**Endorse our Position Paper and Add Your Voice! Why the Draft EAC Seed Bill Needs Change!**

The **East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)** is in the process of developing the **East African Community (EAC) Seed and Plant Varieties Bill, 2025**, aimed at harmonizing seed laws across the region. However, in its current form, the Draft Bill contains significant gaps that risk undermining **farmers’ rights and farmer-managed seed systems (FMSS)** in East Africa.

The majority of smallholder farmers rely on saving, exchanging, and using farm-saved seeds for food security, biodiversity, and climate resilience—especially during emergency situations. Yet, the Draft Bill largely prioritizes formal seed systems, offering limited recognition and protection for farmers’ customary seed practices. If adopted without safeguards, it could restrict these practices, reduce seed diversity, and increase farmers’ dependence on commercial and external seed sources.

With the Bill **expected to move to stakeholder engagement processes as early as February**, there is an urgent need for **coordinated and collective action**. This **Joint Civil Society Position Paper** highlights the key gaps in the Draft Bill and proposes practical recommendations to ensure that the final law supports farmers’ rights, FMSS, and resilient seed systems.

We invite civil society organisations, farmer organisations, networks, research institutions, and development partners to **endorse and support this position paper [here](https://forms.gle/Jvedzn1NRbZXKD7AA)** and join a collective regional effort to influence the EAC seed law process at this critical moment.