

# SEED SOVEREIGNTY FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

**S**eed sovereignty means that smallholder farmers have control over, and are placed at the centre of, their own seed systems.

Farmers will have seed sovereignty *IF* they have the right:

- 1 to sow, breed, save and exchange all their seed and other planting material;
- 1 to participate in decisions concerning seed improvement/breeding, selection, quality standards, pricing, production, distribution and diversity;
- 1 to customary practices – especially in regard to indigenous seed;
- 1 to access seed;
- 1 to protection from the sale of fake or inappropriate seed by dishonest people;
- 1 to the choice between using certified seed or seed from farmer-managed seed systems; and
  - 1 to enforce their farmers' rights – and to ensure that those rights are not lower in status than breeders' rights.

