Seed Intervention Landscape Analysis (SILA)

WHAT is seed sector intervention landscape analysis ?

Seed intervention analysis (SILA) is the mapping tool for the projects and programmes by different organizations in the public sector, the private sector, civil society (NGOs) and international organizations (donors and international NGOs) for different seed systems and value chains. The objective is to get an overview of the range of interventions in the seed sector, as well as the main lessons in contributing to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, resilience and other higher objectives, while focusing on seed sector development. Four main domain of interventions are important *viz.* public sector, private sector, civil society and international programmes. The types of intervention can be further differentiated by the main distinguishing factors such as:

- geographic focus, e.g. international, regional, national, provincial, and/or economic growth poles
- target groups, e.g. types of farmers (smallholders, emerging farmers, commercial farmers), companies and professional groups
- intervention focus, e.g. entire seed sector, specific seed system(s), specific seed value chain(s), chain operators and service providers, stakeholder engaged in the development and operationalization of the enabling environment
- linkage to other projects and programmes, on specific value chains, regional agricultural development, food and nutrition, relief and governance

SILA identifies in the design phase gaps and entry points for intervention(s) avoiding duplication or creating parallel programmes. On the other hand, it identifies complementarities across interventions, possible synergies and partnerships, as well as options for out-scaling and making use of lessons learnt.

WHY seed intervention landscape analysis guided by integrated approach?

A single programme is often inadequate to cover all seed systems, seed value chains and enabling environments that matters to vibrant growth of a national seed sector. The outcome of any seed sector intervention depends on other interventions, and other interventions can provide options for learning, and up- and out-scaling. In designing a new programme, it is therefore important to identify what issues are already covered by other organizations (public, private, NGOs, etc.). Such an identification will result in the understanding of which seed systems, seed value chains, their components and functions, as well as their enabling environment, are functioning and get appropriate support.

This understanding provides ample insight in what does require support to enhance the overall performance of the seed sector in terms of objectives such as poverty alleviation and food security.

Box I: terminology used in seed intervention landscape analysis

Intervention landscape: The intervention projects and programmes addressing the improvement of the national seed sector or specific seed systems. Programmes by one of the four domains:

Public sector: Research organizations, governmental organizations (local authorities, regional and national organizations, law enforcement bodies, institutional buyers, extension services, etc).

Private sector: seed companies, processors, large traders and exporters, business development services, pay-for-services providers, banks and micro-finance providers, etc.

NGO – CSO: Non-governmental organisations (NGO), civil society organisation (CSO), Farmer Organizations, which are involved in the seed sector. Their intervention can be related to production, dissemination, knowledge, service provision, etc.

International programmes: Programmes funded by international development partners (bilateral, multilateral), and international NGOs (INGOs), as well as programmes by international networks e.g. the CGIAR and through regional economic communities (RECs).

HOW to assess the seed intervention landscape: technical guidance for design process?

SILA is one of the tools of national seed sector assessment (NSSA) therefore its follows the similar multi-stakeholders process as described in the technical notes issue no 1. In concisely, the process includes a national team formulation consisting of a representative of seed sector stakeholders from agriculture ministries or public research, agriculture universities or faculties, associations of private seed companies, agro-input dealers, civil society organizations, and farmers' organization. This team organises the field appraisals; interviews or focus group discussion with key stakeholders, share and validate the results in different round-table meetings and consolidate the strategic actions. Mixture of types of data gathering is preferable with following specific steps (see annex 1 for summary):

Step 1: Reviews of documents, and interviews with resource persons in the Ministry of Agriculture, with key donors (for example those participating in an agricultural or trade sector working group), some larger international and national seed companies and INGOs, as well as professional organizations (seed traders association, farmers organization etc.), will provide an initial overview of the main interventions in the different seed systems.

A summary matrix can be made which would indicate:

- Where do different programmes (e.g. public, private, NGOs and donors) operate for the same seed systems (technical note series no 2)?
- Which seed systems are rarely attended?
- What are the gaps seeking overall functioning of clustered seed systems or any specific seed system?

Table 1. Gaps in supporting seed systems based on the analysis of interventions by stakeholders in dissimilar domains

Cluster of seed systems	Public sector programmes	Private sector programmes	NGO and CSO programmes	International programmes
Informal seed systems				
Intermediary seed systems				
Formal seed systems				

Note: a cluster of seed systems is a group of various seed systems lumped together in order to facilitate further understanding of the seed sector.

Step 2: Analyse for the groups of programmes organized according to the four above-mentioned domains, interventions at the operator level within seed value chains (see also Technical notes issue no 3). In the process different examples of programmes will be mentioned which differ in e.g. technical aspects of production; marketing and transformation, community–based multiplication and distribution access, access to early generation seed, access to financial services; marketing issues; entrepreneurship support; and, legal aspects. This can also be linked to the matrix that is guided by the following questions:

- What is the performance and functioning of different operations within the seed value chain?
- Which operations, and chain links function well, and which ones need to be strengthened? What is the base line? (technical notes issue no 3)
- Which organisation(s) are involved in the interventions?
- What are the interventions doing?
- Who are the interventions targeting?
- What are gaps in support to the operational level of a seed value chain?

Table 2. Overview of inventions supporting operators within the specific seed value chain by stakeholders in dissimilar domains

Interventions vs operational functions	Performance and functioning	Public sector programmes	Private sector programmes	NGO and CSO programmes	International programmes
Plant genetic resource management					
Variety development					
Basic seed production					
Seed multiplication					
Seed marketing					
Seed use (farmers)					

Step 3: Analyse more in detail the interventions of the different programmes for support to service provision in seed value chains. This matrix needs to respond to the following questions:

- What is the performance and functioning in service provision within the seed value chain (technical notes issue no 3) ?
- Which organizations, projects, programmes are supporting service providers?
- Which service providers get support?
- What are gaps in supporting seed chain service provision?

Table 3. Overview of interventions supporting service providers within the specific seed value chain by stakeholders in dissimilar domains

Interventions vs seed chain services	Performance and function	Public sector Programmes	Private sector programmes	NGO and CSO programmes	International programmes
Rural extension					
Variety testing and release					
Plant variety protection					
Distribution of early generation seed					
Seed quality assurance in production					
Seed quality assurance in commercialization					
Business management services					
Financial services and management					
Marketing information and promotion					

Step 4: Analyse interventions of the different projects and programmes that focus on the enabling environment. Respond the following questions:

- What is the performance and functioning in enabling environment within the seed value chain(s) (technical notes issue no 5) ?
- Which organizations support innovation, monitoring and evaluation of the enabling environment in terms of performance and functioning of seed value chains?
- Which topics are addressed and which stakeholders get support?
- What are the gaps in supporting the functioning of the enabling environment?

Table 4. Overview of inventions supporting innovation, monitoring and evaluation the functioning of the enabling environment within the specific seed value chain by stakeholders in dissimilar domains

Programmes interventions vs. enabling environment	Public sector programmes	Private sector programmes	NGO and CSO programmes	International programmes
Governance				
Legislative framework				
Regulative framework				
Economic environment				

Step 5: Conduct a summarized gap analysis on the basis of the previous four steps and identify potential interventions in terms of seed systems, the value chain operations, the services and the enabling environment. This will lead to an identification of the intervention gaps as well as insights in the complementarity and/or duplication of the activities by the different programmes. Options for innovation in

support to seed systems and components of seed value chain(s) will be identified, which are vital to the design of any new programme with its interventions.

Respond the following questions for seed systems, operations, service provision and enabling environment within seed value chain(s):

- – What is the performance and functioning?
- – What is the level of coverage in terms of support programmes?
- – What is the level of coverage in support? By what programme(s)? What type of interventions?
- – What are intervention gaps?
- – What are options to address those gaps?
- – What are relevant observations and lessons learned from the analysis and enhanced insights into the current situation?

Table 5. Summary overview of interventions for seed system, seed value chain, identification of gaps and options to address those gaps

Programmes interventions gaps for the seed value chain/system	Performance and function	Level of coverage by programmes and interventions	Intervention gaps	Options	Observations and lessons learned
Seed systems					
Value chain operations					
Value chain services					
Value chain enabling environment					

Step 6. Crosscheck the identified gaps and possible interventions in terms of the key objectives of the government and development partners providing the framework for the programme and its interventions and analyse opportunities for interaction with other programmes.

- – What are gaps and possible interventions?
- – What are the gaps are vital in enhancing the performance of the seed sector in terms of enabling poor rural people, food and nutrition security, raise their incomes and strengthen their resilience?
- – What interventions have the best potential in addressing those gaps vital in enhancing the seed sector in the context of those objectives?
- – What are options for up- and out-scaling for planned project intervention?
- – What are options for public-private partnerships for planed project intervention?
- – What are options for joint learning platforms in the seed sector, and at what level?

Table 6. Summary analysis of gaps and associated intervention options in terms of contributing to enhancing the performance of the seed sector contributing to development objectives

Intervention gaps	Intervention option(s)	Poverty alleviation	Food and nutrition security	Resilience	Other objective	Observations and lessons learned

WHAT can SILA be used for as analytical tool?

The SILA tool is an excellent tool to be used within the overall seed sector assessment as overseen and implemented by a national team or by an existing National Seed Board or National Seed Committee. The rather formal Seed Board can be complemented by a more informal multi-stakeholder committee which advises the National Seed Board (e.g. in Mozambique). SILA can be conducted relatively quickly and is an effective tool to compare the national seed strategy with the actual interventions. This helps in identifying gaps and complementarities in support for the key operations in specific seed systems, entire seed value chains, as well as the required operations, services and supporting enabling environment within specific seed value chains. The summary overview of interventions can be used in a multi-stakeholder discussion to identity possible interventions which would address gaps as well coordination of existing activities. Moreover summary overview of gaps and intervention options in terms of development objectives can guide such a team or the overseeing and coordinating body, Ministries and development partners (donors, INGOs) for informed and strategic decision-making for investments in the seed sector, as well as to identify opportunities for joint action.

Reading materials

- Integrated seed sector development in Africa – programme webpage, hosted by Wageningen University and research centre, at URL www.wageningenur.nl/en/show/Integrated-seed-sector-development-in-Ethiopia.htm

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Citation

Heemskerk, W., De Boef, W.S and Subedi, A., with Audet-Bélanger, G. and Gildemacher, P., (2013). Seed Intervention Landscape Analysis. ISSD Technical Notes Issue no 4. Centre for Development Innovation Wageningen UR, Wageningen & Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam

Annex 1: Main steps and guiding questions for seed intervention landscape analysis (SILA)

Main step and actions	Issues and questions to be addressed
Step 1 Reviews of document, and resource person interviews representing four domains (Ministry of Agriculture, key donors, larger international and national seed companies and INGOs, professional organizations).	Make a summary matrix for four domains vs. main seed systems, which would indicate: – Where do different programmes (e.g. public, private, NGOs and donors) operate for the same seed systems – Which seed systems are rarely attended? – What are the gaps seeking overall functioning of clustered seed systems or any specific seed system?
Step 2 Analyse for the groups of programmes organized again according the four above-mentioned domains, interventions at the level of the operators within seed value chains	Make a summary matrix for 4 domains vs main chain operation/function and indicate level of performance: – What is the performance and functioning of different operations within the seed value chain? – Which operations, and chain links function well, and which ones need to be strengthened? What is the base line? (Technical note series no 4) – Which organisation(s) are involved in the interventions? – What are the interventions doing? – Who are the interventions targeting? – What are gaps in support to the operational level of a seed value chain?
Step 3 Analyse more in detail the interventions of the different programmes for support to service providers in seed value chains.	Make a matrix for 4 domains and for all seed sector services and their performance and respond the following questions: – What is the performance and functioning in service provision within the seed value chain (Technical note series no 4) (the base line)? – Which organizations, projects, programmes are supporting service providers? – Which service providers get support? – What are gaps in supporting seed chain service provision?
Step 4 Analyse interventions of the different programmes that focus on the enabling environment	Make a matrix of the four domains versus the different components in the enabling environment and respond the following questions: – What is the performance and functioning in enabling environment within the seed value chain(s) (Technical note series no 5)? – Which organizations support innovation, monitoring and evaluation of the enabling environment in terms of performance and functioning of seed value chains? – Which topics are addressed and which stakeholders get support? – What are the gaps in supporting the functioning of the enabling environment?
Step 5 Conduct a summarized gap analysis on the basis of the previous four steps and identify potential interventions in terms of seed systems, the value chain operations, the services and the enabling environment	Respond to the following questions for seed systems, operations, service provision and enabling environment within seed value chain(s): – What is the performance and functioning? – What is the level of coverage in terms of support programmes? – What is the level of coverage in support? By what programme(s)? What type of interventions? – What are intervention gaps? – What are options to address those gaps?

	– What are relevant observations and lessons learned from the analysis and enhanced insights into the current situation?
Step 6 Crosscheck the identified gaps and possible interventions in terms of the key objectives of the government and development partners providing the framework for the programme and its interventions.	Make a summary analysis matrix of gaps and associated intervention options in terms of contributing to enhancing the performance of the seed sector contributing to development objectives: – What are gaps and possible interventions? – What are the gaps are vital in enhancing the performance of the seed sector in terms of enabling poor rural people, food and nutrition security, raise their incomes and strengthen their resilience? – What interventions have the best potential in addressing those gaps vital in enhancing the seed sector in the context of those objectives? – What are options for up- and out-scaling for planned project intervention? – What are options for public-private partnerships for planed project intervention? – What are options for joint learning platforms in the seed sector, and at what level?