



illustration: dph

FISPs promote small-scale farmer dependency

Farm input subsidy programmes (FISPs) encourage large-scale uptake of hybrid seeds and fertilisers and have resulted in high levels of farmer dependency and financial problems for many countries in Southern Africa:

- ▶ In **Botswana**, the ISPAAD has not shifted farmers to commercial production; instead, it has significantly increased the number of subsistence farmers.
- ▶ In **Lesotho**, input schemes have led to farmers expecting a perpetual supply of free and subsidised inputs.
- ▶ In **Tanzania**, many beneficiaries have become reliant on subsidy, with about 60% of farmers receiving it repeatedly.
- ▶ In **Zambia**, small-scale farmers lost up to 30% of their income when the subsidy was temporarily removed in 2013.
- ▶ In **Zimbabwe**, farmers' total reliance on government support is forcing government to turn towards credit schemes.

FISPs have lured farmers into a never ending cycle of dependency on Green Revolution inputs, which are causing soil infertility and undermining agricultural biodiversity, farmer seed and knowledge systems – and hence their sovereignty.

