

Report on the Pilot Session for Community Seed Bank (CSB) Course Module at Sanaag University

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Introduction

Sanaag University in Somaliland has started on a pioneering initiative to develop and test a short course curriculum focused on Community Seed Banks (CSBs). This report outlines the progress made in the pilot session conducted for the CSB Course module, integrating insights from the "Learning Agenda E4FSR" presentation that details the comprehensive curriculum structure.

Goal of the Pilot Session

The primary goal of the pilot session was to assess the effectiveness and clarity of the CSB Course module, specifically focusing on the steps and processes for establishing and maintaining community seed banks. This session aimed to provide a structured and comprehensive overview, ensuring participants grasp the essential knowledge required for successful community seed bank management.

Objectives of the Pilot Session

1. **Present the Core Elements:** Introduce the essential steps and operational, needs and technical considerations for establishing and managing a community seed bank.
2. **Engage Participants:** Conduct interactive activities to facilitate hands-on learning and engagement with the course material.

3. **Gather Feedback:** Collect and analyze feedback from participants to evaluate their understanding and engagement with the session. This will be useful for further fine tuning the course delivery and learning trajectory design.

Activity Overview



Structured Presentation of the CSB Course Module

Content Delivery

The pilot session commenced with a structured presentation, systematically addressing each module developed by the university team, in the "Learning Agenda E4FSR" plan. This comprehensive approach ensured a all-round understanding of community seed bank management, encompassing diverse aspects such as biodiversity, technical operations, governance, and sustainability.

Modules Covered

The objectives were to train university colleagues and some potential students, then ask for feedback to make sure that the course design is clear and concise, and interesting.

The selected module of Steps and process of establishing and supporting a community seed bank presents a logical sequence of the major steps involved to start and maintain a community seed bank. The university colleagues and potential students were learning the establishment processes and supporting a community seed bank involves several major steps. It is important to go through the process methodically, without rushing, and allow enough time for interactions with farmers. During the session, the facilitators covered the sequential steps required to initiate and sustain a community seed bank, from conceptualization to operationalization:- such as

- Step 1: Situational analysis
- Step 2: Motivating farmers
- Step 3: Choosing crop species and varieties
- Step 4: Seed Health and Local Quarantine
- Step 5: Seed storage
- Step 6: Registration of new variety (passport data)

- Step 7: Seed regeneration
- Step 8: Networking and Information Sharing
- Step 9: Monitoring of operations and results

Interactive Activity

The interactive activity was designed to reinforce the theoretical knowledge imparted during the presentation. By engaging in practical application, participants could better understand and retain the complex processes involved in community seed bank management.

Activity Design

- Scenario-Based Learning: Participants were divided into groups and presented with various scenarios that a community seed bank might encounter. These scenarios required them to apply the knowledge gained from the presentation to propose viable solutions or strategies.
- Role-Playing: In some scenarios, participants assumed different roles within a community seed bank, such as a manager, a technical expert, or a community liaison. This role-playing aspect helped them understand the multifaceted challenges and considerations of CSB operations.
- Feedback and Reflection: After the activity, groups shared their approaches and solutions with the broader assembly, facilitating a collective learning experience. This debriefing session allowed for reflection, discussion, and deeper understanding of the applied concepts.



Choosing crop species and varieties

Impact on Participants

The interactive activity not only solidified the participants' understanding of the course content but also fostered teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. The practical application of theoretical knowledge enhanced their ability to visualize and strategize for real-world community seed bank management scenarios.

Participants have expressed a need to document, file, and record various seed varieties that are not currently available in the center.

Feedback and Outcomes

Participants demonstrated a perfect understanding of the session content, as evidenced by their feedback and the expression of positive sentiments, symbolized by "Happy faces." This feedback underscores the effectiveness of the pilot session in conveying the necessary knowledge and engaging the participants effectively.

University colleagues and students were eager to engage in activities related to seed testing, which involves evaluating the quality and viability of seeds through various scientific methods. Additionally, involvement in seed testing aligns with the educational and research goals of the university, providing valuable hands-on experience for students and opportunities for collaborative research among colleagues.

Recommendations for Future Sessions

Based on the pilot session's success, the following recommendations are proposed for future sessions:

1. Iterative Improvement: Incorporate feedback from the pilot session to refine the course content and delivery methods continually.
2. Expand Interactive Components: Increase the use of interactive activities to bolster participant engagement and practical understanding.
3. Continuous Monitoring: Implement a systematic approach to monitor participants' learning progress and satisfaction throughout the course duration.

Conclusion

The pilot session for the CSB Course module at Sanaag University represents a significant step forward in developing a robust curriculum for community seed bank management. The positive feedback and participant engagement indicate the session's success in achieving its educational objectives, laying a strong foundation for future offerings of this course.

This report underscores the university's commitment to enhancing agricultural education and community empowerment through innovative and practical learning experiences. The continued development and refinement of this course will contribute significantly to the establishment and successful operation of community seed banks, fostering sustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity conservation in the region.



Registration of new variety (passport data)