

IMPACTS OF SEED LAWS ON FARMER-MANAGED SEED SYSTEMS



- ❶ Farmer-managed seed systems (FMSS) are not recognised and supported when it comes to seed laws, despite their important role in seed supply and maintaining seed and crop diversity.
- ❷ Smallholder farmers managing their own seed systems are excluded from participating in the seed system of a country.
- ❸ Farmers are seen only as consumers of seed, and not as important stakeholders in the seed system.
- ❹ Local seed varieties produced by smallholder farmers are not recognised by seed laws because they do not meet the DUS (distinct, uniform and stable) criteria and are regarded as being of poor quality.
- ❺ Smallholder farmers are often unable to afford certified seed because it is too expensive.
- ❻ Some seed laws criminalise the marketing and cross border trade of seed that is not certified. This restricts the selling and exchanging of seed by most smallholder farmers and has a negative effect on their income.
- ❼ Farmers and civil society organisations should continue to advocate for support and recognition of FMSS.
- ❽ FMSS consider important aspects of seed production – such as nutritional requirements, taste preferences, cultural importance and producing diversity of foods – but the formal seed sector, because of its profit-making approach, usually ignores these aspects.

