



UNIVERSITY OF BURAO
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE.



كلية الزراعة والعلوم البيئية



Report for Validation Meeting for Community Seed Bank

Training Manual

30THAPRIL, 2024

BURAO, TOGDHEER REGION, SOMALILAND

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Participants (see the attached list)

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Overview of the manual
3. Discussion, and feedback
4. Reflection and conclusion

1. Introduction

The validation meeting was held on 30th April 2024 at the ADO office in Burao. It was participated by a total of twenty-five (25) individuals, representing a variety of Burao-based organizations that work with agriculture including **FAO, GIZ, Taakulo, UNITA, Candlelight, ADO, World Vision, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, University of Burao (Agriculture Students), and private agribusiness groups**. The purpose of this meeting was to familiarize the participants with the community seed manual developed by the University of Burao, an essential tool for enabling communities, community workers, and practitioners to protect their agricultural legacy and ensure food security. This meeting, according to Dr. Ibrahim, represents a critical turning point in our joint efforts to support agricultural resilience as well as seed quality and management.

As we gather today in this meeting, we are bringing together a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and passion for sustainable agriculture. The journey towards developing this manual has been characterized by collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to nurturing resilient food systems.

Throughout this meeting, it gives us the opportunity to review, and validate the content of this manual to ensure its relevance, clarity, and effectiveness in empowering communities nationally.

Dr. Ibrahim, in furthering his speech, says that together we will shape a resource that not only educates but also inspires action and fosters empowerment both at the grassroots and national levels.

Dr. Ibrahim expressed his sincere gratitude to every one of them for their dedication, insights, and contributions to this important initiative.

1. Key Meeting Achievements:

- The meeting saw fruitful discussions resulting in the acceptance of the manual.
- Participants gained a deep understanding of its contents and expressed keen interest in its implementation.

4. Validation Meeting Proceedings:

The participants were registered and warmly welcomed by Mustafe Abdillahi and Nimo Abdirahman. Dr. Ibrahim extended gratitude to all participants. A participatory discussion ensued, focusing on discussing and fine-tuning the manual. Mr. Mustafe provided a comprehensive presentation to the participants. Questions and answers were shared and exchanged between and among participants and the UoB team facilitating the CSB training manual.

2. Objectives of the CSB Training Manual: The objectives of the manual were shared, emphasizing its significance in empowering communities to establish sustainable seed banks. The objectives of the CSB Training Manual are to equip participants with knowledge and skills:



- To conserve indigenous seeds
- To promote traditional farming practices
- To ensure seed and food security
- To employ proper documentation of traditional knowledge and transfer of knowledge to future generations

3. For whom is this training manual intended?

The CSB training manual targets a diverse audience including agricultural extension workers, researchers, students, teachers, professionals, and NGO staff involved in seed conservation and food security initiatives.

- -NGO staff,
- -Researchers,
- -Government extension agents,
- -Professional

It was emphasized that the manual employs a participatory learning approach, fostering active interaction between facilitators and learners. As deeply explained, the strategy for handling this manual is to engage the participants directly in participatory learning while minimizing traditional lecturing. The approach adopted is as follows:

- **Participatory Learning:** focusing group discussions, interactive sessions, active participation, dialogue and collaboration
- **Minimal Lecturing:** minimizing lecturing and encouraging discussion and interactive learning experience
- **Dynamic Exercises:** this emphasizes role-playing, group activities, and case studies and Hands-on exercises
- **Reflection on Experiences:** Learners

5. How is the manual organized?

In this session, we explained deeply that the manual comprises eight modules, each covering specific aspects of community seed bank establishment and management. Each module is further divided into sub-topics, contents, and objectives for clarity, ease of understanding, and implementation.

Module 1: The multiple functions and services of community seed banks, highlight the importance and functions of the community seed bank.

Module 2: Trends in Agricultural Biodiversity, presents tools for assessing local agricultural biodiversity, distribution of crop species and varieties, and monitoring trends in agricultural biodiversity over time.

Module 3: Steps and processes in establishing and supporting a community seed bank, Identify and logically organize the steps required for establishing and supporting a community seed bank.

Module 4: Technical Issues Involved in Operating Community Seed Banks- examines the technical complexity of managing community seed banks, addressing challenges, and outlining key principles and practices for their effective operation.

Module 5: Governance and Management, looks at how community seed banks establish, effective governance structures; develop leadership skills and structures within the community to ensure transparent decision-making and accountability in seed bank operations, and enhance management practices.

Module 6: Support and Networking, discusses the importance of providing, to emphasize the critical role of sound technical and organizational support in sustaining a community seed bank. Additionally, the training aims to highlight the importance of networking for knowledge exchange and collaborative efforts in seed conservation.

Module 7: Policies and laws impacting community seed banks enhance awareness of the institutional and regulatory environments governing their establishment and operations; familiarize participants with key legal requirements for operating a community seed bank and provide insights into aligning seed bank operations with broader agricultural and environmental policies.

Module 8, Viability and sustainability of a community seed bank, presents key dimensions of viability and sustainability within the context of community seed banks. The Module emphasizes the importance of long-term planning and resilience.



Reflection

- It was deeply explained how the Community Seed Bank Training Manual takes a comprehensive approach. In addition to offering helpful advice on starting seed banks, it also emphasizes the environmental and socioeconomic advantages of locally based seed conservation programs. Seed multiplication facilities, storage, and distribution are desperately needed in the future (Dr. Sulub, School of Postgraduate).
- Farmers typically keep seeds in storage; all they need to do is expand the variety they grow, which means they need help to make the community seed bank more sustainable. Organizing events for learning ideas and sharing experiences will help strengthen networks among and between various institutions and farmers. It is also crucial to translate the Community Seed Bank Manual into a Somali version (Jimcale: FAO).
- It's perfect to produce little leaflets for farmers in Somali (Abdinasir ADO)
- Scheduling the training timeline for farmers and extension agents from the Ministry of Agriculture and institutions working on agriculture in the region is urgently required (Dr. Sulub)
- Participating in the validation meeting has been an enriching experience for students. The manual's emphasis on community engagement and knowledge sharing resonates with students' passion for grassroots initiatives. It will empower young people, including students, to play an active role in seed conservation efforts. These reflections highlight the diverse perspectives and enthusiasm among participants regarding the Community Seed

Bank Training Manual, underscoring its potential to catalyze positive change in agricultural communities.

Conclusion



The validation meeting for the Community Seed Bank Training Manual marked a significant milestone in enhancing seed security and agricultural resilience at the community level. With the active participation and feedback of stakeholders, the manual is poised to serve as a valuable resource in fostering sustainable agricultural practices and food sovereignty.

UNIVERSITY OF BURAO TEAM, FACILITATORS

Dr. Ibrahim Osman Ismail, Nimo Abdirahman Yusuf,

Mustafe Abdullahi Abdi & Said Haibe Aided

ANNEX 1. Attendance Sheet



VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNITY SEED BANK MANUAL ATTENDANCE SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Date: 30.04.2024

S#	Name of participant	Institution	Email address	Phone Number	Signature
1	ASMA Sa'id awed	Burao university	asma.sa'id754@gmail.com	063 74 64 284	<i>ASMA</i>
2	Satiys Ibrahim Osman	University of Burao	Satiys.Ibrahim.003@gmail.com	063 488 6342	<i>Satiys</i>
3	Sulub Ismail Ahmed	University of Burao	Sulub0@gmail.com	063 442 6675	<i>Sulub</i>
4	Ahmed Rasheed Sulub	Candlelight	ahmedrashed@gmail.com	4340585	<i>Ahmed</i>
5	Mohamed Ahmed Jamec	TAAKULO	muunkaal@taakulo.org	4202275	<i>Mohamed</i>
6	Muhammad Osman Abdi	MOA	moahaid@moa.org	4311707	<i>Muhammad</i>
7	Abdinasir Mohamed Ali	ADD	abdinasir@add.org	4204347	<i>Abdinasir</i>
8	Mohamoud Jama	UNITA	madaale2014@gmail.com	4139166	<i>Mohamoud</i>
9	Ismaciil Yuusuf Cabdi	University of Burao	ismaciil.yuusuf@gmail.com	0633903331	<i>Ismaciil</i>

10	Xamsi Cigaadii Maxamed	Burao UNB	xamsi.cadii150@gmail.com	063-3915161	<i>Xamsi</i>
11	Abdilaiz Jamal Sulaman	University of Burao	Abdilaiz.Jamal06@gmail.com	063-4727337	<i>Abdilaiz</i>
12	Adam Mohamed Afrah	UOB	ademignacaliyeh@gmail.com	063-4379280	<i>Adam</i>
13	Keyse Hassan Yasin	ADD	keyse.hassan@gmail.com	063-4341452	<i>Keyse</i>
14	Keyse Ahmed Abdullah	UOB	keyse.ahmed@gmail.com	0634774316	<i>Keyse</i>
15	Abdiwahaab Mohamed Adil	UOB	gaas.abdiwahaab@gmail.com	063-3324084	<i>Abdiwahaab</i>
16	cleasius ismaaciin jirde	UOB	cabdicasiisjirde54@gmail.com	063-4519423	<i>Cleasius</i>
17	Zaynab Yusuf Abdi	UNITA	unita-oz@gmail.com	41437678	<i>Zaynab</i>
18	Fadumo Ahmed Shire	UNITA	" " "	4377606	<i>Fadumo</i>
19	Hamud Mohamed Ahmed	UOB	hamudhahmed@gmail.com	063 4355709	<i>Hamud</i>
20	Jimcaale Fuleen	FAO	Jimcaale.Fuleen@fao.org	0634577738	<i>Jimcaale</i>
21	Maryama Maxamuud Cali	UOB	dismaryam101@gmail.com	0634207605	<i>Maryama</i>
22	Nimo Abdurahman	UOB	nimoshafe0413@gmail.com	0634957380	<i>Nimo</i>
23	Ibrahim Osman Ismail	UOB	Ibrahim.003@gmail.com	063 488 6342	<i>Ibrahim</i>
24	Mustafe Abdullahi Abdi	A.D.O	sanatar122@hotmail.com	4324775	<i>Mustafe</i>
25					
26					

Annex 2: Invitation Letter



Ref: UoB/288/DVCO/2024

Date: 23/04/2024

To: SOS, Taakulo, ADO, GIZ, MoAD, MoED, Candlelight, WHH, Acted, Oxfarm,
World Vision, FAO, Care international

Subject: Invitation to Seed Manuals Validation Events

Dear Partner representatives,

We are excited to invite you to participate in the validation events for the developed Seed Lab and Community Seed Bank Manuals, organized by FAES with the guiding support from WCDI/Alliance Biodiversity and CIAT.

These validation events are crucial steps towards ensuring the efficacy and applicability of the manuals in real-world scenarios. Your organization's expertise will greatly contribute to the implementation of these resources.

The validation events will take place on the following dates:

1. Seed Lab Manual Validation Event:

Date: April 29th, 2024
Venue: UoB Meeting Hall

2. Community Seed Bank Manual Validation Event:

Date: April 30th, 2024
Venue: Daalo Hotel

Each validation meeting will last approximately 3 hours, during which participants will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the manuals.

It is imperative that your organization participates in these events to ensure that the manuals meet the diverse needs and requirements of stakeholders in the seed sector.

The significance of these manuals cannot be overstated. They will serve as comprehensive guides for promoting best practices in seed management, enhancing seed quality, and ultimately contributing to food security and agricultural sustainability.

Quality seeds are the cornerstone of successful agricultural endeavors. By validating these manuals, we are taking a proactive step towards ensuring that farmers have access to the knowledge and resources necessary to produce and utilize high-quality seeds effectively.

We sincerely hope that you will join us in this important endeavor. Your participation is invaluable to the success of this initiative.

Please confirm your attendance by email to ismail@uob-edu.net or nimosharaf@gmail.com. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to your participation.

Best Regards,
Prof. Omar Osman Hersi
Deputy Vice Chancellor

