Innovations in Sustainable Seed Systems for Grain Legumes

Moderator: Vincent Amanor-Boadu
Presenters: Dr. JS Sandhu; Louise Sperling; Juan Carlos Rosas & Luis Flores; Byron Reyes & Mywish Maredia

Seed Systems as a Strategic Issue

- Seed systems is a strategic issue in ensuring achievement of Feed the Future objectives
- As such, there is a need for investments in seed systems research, similar to current investment being made in value chain research

Why this Conversation?

- How do we achieve sustainable seed systems?
  - Developing a clear appreciation of the customer and the market in which that customer operates
  - And developing models that effectively overcome the constraints and seize the opportunities in the customer’s market
  - And doing these at the onset of product (new technology) development

Overview of Conversation

- Case Studies
  - Central America
  - India
- Conceptual Frames
  - Sustainability Characteristics
  - Impact Enhancement Tools
Our Presenters

Dr. JS Sandhu

- Ag Commissioner, Dept. of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India
- Has direct policy impact on breeding and seed issues
- Worked on basic and applied aspects of pulses for more than 25 years and developed 21 varieties of different pulse crops
- Fellow of the Indian Academy of Agricultural Sciences

Dr. Luis Flores

- Agribusiness scholar at MSU
- Focuses on value chains, market access, and SPS in developing countries
- Served in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Senegal, Afghanistan, Burundi, and Haiti

Dr. Louise Sperling

- Principal Researcher-Consultant at CIAT, Syngenta Foundation, soon to join CRS
- Given her public and private sectors as well as civil society perspectives
- Conducted seed security assessments after the genocides in Rwanda, Timor-Leste, and in post-earthquake Haiti
- Passionate about ‘reaching scale in seed systems’
- Find more about her team at seedsystem.org
Dr. Mywish Maredia and Dr. Bryon Reyes

- Byron is originally from Ecuador and educated in Zamorano, Honduras, working with JuanCarlos Rosas for many years and works at MSU
- Mywish is a professor of international development at MSU and a former deputy director of the Pulse CRSP

What We Hope to Achieve

- *Passionate conversation* for insightful perspectives!!
  - Explore the opportunities and constraints faced by the legume industry in the development of sustainable seed systems in smallholder agriculture countries
  - Explore alternative models for ensuring new technologies get to producers in order to achieve overall program objectives
    - Increase incomes
    - Enhance nutrition status

Critical Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Seed Systems

- Economic profit or at the minimum economic cost recovery
- Building producer capacity and facilitating innovative business models relevant to producers’ realities
- Addressing inherent legume challenges that create incentives for free-riding
- Reducing dependency of smallholders and creating opportunities for independence
- Scaling solutions that work with sustainability as the guiding principle
- Avoiding the unintended consequences of government direct investments
Multiple Models for Sustainability

For sustainable solutions, we need to pursue seed systems as a strategic issue demanding investments in research.

Sustainable systems have embedded incentives eliciting behaviors that when exploited ensure the systems’ viability without any external interventions.