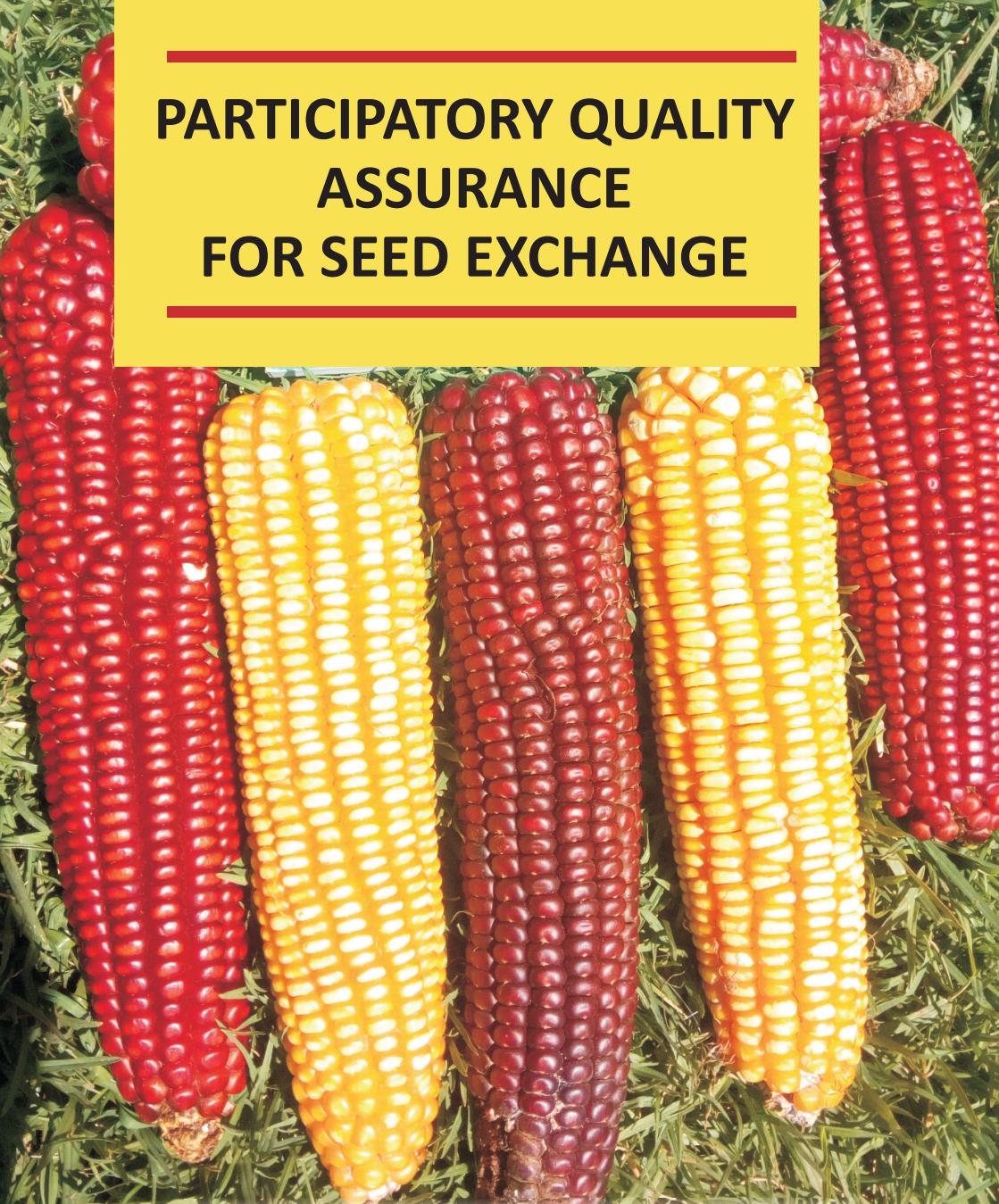


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# PARTICIPATORY QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR SEED EXCHANGE

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Seed Savers Network  
Kenya

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
INTERNAL PROCEDURES.....	3
Participation of farmers in the platform.....	3
New member joining the group:.....	3
Coding.....	4
Peer review.....	4
Approval and sanction.....	4
STANDARDS AND SANCTIONS .....	5
Appendix 1: FARMERS PLEDGE.....	8
Appendix 2 : MEMBERS REGISTRATION FORM.....	9
Appendix 3 : PEER REVIEW CHECKLIST.....	10

## **INTRODUCTION**

This was an output of a Seed Exchange workshop held in Feb 2020 which brought together farmers and staff from 3 organizations; GBIAK, BIOGI and Seed Savers Network with support from Tudor Trust. Participatory Quality Assurance (PQA) Model will be used by the farmers posting their seeds in the seed exchange platform.

The common rules and regulations developed are aimed at creating confidence among the different players interacting with the platform. This will enhance trust among the farmers exchanging seeds on quality and authenticity of the seeds.

## **INTERNAL PROCEDURES**

### **Participation of farmers in the platform.**

All farmers who shall post seeds on the seed exchange platform shall be members of the group. Respective organization shall work with farmers group to regulate quality of seeds posted online. Group members shall conduct peer to peer monitoring to achieve defined quality standards for the seeds posted online by the group members.

Respective organization shall administer sanctions and corrective measures at the group level but not to the individual group member. The group shall take responsibility for the seeds posted by their members. The seed exchange platform shall be open to all the farmers group who shall be willing to comply with the required standards.

### **New member joining the group:**

Group shall have right to admit new members or dismiss others, the applying member must be 18 years and above with National ID. The new member will be vetted by the existing group members. After being vetted the applying member will get a response. The respective groups shall set terms and conditions for admission and dismissal.

## **Coding**

All group members will be given unique code number to reduce names confusion and enhance traceability. The code will be derived from the group name and a number (to be developed). These are the codes which will appear on the platform.

## **Peer review**

Peer review will be done twice per year as per the annual seasons. The dates for peer review shall be announced in advance to ensure farmers are at home to answer questions. Nobody will peer review his or her own farm or have reciprocal peer review, or peer review their relatives. Therefore peer review committee members will express conflict of interest. Designed checklist will be used during peer review. Peer review report will be handed to Approval and Sanction committee. Farmers being peer reviewed will be given chance to ask questions or clarity. Other partners will be involved during peer review if they are available.

## **Approval and sanction**

The Approval and the Sanction committee will review the inspection reports sent by peer review team. The committee after thorough study will develop two lists.

- a) Approved members
- b) Sanctioned members.

Then they will come up with comprehensive report containing their decision that will be presented to the group members. They will attribute sanction to the non-complying members that range from fines, written warning or suspension among others. The approval and Sanction committee shall be receiving the appeal from sanctioned members who feels they were not fairly judged and forward those appeals to the executive for follow-up. The committee members from this team who happen to be non-compliant will be

excluded from decision making to avoid conflict of interest.

## STANDARDS AND SANCTIONS

These forms the basis of the Participatory Quality Assurance which is binding to all farmers in a group. Groups can develop their own by laws and norms in addition to the guide based on their preferences. Violations of the **Standards** will result in **sanctions** imposed in cases of a misconduct of a member and the group.

The acceptance of the members will be through a pledge which will be signed by all members. This will be a commitment and willingness to follow the stipulated internal regulation without coercion as full members of the group.

Members will also pledge to participate in all group activities including internal reviews so as to comply with rules and procedures of Participatory Quality Assurance. Only members who have taken the pledge shall be the primary members of the group

<sup>1</sup>Standards- something used as a measure, norm, or model in comparative evaluation

<sup>2</sup>Sanctions- Measures taken to coerce another to conform to norms of conduct, typically in the form of restrictions on participation

No	INTERNAL STANDARDS	SANCTIONS/CONTROL
1	All seed materials posted in the platform must be well defined and detailed, a clear photo should be used for the display, altitude and climatic conditions favorable for their growth	No seed will be posted on the platform without a clear photo and detailed information Farmers posting unclear photos or details will have their seeds removed
2	All farmers will maintain minimum records for their seeds at the farm level	Farmers failing to maintain any form of record of their seeds will be warned 3 times before further action.
3	All seeds posted by the farmer or the hub should be traceable to the farmers	Non traceable seeds will be removed from the platform and the farmer posting them suspended from the group
4	All farmers shall practice agro -ecology /ecological farming by composting, use of crop residues for compost making, trash lines, mulching, animal waste, animal bedding, avoid synthetic chemicals as much as possible	Farmers not practicing agro -ecology/ecological farming will not post their seeds in the platform
5	All seeds posted in the platform should be subjected to a germination test and data clearly communicated	No seeds will be posted on the platform without germination rate information shared
6	All the farmers posting the seeds should be trustworthy, open and ready for peer review by the other farmers	Farmers not ready and open for peer review will not be allowed to post their seeds. They will be warned for the first time and suspended from the group if they don't cooperate
7	Leasing of the land for purposes of seed production will be highly discouraged	The group will determine if the use of leased land will be allowed or not depending on circumstances of a member

8	Seeds for exchange posted on the platform must be clean, good quality and free of pests/diseases.	Seeds that are not clean, have pests or don't meet minimum quality will be removed from the platform and the member concerned warned.
9	All the farmers posting in the platform should be ready to share their profile , experience and any other detail that may be required	Farmers who fail to share their profile and experience will be warned and continuously not cooperating will lead to suspension
10	Storage of the seeds will be done in clean well aerated and in right containers	Storage in dirty or unapproved containers will lead to removal from the platform
11	Farmers shall transport their seeds to their fellow farmers in clean containers like sacks, crates well sealed and labelled	Control 10 above will apply
13	New members joining the group shall undergo seed saving training from experienced farmers or recognized trainer	Members who are not trained will not be allowed to post their seeds
14	All the farmers must be ready to answer any query arising from the seeds exchanged	Failure to answer queries will lead to a warning or suspension of a member from the platform.

## **Appendix 1: FARMERS PLEDGE**

I being a member of ----- group pledge to do the following:

- Agro-ecology production principle and rules as per internal standard  
Participate in group activities including trainings, peer reviews and group meetings
  - Follow the laid group internal procedures including approval and sanction requirement.
  - Post my seeds information Seed exchange platform and follow guidelines provided.

## **Appendix 2 : MEMBERS REGISTRATION FORM**

YEAR-----

### Appendix 3 PEER REVIEW CHECKLIST

Name	Member NO	Date of visit	Group	Main crops / Livestock
	Tel. No.			
Review area	Very Good	Fair	Bad	Comment
Source of planting material				
Seed selection				
Soil fertility management				
Soil control Measures				
Pest and diseases management				
Weeds control				
Crop rotation program				
Animal welfare				
Storage at home				
Record keeping				
Participation in Group trainings				
General comment/ Observations	Comment by the farmers			
Review Team	Farmer			
Names	Name			
Signature	Signature			
1				
2				

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