SEED MAPPING

To get an overview of seed channels and their importance for the three main crops

1. Make a ‘seed map’ for the three principal crops. (If possible, include focus on different types of crops, e.g. the self-and the vegetatively-propagated, crops mainly for home consumption, as well as the more commercial. BUT- the choice depends on community priorities.)

2. For each crop, do a comparison between seed sources today, and seed sources at a time in the past that has some meaning. (e.g. 5 years ago. Agree on the precise time period!)

3. Then assess the current upcoming season (see tables below).

4. Use flipcharts to record for the community.

5. (It is easiest to divide a single flipchart sheet in two parts: use the top half as the current seed source situation. Use the bottom half as the seed source situation at a given time in the past.)

6. Carefully facilitate the discussion and take good notes! (to complement the flipcharts)

FOR EACH CROP

PART I. MAKE A SEED MAP FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION

Map the seed sources for this current/most recent season. DRAW the PRIMARY SOURCES (as circles).

Subjects to discuss:

What main sources for seed (and rank in importance) 1= most important; 2= second in importance, 3= third in importance

PART II: MAP THE SEED SOURCES AS THEY WERE 5 YEARS AGO (SPECIFY YEAR).

PART III. COMPARE THE CURRENT SEED SOURCES WITH THOSE FIVE YEARS AGO.

○ What have been the major changes in the last 5 years?
○ Why have they occurred?
○ Are they positive or negative changes?

PART IV. COMPARE AMONG THE SEED CHANNELS SOURCES

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of using different sources?
- What is the quality of seed from different sources (including varieties
- Is seed always available from the difference sources
- What about the price/ of from different sources: comments
- Do farmers with more money use different sources from those with less money?
FIVE YEARS BEFORE

NOTES

1. 10 years ago, the Agro-dealer network functioned well. The great majority of maize used was hybrid and was purchased every season (may 90%). OPV use was small—but introduced by ICRISAT (an international research organization). Farmers did not like the OPVs—and could buy fertilizer easily—needed for hybrids

2. 2009:
   a. agro-dealer network collapsed. Zim money worth nothing
   b. maize comes from government aid, from NGO aid, like seed fairs, from the local market and black market (even some hybrids)
   c. On some occasions seed houses(e.g. SeedCo) have been invited to bring their seed at the seed fairs
   d. COMMUTECH also provided seed maize- free (KEP, ZM 521, ZM 421) at one time. On some occasions seed houses
   e. Government assistance most important; other programs secondary
Example 2: SORGHUM (modified from original as example)

SOURCES 2009

- Own stocks (1)
- NGO- ‘LDS’
- (Zambia company)

Sorghum seed

GOVT: aid
SADC input

FIVE YEARS BEFORE

- Own stocks (1)
- NGO LDS
- World Vision

Sorghum seed

NOTES
1. The main source now for sorghum seed is ‘own stocks’. This was the same five years ago, there has not been much change. The great bulk of sorghum seed (over 90%) comes from ‘own stocks’.
2. Also, neighbors and relatives, might give sorghum seed in small quantity- now and before (5 years ago)
3. Recently the government also gave some seed aid- which came form Zambia- but it did not produce well (much did not even germinate
4. The NGOS recently introduced a new variety called ‘Sila’ (introduced by the Lutheran Development Service)
5. World Vision also introduced a new variety 5 years ago (name not recalled), but it no longer exists in the system as people did not like it.