

WHAT IS QUALITY DECLARED SEED?

The quality declared seed (QDS) system is part of the formal seed system and also controls seed quality and purity. QDS is less strict and uses fewer resources than formal quality control systems. It aims to bring improved seed to small-scale farmers and involve them in seed production.



BENEFITS OF QDS

- ❶ Farmers can easily access QDS seed because it is available, reliable and much cheaper than fully certified seed.
- ❷ QDS is readily adaptable to the area where it is produced.
- ❸ Farmers are allowed to save and reuse QDS for 3 to 4 seasons.
- ❹ Farmers are able to sell and exchange QDS among themselves.
- ❺ The QDS system is of equal benefit to male and female farmers who produce improved seed.
- ❻ The QDS system is a good employment opportunity for farmers who produce improved seed.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF QDS

- ❶ Farmers sometimes have limited support from government and other stakeholders regarding training in the production of QDS.
- ❷ There is limited access to basic seed for seed multiplication.
- ❸ Most farmers have limited awareness about the production and use of QDS.
- ❹ Farmers sometimes lack access to financial resources to run their seed production business.
- ❺ In some cases the government limits QDS operations to a small geographical region, to protect the interests of private seed companies.

