extension Department (8), and Regulatory Services Department(3). Livestock and extension staff were equipped with practical skills in fodder establishment, harvesting, conservation, feed formulation, and livestock feeding strategies. Figure 11 is an example of a forage production field by a farmer in Eritrea established using promoted quality seed and recommended agronomic practices.

3.4.4. Training in Seed Inspection and Laboratory Quality Testing

Countries for which the training was conducted: Eritrea, Somalia, and South Sudan

Eritrea: The training was conducted in October 2025 in Eritrea and focused on seed certification and quality testing, emphasizing international certification frameworks (OECD, ISTA), varietal certifi-

Figure 11: Super Napier' forage production by a model farmer at Anseba Zoba, Eritrea

Figure 12: A training session for Seed Inspection and Laboratory Quality Analysis in South Sudan

cation procedures, labeling, post-control surveys, seed sampling, and laboratory testing protocols. Training was attended by nine (9) participants from NARI (7), and from the National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory (2).

Somalia: The training was held at the seed quality laboratory in Mogadishu in November 2025 and was conducted by two seed experts from KEPHIS, an inspector, and seed quality analyst. A total of seven (7) field inspectors and seed laboratory staff from the Somalia Agricultural and Regulatory Inspection Service (SARIS) attended the training. The training focused on seed crop field inspection protocols in line with OECD procedures and standards, and laboratory seed quality testing in accordance with ISTA procedures.

South Sudan: Seed quality assurance staff in field inspection of seed crops, and in laboratory seed quality analysis were trained in November 2025. The training was held at the seed quality laboratory in Juba and conducted by two seed experts from KEPHIS, an inspector, and seed analyst. Nine (9) staff members from the seed quality assurance unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) participated in the training (Figure 12).

3.4.5. MSc. Scholarships

SSG is supporting 10 MSc students in plant breeding. Five students are from Eritrea enrolled at Makerere University and the remaining five are from Somalia enrolled at the University of Zimbabwe (4) and Makerere University (1). These scholarships aim at building national capacity of the two countries in crop breeding. The students who are in their final years of study are expected to graduate in 2026. Upon graduation, they are expected to return to their countries and support crop breeding work at national agricultural research institutions.

3.5. Strengthening of Last-mile Delivery

3.5.1. Agro-dealer Training

Agro-dealer training aims at strengthening agro-dealers' capacity in business planning, financial management, marketing, inventory control, and customer relations to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of their enterprises. It also emphasizes accurate record-keeping, cash flow management, and the critical role of agro-dealers as key actors in agricultural input supply chains and as extension service providers linking suppliers with smallholder farmers.

Figure 13: Agro-dealer training, Kasai Oriental, DR Congo.

Figure 14: Agro-dealers receiving matching grants, Togo

In 2025, SSG trained 264 agro-dealers, representing a 143% increase over the cumulative number trained by December 2024. In Kenya, the agro-dealer training was conducted in September 2025 with a total of 184 participants, including 180 agro-dealers and four seed company representatives. In Burundi, 55 agro-dealers were trained in February 2025, while in DR Congo, the training was conducted in May 2025 for 29 agro-dealers selected from the five territories in Kasai Oriental Province namely Kabeya Kamwanga, Katanda, Lupatapata, Miabi, and Tshilenge. Figure 13 below shows a group photo of the agro-dealers trained from Kasai Oriental.

3.5.2. Matching Grants to Agro-dealers

SSG strengthens agro-dealers through matching grants in the form of agricultural inputs. This is to enhance the capacity of agro-dealers to effectively supply quality agricultural inputs, promote improved seed access, and support smallholder farmers in adopting better production technologies. The selection criteria include existing agro-dealers/ people selling other farm inputs, entrepreneurial VBAs, especially those aggregating seed demand from farmers and informing the seed producers, seed producers who have shops for selling the seed, and agro-dealers already working with seed produc-

ers. In 2025, SSG supported 37 agro-dealers with matching grants (male 18, female 13) from Burundi (15), Togo (16), and Sierra Leone (6). SSG plans to implement this activity in South Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, and Eritrea in 2026 targeting 50, 40, 15, and 10 agro-dealers in these countries, respectively. The activity is also expected to take place in Kenya under VACS project in April-May 2026, targeting 125 agro-dealers.

3.6. Infrastructural Support

3.6.1. Installation of Seed Processing Equipment in Eritrea

SSG in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of Eritrea, completed the installation of a modern seed cleaning and processing facility at Adi-Zarna near Halhale Research Station (Figure 14). The facility is equipped to efficiently clean, grade, and package seed, ensuring that harvested seed is pro-

Figure 15: Installed seed cleaning and processing machine at Adi-Zarna for use by NARI and AED, Eritrea

cessed into high-quality, certified planting material suitable for distribution to smallholder farmers.

"Before this machine, we used to clean seed by hand—slowly and inconsistently," noted Mr. Tekleab, a seed technician at Halhale. "Now we can process several tonnes per day, and farmers can immediately see the improvement in quality. It's a proud moment for all of us."

During SSG's visit to the facility in 2025, Hon. Arefaine Berhe, Minister of Agriculture, commended the initiative stating: "This facility is a game changer. It symbolizes Eritrea's progress toward seed self-sufficiency. Quality seed is the foundation of food security, and now we have the means to produce it right here."

3.6.2. Procurement of Seed Testing Equipment for Seed Laboratories in Somalia

SSG procured seed testing equipment for the seed laboratories in Hirshabelle, South West and Jubaland states of Somalia to revive seed quality testing functions and support quality assurance services for seed production. This initiative aimed to bring seed quality testing services closer to seed production areas within the states. However, due to delays in procurement and shipment, not all the equipment had been installed and made fully operational by the end of the SSSRI project in April 2025.

3.7. Seed Policy Reviews and Policy Advocacy Convenings

In collaboration with The African Seed Access Index (TASAI), SSG completed seed policy review studies in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, and Togo. These studies, which were supported by AGRA, produced reports and policy briefs for each country. Notably, the policy review in Sierra Leone has been accepted by the government and enacted into law.

As part of the study, in-country seed policy stakeholder meetings were conducted in each country. These meetings were attended by stakeholders from the seed sector to discuss sector challenges and to present how the SSG-AGRA project contributed to addressing some of the identified issues. The meetings in Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone were convened in May 2025, in Togo in April 2025, and in Burundi earlier, in December 2024.

Table 4: Seed Sales as Reported by Seed Companies from Small Packs Awareness Intervention in September 2025

Country	Partner Name	Crop	Total Seed Sold (MT)	Approximate price per Kg (USD)	Total Income (USD)
Somalia	Gaalooge	Cowpea	0.30	3.00	900
		Maize	5.00	2.00	10,000
		Fodder	0.05	22.00	1,100
	Horn Agro	Maize	11.00	2.00	22,000
		Cowpea	7.00	3.00	21,000
		Mung bean	3.50	3.00	10,500
		Sorghum	1.70	2.50	4,250
	Filsan Seed Co. Ltd	Maize	5.50	2.00	11,000
South Sudan	Smart Seeds Company	Maize	4.00	2.00	8,000
	Afroganics Seed Company Ltd	Sorghum	0.14	1.50	210
		Cowpea	0.25	1.50	375
		Beans	0.25	1.50	375
		Maize	0.75	2.00	1500
Total			**39.44**		**91,210**

3.8. VBA-Small Pack Approach as a Powerful Marketing Strategy

VBA-Small seed packs approach has proven to be a powerful tool for promoting awareness and adoption of improved crop varieties among smallholder farmers. By offering seeds in small packs for trials conducted by farmers, themselves, farmers were able to test new varieties before committing to larger purchases—an approach that has stimulated interest, confidence, and eventual market demand for quality seed. In September 2025, partner seed companies in Somalia and South Sudan reported significant sales of the promoted varieties following the small seed pack intervention (Table 4).

3.9. Assessment of Farmers Experience with Small Packs

In September 2025, in collaboration with our partners in South Sudan, SSG conducted Focus Group Discussions with the beneficiary smallholder farmers to explore their experiences with the small seed packs. Through 23 Focus Group Discussions with 329 farmers across five regions (Maridi, Yei, Magwi, Juba and Torit). Farmers reported better yields and faster maturity from improved varieties and appreciated the opportunity to try new varieties at low risk but found the small packs too small for meaningful production. The study established that small packs are effective entry points for promoting improved varieties but should be complemented with strong extension systems and reliable seed supply chains to ensure lasting adoption and seed system sustainability.

3.10. Joint Monitoring Visits

In October 2025, SSG conducted a joint monitoring visit with IFAD to Eritrea to assess the progress of activities under the IFAD-funded project **Sustainable Seed Systems for Drought Response in the Greater Horn of Africa**. During the visit, a review meeting was held at the Halhale Research Station (Figure 16). The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) presented updates on activities directly funded by IFAD, while SSG highlighted its progress in seed production and capacity-building activities. The IFAD team expressed satisfaction with the achievements and progress of both SSG and NARI.

3.11. Seed Systems Assessment Studies

3.11.1. Baseline Studies on Potential Strategic Countries for FIPS-Africa

SSG and FIPS-Africa conducted baseline assessments in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, and Guinea-Bissau aimed at providing guidance for FIPS's strategic planning and intervention design.

In Burundi (July 14–18, 2025), the assessment focused on poultry and potato value chains. Key findings included progress in foundation seed

Figure 16: SSG meeting with IFAD and NARI team at NARI, Halhale research station, Eritrea

production and hybrid maize testing, alongside gaps in farmer outreach and extension services. Poultry enterprises showed growing demand for improved genetics but faced constraints in feed costs, credit access, and currency depreciation. Potato production is advanced in varietal approval and seed technologies but struggles with high seed costs, limited storage, and climate risks.

In Côte d'Ivoire (September 15–18, 2025), the mission assessed poultry and livestock systems. The Agency for Support to Rural Development (ANADER) emphasized farmer support through training and technology transfer, while the National Center for Agronomic Research (CNRA) focuses on genetic improvement and feed innovations. Challenges include costly cassava planting materials, poor rice seed renewal, and low mechanization. Poultry farming remains profitable but is constrained by inadequate vaccination and training.

In Guinea-Bissau (September 1–6, 2025), the study covered food crops, non-food crops, and poultry. Opportunities emerged for scaling improved crop varieties, processing cashew and mango, and strengthening poultry systems. Persistent issues include reliance on Senegal for inputs, weak technical capacity, and high feed costs.

3.11.2. Assessment of the Brachiaria Seed System in Kenya

SSG carried out an assessment of the Brachiaria (a forage grass) seed system in Kenya in November 2025. The assessment evaluated the structure and performance of the Brachiaria seed system, identified key actors, gaps, constraints, and opportunities across the seed value chain, and provided actionable recommendations for strengthening Brachiaria seed production, distribution, and utilization.

The study engaged key stakeholders in the Brachiaria seed value chain and employed Key Informant Interviews using structured questionnaires. The study found out that Brachiaria seed system in Kenya is highly fragmented, with production largely confined to smallholder farms. Key challenges include the lack of local seed production, resulting in limited seed availability and low farmer awareness of existing varieties. Currently, 100 percent of Brachiaria seed is imported, making it prohibitively expensive for smallholder farmers.

Key recommendations for strengthening the Brachiaria seed system in Kenya included:

- Supporting local seed production using locally adapted varieties.
- Creating awareness of Brachiaria pasture among farmers.
- Working with agro-dealers to improve last-mile delivery of Brachiaria seed. Facilitating market linkages among farmers, agro-dealers, and seed companies.
- Strengthening extension reach through farmer-to-farmer learning.
- Generating evidence to inform policy and investment decisions on Brachiaria.

3.12. Endline Evaluation Assessments

3.12.1. Endline Evaluation for Inclusive Seed Systems Development Project in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, and Togo

SSG commissioned an independent final evaluation of the Inclusive Seed Systems Development for Accelerated Agricultural Transformation in Africa (ISSD-AGRA) project implemented in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, and Togo. The evaluation assessed project performance against OECD/DAC criteria—relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability—and documented lessons to inform future programming

The evaluation found the project to be highly relevant and well aligned with national seed strategies and continental frameworks. The integrated model—combining variety research, professionalization of local seed companies, decentralized distribution through Village-Based Advisors (VBAs) and agro-dealers, and policy dialogue—effectively addressed key barriers to farmer access and adoption of quality seed. The small seed pack–VBA approach emerged as a flagship innovation, enabling farmers to "test before adopting" and significantly reducing financial and behavioral barriers. Figure 16 below shows farmers holding small packs of an improved rice variety.

Across the four countries, the project contributed to increased availability and use of certified seed, strengthened local seed enterprises, enhanced public–private collaboration, and stimulated demand for improved varieties. While immediate results were positive, the evaluation highlighted that

Figure 17: Small seed packs of improved rice variety Exbaika distributed to farmers in Plateau-Est Region, Togo

long-term sustainability would depend on institutional anchoring, continued capacity support, and scalable financing mechanisms.

3.12.2. Endline Evaluation for Somalia Seed Systems Rehabilitation Initiative (SSSRI)

In March and April 2025, SSG engaged an independent consultant to conduct an endline evaluation and yield assessment of the Somalia Seed Systems Rehabilitation Initiative (SSSRI) to assess the project performance, outcomes, and impacts. The evaluation examined changes in seed production, quality assurance, institutional capacity, and farmer-level productivity, drawing on household surveys, yield measurements, key informant interviews, and stakeholder consultations.

The evaluation found that SSSRI made substantial progress in rehabilitating Somalia's seed sector. The project strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and local private seed companies to produce, certify, and distribute quality seed. Access to improved and certified seed increased markedly, contributing to significant yield gains among participating farmers compared to baseline levels and non-participating farmers. The establishment and professionalization of domestic seed enterprises reduced reliance on imported seed and enhanced the availability of locally adapted varieties.

SSSRI also improved coordination among public institutions, seed companies, and development partners, laying the groundwork for a more functional and sustainable seed system. While challenges remain—particularly related to insecurity, climate shocks, and financing—the evaluation concluded that the project has created durable institutional and market foundations for continued growth of Somalia's seed sector.

4.0 SeedConnect: Bridging Farmer Demand and Last-Mile Seed Supply

Seed Systems Group has been at the forefront of delivering improved seeds of new crop varieties to farmers in sub-Saharan African countries. Through the VBA/small pack model, SSG has successfully created awareness and demand for improved seed. However, a critical gap remains: connecting farmers' demand for improved seed with real-time supply at the rural level. In 2025, SSG developed SeedConnect, a digital seed-ordering platform designed to bridge the last-mile gap between farmers and agro-dealers. The platform is built to enable farmers to browse and order improved seed varieties from verified local agro-dealers, who then efficiently manage and fulfill these orders.

SSG is currently seeking partnerships and financial support to pilot the SeedConnect app in Kenya, followed by a rollout to other SSG project countries. This initiative represents a breakthrough in the digital transformation of Africa's seed sector, offering a scalable, inclusive, and technology-enabled solution to one of agriculture's most persistent challenges: timely access to quality seed.

5.0 Impact Stories

Winfred Kendi: From a KES 5,000 Salary to a KES 200,000 Agribusiness

Age 27 | Kibung'a village, Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya.

After secondary school, Winfred worked as an untrained teacher earning KES 5,000 per month, an unreliable and barely sufficient wage. In 2023, she attended a climate-smart agriculture training conducted by Tegemeo Cereals Ltd., an SSG partner seed company under the VACS Project. This marked a turning point for her that changed everything. She left teaching and cultivated two acres of green grams using Tegemeo Cereals Ltd. seed. She harvested 714 kg, with a guaranteed market through Tegemeo Cereals. She reinvested every shilling earned. In 2024, she leased five additional acres and signed a seed multiplication contract with Tegemeo. Despite harsh weather, she delivered 22 bags (100 kg each) of quality seed. The proceeds from the seed contract enabled her to establish an agrochemicals shop. Tegemeo Cereals also extended credit to stock the shop, a vote of confidence in her track record. In the March–May 2025 season, she produced 1.8 tonnes of Ndengu Karembo premium seed, earning over KES 200,000 from Tegemeo, her largest single-season income.

Income Pillars: Seed farming, agrovet shop, poultry rearing, and M-PESA agency, all established through the proceeds earned from seed production. Winfred is now an employer, a trader, and a financial services provider. She is living proof of the benefits of quality seeds promoted under the VACS project in Kenya.

Brenda Gatwiri: Thriving Through Drought with Improved Seeds

Age 25 / Gatunga village, Tharaka Nithi County, Kenya

Through the support of Tegemeo Cereals Ltd. under the VACS project, Brenda received practical training on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), empowering her to adopt drought-tolerant crops suited to harsh and changing climates.

After a successful mung bean harvest during the March–May 2025 season, Brenda planted cowpeas (Kunde Soko variety) sourced from Tegemeo Cereals Ltd. in the October–December 2025 season. The variety is known for its high drought tolerance, early maturity, and strong performance in dryland areas. During this season, Tharaka Nithi experienced a severe drought, with many farmers watching their crops wilt and fail. In sharp contrast, Brenda's

cowpeas are thriving, demonstrating vigorous growth and resilience. While neighboring farms are suffering heavy losses due to water stress, Brenda's field remains green and productive—clear evidence of the power of climate-smart seed and practices.

Her earlier success, in which she harvested 2.1 metric tonnes of mung beans from six acres and earned over KES 250,000, enabled her to reinvest in her agribusiness and expand her landholding to 34 acres. Today, her ability to withstand severe drought further reinforces the importance of adopting CSA practices and improved, drought-tolerant varieties.

Brenda's journey is a shining example of how the VACS project is transforming the lives of youth and smallholder farmers. Her thriving cowpea crop stands as living proof that climate-smart agriculture is not only a solution for improving productivity but also a reliable pathway to resilience and long-term prosperity in the face of climate change.

Yousuf: Use of Improved Seeds Has Doubled My Farm Productivity

Age 62 / Wayan Gedow village, Kismayo, Somalia

Yousuf resides in Wayan Gedow village in Kismayo and cultivates 10 hectares of land. Before the **Somalia Seed Systems Recovery Initiative (SSSRI)**, Yousuf grew maize, sorghum, and beans using traditional seeds. He continues to grow the same crops but now uses certified seed varieties and good agronomic practices introduced by the project.

He noted, "The SSSRI project has had a significant impact on my farming practices, productivity, and income. Before the project, I relied on traditional seeds with limited knowledge of modern farming techniques, resulting in poor yields — averaging about 5 bags of maize per hectare. After receiving training and access to certified seeds through the project, my harvest improved drastically to around 10–12 bags per ha. Access to certified seeds became more reliable, with agro-dealers and VBAs making them available closer to my community. The improved seeds, combined with better farming practices like proper spacing, soil preparation, and pest control, have doubled my productivity and significantly boosted my income. I have now expanded my planting area due to increased confidence in seed quality and better expected yields. As I often tell others in my community now, "Good seeds and good practices are the key to a good harvest."

Yousuf's testimony reflects the benefits of improved seeds and represents the experiences of beneficiary farmers across all the 15 SSG project countries.

Exbaika Rice: Transforming Rice Production in Togo

What began as a simple introduction of a rice variety from Ghana to Togo in 2022 has evolved into one of the country's most promising agricultural success stories. Through support from the IDRC-funded project, implemented by SSG, the Exbaika rice variety is now reshaping rice production, improving farmer incomes, and strengthening Togo's seed sector.

Exbaika was introduced to Togo's Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique (ITRA) for testing across the country's agro-ecological zones. The results exceeded expectations. In multi-location trials and Participatory Varietal Selection exercises, farmers consistently ranked Exbaika as the top-performing variety because of its high yields, drought tolerance, and strong market appeal.

For years, rice farmers in Togo depended largely on IR 841 and Jasmine 85 varieties. However, declining varietal purity, longer maturity periods, and vulnerability to drought created the need for a better alternative. Exbaika emerged as the solution. While the national average rice yield in Togo remains about 2.5 tons per hectare, Exbaika produces up to 8 tons per hectare in farmers' fields and can reach 10 tons under optimal conditions.

Its resilience under drought conditions has made it especially valuable in rainfed lowland systems, where climate variability often threatens production. Farmers quickly noticed the difference. One farmer in Kpélé Tutu described the variety enthusiastically: "Its aroma fills the cooking pot... we can sell this at double the price!" Another simply called it "Togo's gold."

To ensure seed availability, SSG supported four emerging seed companies, LE PAYSAN, DOMAH, TALIPAK, and SPIDD, through technical training and financial assistance. Together, the companies produced nearly 64 tons of certified Exbaika seed during the 2024–2025 agricultural season. At the same time, extension efforts involving ICAT field agents and 300 Village-Based Advisors helped spread awareness of the variety nationwide.

Today, Exbaika has become the preferred rice variety for many Togolese farmers and a cornerstone of government rice programs. Beyond boosting productivity, it is creating premium market opportunities, with SPIDD branding the variety as "Riz des Chefs" (Chefs' Rice) for high-value urban markets.

Figure 18: Exbaika rice certified seed production field by Le Paysan Seed Company, Togo

Figure 19: Seed Inspection and Laboratory Quality Testing training for SARIS staff at the SARIS headquarters, Somalia

Somalia: Strengthened Seed Sector Regulatory System

For decades, Somalia lacked a formal seed certification and regulatory system, limiting farmers' access to quality seeds and slowing the development of a functional seed sector. Today, this is changing through the efforts of Seed Systems Group (SSG) and its collaboration with the Somali Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Recognizing the importance of a strong regulatory framework for sustainable seed sector growth, SSG prioritized strengthening the Somali Agricultural Regulatory and Inspection Service (SARIS), the country's seed regulatory authority. Through targeted technical training, laboratory strengthening, and institutional capacity development, SSG has helped build the foundation for an effective national seed quality assurance system.

SSG organized specialized trainings for SARIS staff on seed traceability, certification systems, variety testing, seed inspection, laboratory quality testing, and hybrid seed production. These initiatives strengthened the technical capacity of regulatory officers to oversee seed quality assurance and implement internationally recognized seed standards.

To further operationalize the system, seed testing laboratories in Mogadishu and satellite facilities in Hirshabelle, Jubaland, and Southwest states were equipped with modern seed testing and certification equipment. The improved facilities now enable Somalia to conduct formal seed quality analyses and certification processes within the country.

The impact has been significant. Increased government commitment to seed quality regulation led to SARIS being formally upgraded into a Directorate for Seed Quality Control, reinforcing its mandate and institutional role in the country's agricultural sector. Today, SARIS actively oversees variety testing, seed certification, phytosanitary services, and seed quality assurance across Somalia.

6.0 Key Challenges in 2025

- The USAID funding withdrawal and subsequent closure led to the termination of projects that were directly funded by USAID, as well as the loss of prospective projects. This significantly affected SSG's financial position, resulting in losses of up to USD 8.8 million.
- Drought and flooding affected seed production activities in some countries, including Somalia and South Sudan (drought) and Guinea-Bissau (flooding).

7.0 SSG Implementing Partners by Country in 2025

Table 5: SSG Implementing Partners for Each Country

Country	Research Institutions	Seed Companies	Extension Agents
Burundi	• ISABU	• Coop Eden • Coop Hagurukadufushanye • ESM • ABPRC • SETRACO • IIZIM • Society Ikoraneza	• DGMAVAE
Cote d'Ivoire	• CNRA	• GRACI	• ANADER
Djibouti	• CERD	• Individual Seed Producers identified by DAF	• DAF
DR Congo	• INERA	• AgriForce • ETS Munga • EPH SARL • Bon Berger • Mimosa	• Local NGOs (RIKOLTO & SARCAF
Eritrea	• MoA	• Seed out-growers	• MoA- AED
Ghana	• SARI	• IWAD • ANTIKA	• Regional extension teams under MOFA: Extension division UWR Extension division UER Extension division NER
Guinea-Bissau	• INPA • IER (Mali, seed introductions)	• KANBEN • WATO-SITA • CAPEC	• AiFA-PALOP • ECAS-D
Kenya	• KALRO • KEPHIS	• Chemeron Ltd • Dryland Seed Limited • Tegemeo Cereals Enterprise • Inyamandu CBO	• FIPS-Africa
Madagascar	• FIFAMANOR • FOFIFA	• AGRISEM • PhileoL • RELHARF • DREA • LOVA CMS • ANKAZO	• AINA • FIFATA • MoA Extension
Senegal	• ISRA	• SEDAB • Fatou SARR	• RESOPP
Sierra Leone	• NARC-SLARI • RARC	• African Seed Company • Seed Tech International	• MoA Extension

Country	Research Institutions	Seed Companies	Extension Agents
Somalia	• MoAI's Department of Research and Extension	• Filsan • CSET • Horn Agro • Kulmiye • Gaalooge	• MoAI Extension
South Sudan	• MAFS's Directorate of Agricultural Research	• Pro-Seed • Seed Grow • Green Horizon • Afroganics • Smart Seed • Masco	• Base Net • Farm Stew
Togo	• ITRA • DPA	• DOMAH • ETS Le Paysan • SPIDD • TALIPAK • Les Deux Collines • Ferme WACO	• ICAT

8.0 SSG Africa-Wide Outputs as of 2025

The cumulative achievements of SSG by the end of 2025 are shown in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Summarized SSG Cumulative Outputs by end of 2025

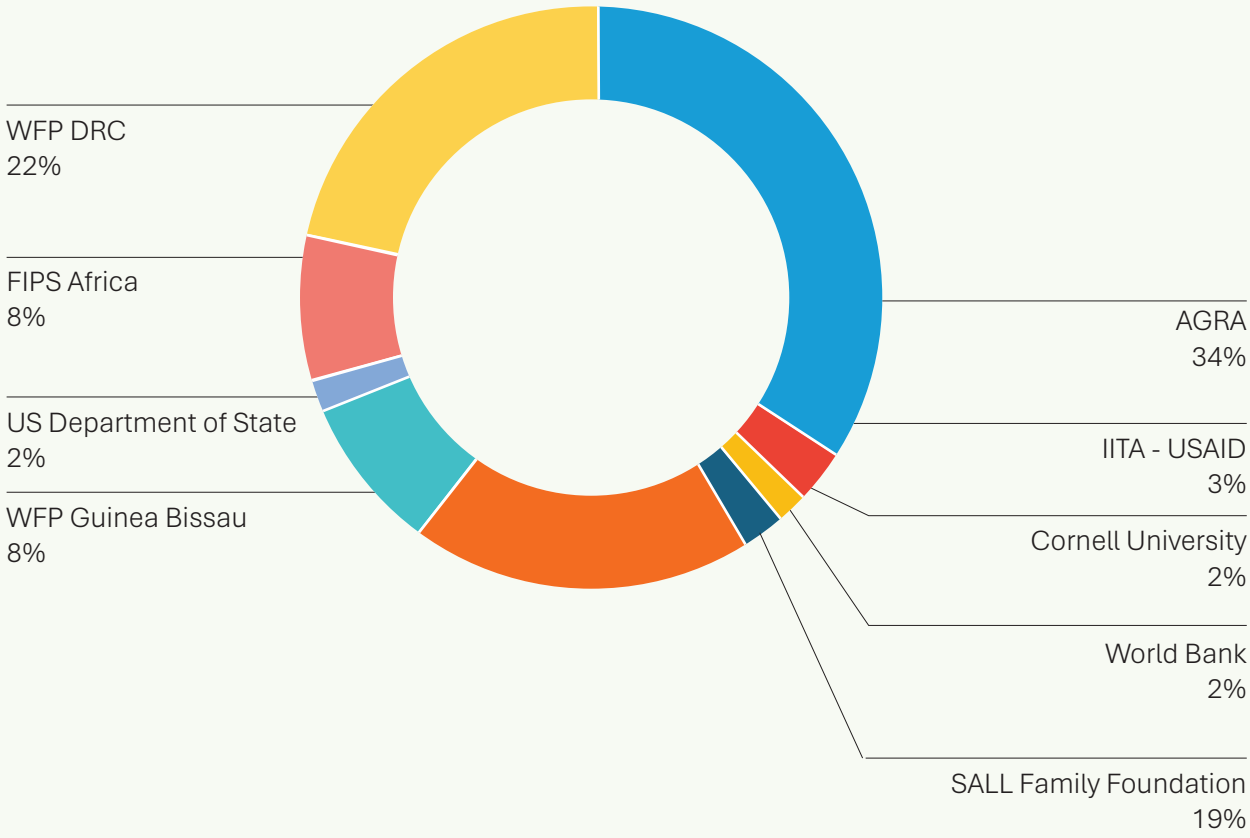
Country	Variety Trials Conducted	Varieties Released	Farmers Reached	Small Packs Supplied	VBAs Recruited and Trained	Early Gen. Seed	Certified Seed Production (MT)	Training Sessions Sponsored	Agro-dealers Trained	M.Sc. Fellowships Awarded
Burundi	7	1	404,765	648,746	675	47.4 MT	494.5	7	55	-
Cote D'Ivoire	2	-	1,002	93,000	247	16 MT	100	1	10	-
Djibouti	12	4	982	6,000	112	7.4 kg	10 kg	3	-	-
DR Congo	26	2	129,867	402,152	185	15.3 MT	217.9	10	57	-
Eritrea	7	1	56,711	73,574	1,265	36.9 MT	1249.2	9	-	5
Kenya	-	-	50,169	389,659	474	6.8 MT	425.1	2	180	-
Ghana	-	-	31,862	47,071	190	1.5 MT	58.6	2	-	-
Guinea Bissau	-	-	17,709	20,000	220	-	-	1	-	-
Madagascar	84	28	15,212	23,291	268	12.1 MT	143.2	5	-	-
Malawi	-	-	19,037	41,190	200	9.2 MT	40.1	1	-	-
Senegal	-	-	43,920	55,000	150	10.87 MT	58	2	-	-
Sierra Leone	5	4	13,896	40,000	200	3.7 MT	80.5	1	6	-
Somalia	96	3	215,055	680,784	1,612	18 MT	2,203.7	12	125	5
South Sudan	10	15	58,769	262,328	723	7.7 MT	1,200.2	8	-	-
Togo	42	10	81,874	165,500	576	12.5 MT	576.3	6	16	-
TOTAL	291	68	1,140,830	2,948,295	7,097	197.98 MT	6,847.3 MT	70	449	10

Note: Early Gen. Seed values are given in MT except for Djibouti (kg). The total row combines them as 197.98 MT (conversion implied, but original units are preserved above).

9.0 Summary of SSG 2025 Financial Report

SSG received funding from a diverse portfolio of partners, including Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA–USAID), Innovation Lab for Crop Improvement (ILCI) Cornell, the World Bank, Sall Family Foundation, World Food Program (WFP) Guinea Bissau, the U.S. Department of State (Namibia mission), and FIPS Africa. This broad funding base underscores SSG's strong partnerships and the confidence of donors across multiple programs and geographic regions. 73% of the funds was directed towards program implementation, highlighting SSG's continued prioritization of delivering results and impact at the field level.

Figure 20: Donor Contributions as a Percentage of Total Funds Received in 2025



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Sustainably Growing Africa's Food Systems

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

Seed Systems Group
140 Manyani West Road, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254700258888/+254750258000

SSG Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre
rue 4 HDN Lomé, Togo.
Telephone: +22893820000 / +22897691919

Email: info@seedsystemsgroup.org
Website: https://seedsystemsgroup.org/