Accelerating Agriculture and Agribusiness in South Sudan for Enhanced Economic Development (A3-SEED)

2021 Annual Narrative Report

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IFDC

A3-SEED

KIT Royal Tropical Institute

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Acronyms

2SCALE	Toward Sustainable Agribusiness Clusters through Learning in Entrepreneurship
A3-SEED	Accelerating Agricultural and Agribusiness in South Sudan for Enhanced Economic Development Project
ABC	Agribusiness Cluster
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
CAMP	Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan
CBO	Community Based Organization
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation
EGS	Early Generation Seed
EKN	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSABSS	Food Security through Agribusiness in South Sudan
FNS-REPRO	Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme
GAPs	Good Agricultural Practices
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICT4Ag	ICT for Agriculture
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
IGG	Inclusive Green Growth Department
ISFM	Integrated Soil Fertility Management
ISSD	Integrated Seed Sector Development
KIT	Royal Tropical Institute
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MELS	Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, and Sharing
NAFO	National Admin and Finance Officer
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PSSD	Private Seed Sector Development
SSADP2	South Sudan Agribusiness Development Program Phase 2
STASS	Seed Trade Association of South Sudan
TOR	Terms of Reference
TOT	Training of Trainers

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1 Executive Summary

The Accelerating Agriculture and Agribusiness in South Sudan for Enhanced Economic Development (A3-SEED) project, funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN), is being implemented by the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) together with Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) from December 2020 to November 2025. The project follows EKN's Seed Sector Development for South Sudan (SSD4SS) project, implemented by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and targets four hubs of stability (Bor, Rumbek, Torit, and Yambio) as well as the outskirts of Juba.

A3-SEED began with in-country support of a Project Startup Manager, a consultant stationed in Juba to coordinate all the start-up processes and activities. Through the Project Startup Manager, IFDC reactivated its registration as a non-governmental organization (NGO) in South Sudan, conducted recruitment of the administration team, including a National Finance and Administration Officer (NAFO) and Project Accountant, and mobilized consultants to conduct inception phase studies. The Project Startup Manager also initiated the establishment of an IFDC office in Juba through the support of the Operations Director at IFDC headquarters. In the middle of 2021, IFDC hired a Project Manager who took over the inception phase processes, including finalization of the office space, recruitment of technical staff, and oversight of the national- and state-level launch of the project.

This report covers activities, outputs, achievements, and lessons learned during the first year of the implementation of A3-SEED between December 2020 and December 2021. It is based on the originally approved project proposal document and changes to the proposal approved during inception.

During the reporting period, particularly during the inception phase of the project, studies were conducted to inform project strategy. These studies included:

- Analysis of the seed value chain in South Sudan.
- Analysis of gender and youth inclusion in the seed value chain.
- Political and economic conflict analysis.
- Security and risk analysis.
- Soil mapping exercises in the various hubs.

These studies have enabled A3-SEED to fine-tune its geographic focus using the findings of the assessments for feasibility and prioritization of the most responsive programming interventions and partnerships. The studies have made it possible for A3-SEED to give priority to interventions based on their ability to build synergies with existing EKN-funded projects (Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme [FNS-REPRO] and Food Security through Agribusiness in South Sudan [FSABSS]), as well as the possibility for collaboration with public sector actors, local-, county-, and national-level government bodies supporting the seed sector and agricultural development.

Other significant milestones achieved during the first year of implementation include:

- Successful launch of the project not only in Juba but also in the project hubs; this has enabled the team to assess expectations of the stakeholders and potential beneficiaries.

- Completion of a baseline study, during which more than 2,000 respondents in the project areas were interviewed.
- Successful establishment of a coordination mechanism with FNS-REPRO and FSABSS.
- Collaborative agreements signed with the Seed Trade Association of South Sudan (STASS) and 10 seed companies that will form a critical private sector to drive the quality seed production of the project.

Administratively, the project has:

- Hired over 90% of the staff required, including a Gender and Inclusion Officer, a position crucial for ensuring gender and youth mainstreaming in A3-SEED activities. The 5% of staff under the contracting process include three Drivers, one Office Assistant, and one Administrative and Procurement Officer.
- Acquired a good logistical base of three cars that provide all-season access to the project areas.

During the reporting period, unprecedented interruptions were brought about by COVID-19. Cognizant of this fact, the project administration has adhered to all COVID-19 standards of practice and regulations. These include IFDC guidelines as well as those enacted by the South Sudan COVID-19 task force. Maximum protection has been provided for our staff as they travel to the field as well as for the beneficiaries they meet. This will remain our principle as we begin the active phase of field implementation of the project in 2022.

2 Introduction

This reporting period covers implementation time from December 2020 to December 31, 2021.

The seed sector in South Sudan is currently highly dependent on humanitarian support.
To transition from this, the project utilizes a private sector-led approach, aiming at professionalization of the seed sector in South Sudan into a commercial, sustainable, and adaptive sector. The A3-SEED project is a five-year (2020-2025) project, funded by EKN. The project aims to reach more than 100,000 farming households, in four hubs of stability (Bor, Rumbek, Torit, and Yambio) as well as the outskirts of Juba. A3-SEED works with existing private sector seed companies that will in turn work with groups of farmers (individual commercial seed producers as well as outgrower farmers) to improve seed production, marketing, and distribution down to the last mile.

This report presents activities, outputs, achievements, and lessons learned in the implementation of the A3-SEED project between December 2020 and December 2021.

Project Background

This project was implemented in a context of political and security uncertainty characterized by inter communal clashes and limited break throughs in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement. This was compounded by severe flooding in Jonglei and the Upper Nile Region in general causing displacement. In addition, the period also saw, localized insecurity in Torit caused by the *"munymiji"* demanding employment opportunities from development organizations; a situation that disrupted international agency operations in the area; In Yambio, there was an influx of IDPs from Tombura that was causing humanitarian challenges in the hub. Generally, Rumbek hub was calm with limited reported incidences of violence, insecurity, and climatic extremes. So A3SEED mobilization went on uninterrupted. Around Juba, there was insecurity caused by cattle herders around the city. In the year, there were several reports of clashes between Mundari communities in the areas North to East of Juba. This was compounded by emerging conflict between cattle herders and crop farmers in Eastern Equatoria and Southern to Western parts of Juba. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, South Sudan macro economy was hit hard especially as an oil-dependent economy. The decline of oil prices across the world affected the country's revenue, which in turn devalued the strength of the SS Pound (SSP). Early in 2021, the pound had hit an all-time low, with the USD exchanging at SSP 700 on the black market. This also meant that prices of various commodities went up in the various markets.

Since 2021 was year 1 of the project, the situation has not affected A3SEED directly. The project used the time maximumly to set up the office base, conducted studies to fully understand the context, recruit staff, launch the project at Juba and state levels; competitively identified private sector seed companies and beneficiary mobilization activities. However, in situations where there was an active conflict, it meant that we had to slow down operations for a few weeks in order to observe the unfolding security situation of the area before re-engaging. Since active was planned for the second year, the flooding issue did not affect the start of the above processes in the area.

Project Objective

The objectives of A3-SEED are that approximately 100,000 farmers' profits will double from surplus production; 42,000 hectares will be under integrated soil fertility management (ISFM),

eco-efficient, and climate-smart cultivation; 100 agro-dealers will have been created; 200 new businesses will be owned or managed by women; and 200 new businesses will be owned or managed by youth.[1] Furthermore, the project aims for local procurement of at least 50% of the relief seed, coordinated by STASS. No changes are proposed to the main objectives of the project; while inception phase findings confirm that the results are ambitious, the approaches proposed to achieve them makes it feasible within the proposed time frame.

Target Group (Beneficiaries)

A3-SEED targets semi-commercial and commercial farmers, as well as *pre-commercial* farmers who are at the cusp of engaging more intensively with markets, i.e., through the push-pull design of A3-SEED interventions, who could purchase inputs and those who already are selling or who have the potential to sell surplus to the market. A3-SEED does not target subsistence farmers directly but will build synergies with humanitarian programs in target areas to potentially work with "graduates" who are ready to make the transition to pre-commercial farming. Priority will be given to farmers who have returned after fleeing the community or the country due to insecurity.

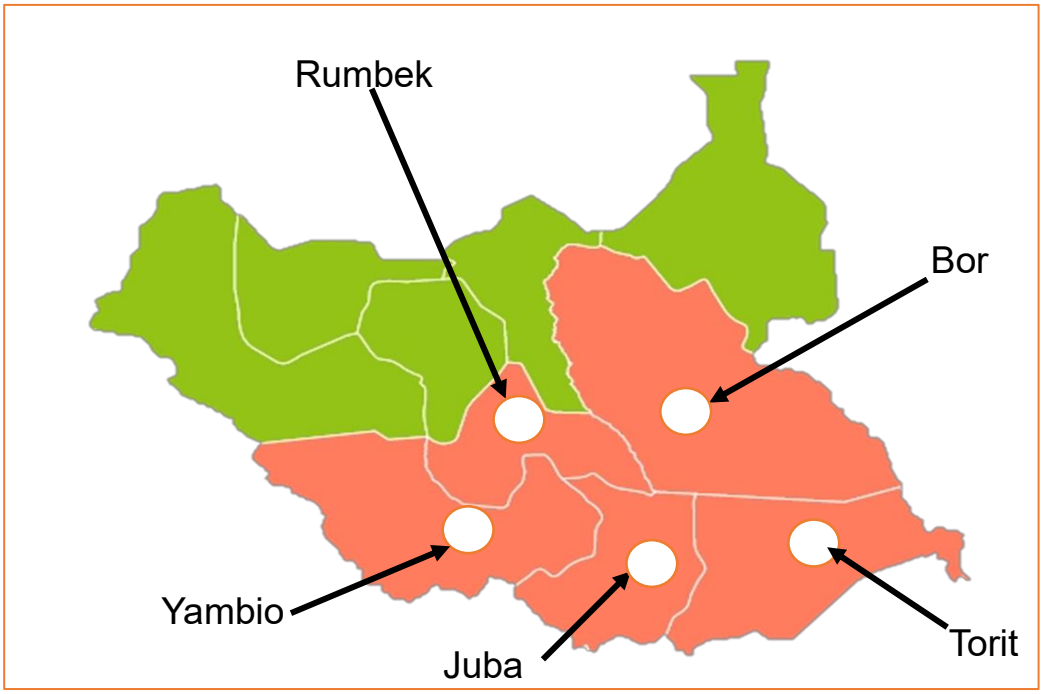

Figure 1. A3-SEED Project Areas in South Sudan

[1] The perception of what age is considered "youth" often differs for women and for men; a girl is usually considered mature when she has a child, while a man over 30 can still be considered a youth by his community. For the Food and Nutrition Security framework of the Netherlands, the definition of youth is younger than 35 years, irrespective of gender. This project will take all of these factors into account in working with local partners and in the South Sudanese context.

3 Project Highlights by Activity

Implementation Activity	Status	Progress towards Achievement of Objectives
RA1: Commercial Quality Seed Production		
1.1 Sustainable early generation seed (EGS) supply		• Partnership with STASS established, contract signed between A3-SEED and STASS. First workshop to develop EGS strategy conducted. Linkages between breeders from public research institutions and private seed producers created.
1.2 Strengthen private seed companies		• 18 seed companies applied for co-investment. • Of the 18 seed companies that applied, 10 met the threshold of the co-investment terms of reference (TOR) and were selected. • A3-SEED has now signed agreements with these companies worth $550,000 for 12 months (two seasons) of 2022. This will enable the companies to collectively produce about 3,000 metric tons (mt) of seed by the second season of 2022. • A3-SEED will offer capacity building support of various forms to these seed companies and their outgrowers to increase their likelihood of success.
1.3 Develop local commercial seed production		• Mobilization of seed companies and farmer groups through a series of meetings in the field has prepared the beneficiaries for seed production beginning in the first season of 2022.
1.4 Strengthen the Seed Trade Association		• STASS and A3-SEED have collaborated since June 2021. STASS has provided service to farmers through establishment of 55 demonstration plots of improved varieties. • The main crops planted in the demonstration plots include maize, sorghum, groundnut, beans, and cowpea.
1.5 Decentralize seed quality assurance		• Facilitated by A3-SEED, STASS is discussing the possibility of a hybrid mechanism for seed certification with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS). Certification will ensure that seeds compete at an equal level with imported seeds in the market.
1.6 Promote domestic seed procurement by relief and development efforts		• Discussions about local procurement of seeds are ongoing. Active collaboration with aid agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), is planned.
RA2: Quality Seed Use and Good Agricultural Practice		
2.1 Scaling quality seed use and good agricultural practices (GAPs) through private sector-led extension		• A three-day Training of Trainers (TOT) was conducted for extension workers from the payam and seed-producing companies. • The objective of the training was to develop the skills of extension staff in dissemination of agricultural information, knowledge, and skills using group extension methods.
2.2 ICT4Ag solutions to support private sector led extension		• Equipment for information and communication technology for agriculture (ICT4Ag) has been procured and is ready for use in training extension agents. • Radio content covering a wide range of GAPs has been developed and submitted to a firm for translation and audio production in various local languages (Acholi, Azande, Juba Arabic, Dinka, and Otuho). The content will reach more than 200,000 farmers in the project hubs by the end of 2022.
2.3 Develop evidence-based soil fertility management recommendations		• Hubs underwent a soil testing and mapping exercise during the reporting period.

Implementation Activity	Status	Progress towards Achievement of Objectives
		• 90 soil samples were collected from three hubs (Magwi,[2] Juba, and Yambio). • The evidence-based soil fertility recommendations document is in the final stages of development. • 12 extension workers (government and seed-producing companies in Juba) were trained on how to conduct soil sampling and apply basic techniques for soil quality analysis.
2.4 Develop evidence-based crop protection recommendations		• Workshops were conducted (one in Yambio, one in Magwi, and one in Bor). A total of 44 participants attended these workshops (33 male and 11 female). • 1 report with evidence-based crop protection recommendations has been developed.
RA3: Quality Seed, Input and Output Marketing and Distribution		
3.1 Facilitate last-mile distribution through private seed and input dealer network		• This activity is planned for 2022.
3.2 Establish agribusiness clusters through seed producers, input dealers, and traders		• This activity is planned for 2022.
3.3 Promote women and youth empowerment in seeds, inputs and commodity aggregation and marketing		• 3 workshops were conducted, one in each of the project hubs of Torit, Magwi, and Yambio. • A total of 98 participants (72 female and 26 male) attended the workshop.
3.4 Facilitate access to input support mechanisms, including savings clubs, smart vouchers, and seed fairs		• This activity is planned for the first half to the end of 2022.
RA4: Capacity Building and Learning Agenda		
4.1 Capacity building of local professional cadres		This activity is planned for 2022 and will be accomplished by: • Supporting the curricula development to ensure it is gender and youth sensitive. • Developing an inclusion module in the curricula on women's empowerment and youth employment promotion. • Designing a TOT module on inclusion. • Delivering the TOT inclusion module.
4.2 Share with and learn from existing experience in South Sudan		This activity is planned for 2022.
4.3 Targeted action research		This activity is planned for 2022.

No progress

Some progress made

Substantial progress

[2] Magwi is in Torit Hub. It has good productive soils that supports most livelihood crops in the region.

4 Inception Phase

Project Staff

During the first year of the project, IFDC embarked on a recruitment process to put in place both the technical and administrative staff of the project. By the end of December 2021, almost 90% of the technical positions were filled. Table 2 shows the key positions that were filled during the first year of the project.

Table 1. Staff Composition of A3-SEED Project in Juba

	Name	Gender	Job Title
1	Justin Miteng Amos	M	Project Director/Project Manager
2	Mario Yuga Enock	M	Result Area 1 Lead – Commercial Quality Seed Production
3	John Wani Gonda	M	Result Area 2 Lead – Quality Seed Use and GAPs
4	Stephen Lemeri	M	Result Area 3 Lead – Input and Output Marketing and Agribusiness
5	David Chol Aruai	M	MELS Manager
6	Thomas Turo	M	MELS Coordinator
7	Nancy Poni Kajokaya	F	Gender and Youth Inclusion Officer
8	Zaida Kiden Ibrahim	F	National Administration and Finance Officer
9	Henry Ecima Jino	M	Finance Officer
10	TBD		Office Assistant
11	TBD		Administration and Procurement Officer
	Hub Coordinators and Admin (Consultancy Contracts)		
12	Yar Lin Bol	F	Field Assistant, Bor
13	Joel Lita Christopher	M	Hub Coordinator, Juba
14	Bishop Paride Oryem	M	Field Assistant, Magwi
15	Chol Mordit Gurwel	M	Hub Coordinator, Rumbek
16	Oroma Ray	M	Field Assistant, Torit
17	Kpiboroano Jackline	F	Field Coordinator, Yambio
	Drivers		
18	Chameleon Ngbalama Batali	M	Driver
19	Franco Yunda	M	Driver
20	Joseph Kazem	M	Driver

Headquarters Staff

The above team of national staff is supported by a regional and global team of experts, from both IFDC and from KIT.

Office Space Establishment, Registration, and Logistics

A full-fledged office space was established by the end of June 2021. The office is located at Rahwa Apartments, near the Ministry Complex, in Juba, South Sudan. IFDC's status as an NGO was reactivated through re-registration with Relief and Rehabilitation Commission as well as the South Sudan Revenue Authority. The project has also acquired three vehicles to

facilitate its movements to the field. The vehicles include two Land Cruiser Hard Top 5 Doors and one Land Cruiser Pickup.

Studies and assessments

During the reporting period, five studies were conducted: (1) Seed Sector and Commodity Value Chain Assessment in South Sudan, (2) Gender and Youth Assessment of the Seed Sector in South Sudan, (3) Political and Economic Conflict Assessment, (4) Soil Fertility Assessment, and (5) Area Risk Assessment. More notable studies contributing to progress for achievement of project objectives are the Seed Sector and Commodity Value Chain Assessment and the Gender and Youth Assessment. These studies contributed to the decision on specific value chains for the project to focus on and defining the specific geographic location of the intervention area with the intention to achieve value for money to set up the project for success. The studies also served to map the various stakeholders and private seed companies in the hubs.

Seed Sector and Commodity –Value Chain Assessment

- The prevalence of seed aid in the areas of A3-SEED implementation has prompted discussions with aid agencies for consideration of buying seeds locally from seed companies instead of importing.
- Due to the prevalence of seed companies in the project areas, the conclusion was drawn that there was no need for the project to support the establishment of new national seed companies, especially in Torit, Yambio, and Juba.
- The study has enabled A3-SEED to leverage the government's capacity in research, variety maintenance, and foundation seed production and has facilitated a deeper understanding of existing policy structures.

This study has confirmed the choices of value chains (crops) for A3SEED to focus on. And these include varieties of ***Sorghum, Maize, cowpeas, common bean, sesame, groundnut, and assorted vegetables.***
The combination of this list varied from location to location within the project hubs.
The list of these crops per location is found on Table 6.

Gender and Youth Assessment of the Seed Sector

- A3-SEED will incorporate findings from the assessment in various activities, including: (1) developing the capacity and increasing the incentive of existing private sector actors to target women and youth, (2) allocation of project resources and overall approach, and (3) prioritizing specific women and youth actors (farmers, farm labor, factory labor, agri-entrepreneurs) in the seed sector. The gender study has richly informed the planning of all result area leads. Gender and Youth have become an integral part of each activities planned by each result area.

Area Risk Assessment

- The main takeaways from the areas assessed are as follows: Juba – political instability; Rumbek – intercommunal violence; Bor – humanitarian crisis due to 2020 flooding; Yambio – armed clashes between government and organized armed groups (National Salvation Front, or NAS); and Torit – localized political instability/intercommunal violence. Identification of such risks have enabled the project to devise mitigation measures such as tasking a security contact person to do weekly analysis of the situation and report to the team, ensuring that the office is security compliant and developing a protocol for

field travel with advisory for each trip. Our cars have tracking devises and an alarm system. We also invested in 2 satellite phones meant for remote field use or in an event of disruption of the telephony system.

Figure 2. The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of South Sudan and Representative of the Embassy of the Kinddom of Netherlands during the A3-SEED Launch in Juba in 2021

National Project Launch and Stakeholder Consultation

During the reporting period, A3-SEED conducted a project launch to raise awareness of the project among stakeholders in agriculture in general and the seed sector in particular. The launch was conducted both in Juba and in each of the hubs of stability. In Juba IFDC held a hybrid project launch that combined in-person and virtual participation as well as prerecorded and live content. This was to ensure that the launch enjoyed maximum participation, outreach, and engagement, both in South Sudan and internationally.

The Juba launch attracted various government, donor, United Nations, and NGO stakeholders, among others. Those in attendance included the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, a representative of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands, First Secretary, EKN Policy Officer, USAID representative, European Union representative, FAO, IFDC Regional Director, IFDC Inception Phase team, national representatives of STASS, FNS-REPRO and Cordaid, and media outlets.

More than 60 participants attended in person, while another 100 called in from various locations, including the hubs of stability. In the launch, several recommendations and comments were noted and used in the development of the project inception report.

This project launch was important since it ensured national buy in of the project. It was also meant to identify areas of synergies with other projects implemented in the area by other agencies. As a result of this launch, our collaboration with FSN REPRO and SSADPII was strengthened.

A3-SEED Mini-Launch in Project Hubs

Figure 3. Participants at a State-Level Launch of A3-SEED in Rajaf, Juba

Attendees of the mini-launch meetings included State Ministers of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Ministers of Agriculture, Director Generals of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Environment, representatives from State Director of Agriculture, Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) Chairperson, County Agriculture Director, progressive farmers, and representatives from farmer cooperatives, farmer groups, seed companies, and agro-dealers.

Table 2. List of Participants in the A3-SEED Mini-Launches

Location	Male	Female	Total
Yambio hub	12	8	20
Magwi	10	8	18
Bor hub	15	5	20
Rumbek hub	17	3	20
Torit	12	10	22
Rejaf payam	11	12	23
Lokiliri payam	13	9	22
Mangala payam	10	14	24
Total	100	69	169

Conducting the mini workshops has enabled the project to be introduced to partners in the project hubs. It was to discuss the project objectives, deliverables and how the project operates. This is also meant to clear expectations that might be out of the scope of the project. During these meetings, the project received a few suggestions and guidance at local level such as getting seed companies locally, ensuring that there is a local presence of IFDC during implementation. The project mini launch was also meant to get the assurance of government protection in case of security incidences.

5 Detailed Progress, Results and Outcomes by Objective (December 2020-December 2021)

RA1: Commercial Quality Seed Production

1.1 Sustainable early generation seed (EGS) supply

As a result of these meetings and empowerment, 3 seed companies have now signed up to embark on production of foundation seeds to fill the gap.

This sub-objective is meant to result in increased foundation seed produced by both the public and private seed companies. Discussions with STASS on a strategy to access and produce EGS are ongoing. These discussions began in the inception phase of the project and are now being incorporated into plans for the upcoming 2022 season. Toward capacitating seed companies for improved certified seed production, enhanced crop yields, and food security, a grant was awarded to STASS in recognition that the supply of foundation seed is critical in ensuring the quality production of certified seed that goes out to the farmers. Choices are also being made with all the seed companies on short-term and longer-term access to foundation seed. Some initiatives to realize this objective included the following:

- A meeting with five breeders from MAFS as well as the University of Juba convened to discuss production and processing of foundation seed.
- A discussion was held to determine which seed companies among the 10 selected will engage in EGS production.
- A meeting with seed breeders in the country was conducted to discuss pathways for access to foundation seed by seed companies.
- Consultative meetings were conducted with seed companies, and their sources of foundation seeds were assessed.
- Possibilities for foundation seed production by seed companies were explored.

1.2 Strengthen private seed companies

Ten seed companies were competitively selected for the first round of support provided through a co-investment mechanism. Through this activity, the 10 seed companies will benefit from a co-investment grant of U.S. $55,000 each to support their mobilization efforts for outgrowers. The grant will enable the seed companies to produce about 3,000MT of improved seeds over a period of two seasons. They will contribute to farmer capacity through the establishment of 300 demonstration plots in the project locations of Bor, Rumbek, Torit, Yambio, and Juba. These seed companies are already benefiting from various trainings, including mobilization of outgrowers, contract management with outgrowers, and TOTs on topical issues relating to seed production and marketing.

A3-SEED will offer capacity building support of various forms to these seed companies and their outgrowers to increase their likelihood of success.

In the next planning period, the seed companies will also benefit from specialized training modules, such as business development services, mentoring, learning, and networking to upscale seed production and ensure professionalization of the private seed sector. For this, the project is in discussions with private sector service providers and specialized international organizations, such as Seed Systems Group (SSG), for possible collaboration.

1.3 Develop local commercial seed production

Through STASS, the project has established 55 micro-demonstration plots in Juba, Yambio, Magwi, and Bor. The establishment of these demo plots was possible because of the work done by the network of STASS. The demonstrations have served as learning centers for 1,600 individual farmers, producing seeds and grains in these areas.

The selected seed companies will be trained on the following:

- Business and professional skills for local commercial seed producers.
- Capacity building on grading, packaging, branding, and marketing.
- Branding, sales, and distribution strategies.
- Private extension support for the outgrower network.
- Business models and development and dissemination of product/service packages.

1.4 Strengthen the Seed Trade Association

A3-SEED and STASS agreed that STASS would use the expertise of its member seed companies to establish demonstration plots in the various areas of project activities: Yambio, Nzara, Maridi[3], Juba, Torit, and Magwi. A total of 55 demonstration plots were established.

The main crops and varieties planned and planted included:

- Maize: Longe5, Longe6H, FH5, and FH6
- Sorghum: Seso3 and Wad Ahmed
- Groundnut: YeiPnut 5, 11, and 15
- Bean: Nabe 15, 17, and Narobean 1, 3
- Cowpea: Secow 2WT, Agrac 216, and Agrac 316
- Cassava: Nase 14, 19, and Narocas 1

The seed Trade Association of South Sudan (STASS) had set up these demonstration plots in fields of out growers of seed companies that were already actively growing seeds at the time of inception of the project. This was necessary because it prepared seed companies and outgrowers for the project activities

[3] Nzara and Maridi are in Yambio Hub. They are part of the catchment of private sector operating in Yambio

Figure 4. Demonstration Plot Established by STASS through A3-SEED in Yambio, September 2021

The purpose of this assignment was to enable farmers (seed producers) in these areas to learn good practices and adopt new technologies. Discussions were held to review the findings from the market assessments and develop an EGS strategy with partners and establish a pre-ordering or a pre-financing mechanism for STASS members. Some of the services offered at demonstration plots include good agricultural practices, soil fertility management, variety selection, crop protection, harvesting and post-harvest handling. The formers below who benefited from trainings on demonstration plots will form part of the farmers who will be mobilized as out growers by seed companies in 2022. Through their participation in demonstration, the out growers have become enlightened, and practice improved agricultural practices.

Table 3. Number of Farmers Who Benefited from Demonstration Plots Established by STASS

County	Seed Company	No. of Females	No. of Males	Total	No of Youths[4]
Yambio	PRO Seeds Ltd.	175	132	307	185
Nzara		155	121	276	166
Maridi		178	165	343	206
Juba	Green Horizon, Smart Seeds, Seed Grow, Gumbo	77	52	129	77
Torit	PRO Seeds Ltd.	87	49	136	82
Magwi	Green Horizon, Gumbo Glo, MASCO, NATSCO	211	207	418	251

[4] The 2008 South Sudan Housing and Population Census, and CIA fact sheet considers youth to be in the age bracket of 15-35 years. The United Nations defines youth as individuals between 15-242. The World Bank considers those aged between 12-24 years. Here we are taking the South Sudan definition.

The capacity of STASS to coordinate the services of the seed companies, especially in marketing, was strengthened through trainings and mentoring. A joint assessment of seed production opportunities was conducted by IFDC and the seed companies to identify entry points in the beginning of the first season. A grant was awarded to STASS to build its capacity, enabling the establishment of a permanent secretariat and setup a Seed Forum.

STASS is now in the process of establishing local chapters at the field level to oversee and support the activities of its members in the coming seasons. Discussions are ongoing to establish access to foundation seed through pre-ordering and pre-financing mechanisms. As noted in the 2022 annual work plan, these discussions will lead to the establishment of pre-order mechanism facilitated by the co-investment fund.

1.5 Decentralize seed quality assurance

STASS has started work with MAFS and partners on policy and regulatory support for private sector seed companies. They are discussing:

- Enactment of the seed policy.
- Establishment of a hybrid seed quality assurance protocol that will lead to declaration of seed certification at the end of the first season of 2022.
- Negotiations for a larger mandate by STASS for hybrid private-public seed inspection service providers to cover both seed sample collection and field inspections.

The project is supporting these initiatives. This is anticipated to enable local regulatory authorities to train private sector seed inspection service providers, making it easier and quicker for locally produced seeds to be certified. This will unlock a bigger seed market in the country.

1.6 Promote domestic seed procurement by relief and development efforts

A coordination workshop on commercial seed procurement by humanitarian organizations will be held soon. This workshop is aimed at bringing all the seed sector stakeholders together to discuss strategies for local procurement. With A3SEED intervention, local seed production will increase. The first market for these seeds will be to sell directly to farmers through a network of agrodealers and village agents. However, the humanitarian market is still important in the short run to provide market for seed companies that will have been produced in excess and the local farmers may not procure all. As a sustainability mechanism A3SEED uses two prong approach with investment in a network of agrodealers and village agents that will provide a sustainable market for local seeds; while at the same time, seeking collaboration with humanitarian aid agencies to increase local production of seeds help to bring seeds to the farmer that may have the opportunity to access direct sales to farmers.

Through STASS and MAFS, the project has initiated activities to determine a code of conduct for relief organizations involved in seed distribution that prioritizes local seed procurement. Three meetings were convened by STASS at the MAFS. A Seed Forum was established, and so far, three meetings have been conducted to discuss policy guidance support to private sector seed producers/companies on procurement policies, tendering, and contracting processes. The seed value chain assessment is being used to streamline production schedules through agribusiness and agro-dealer support based on assessed demand and timing of seed procurement contracts.

RA2: Quality Seed Use and Good Agricultural Practice

2.1 Scaling quality seed use and GAP through private sector-led extension

A three-day TOT for extension agents both from the payams and seed-producing companies was held in Juba. It brought about extension agents from the various hubs of stability. The objective of the training was to develop the skills of extension staff in dissemination of agricultural information, knowledge, and skills using group extension methods. The event was attended by 16 extension agents who were trained on enhancing agricultural technology transfer and diffusion to farmers. The following were some of the topics of the training:

- The concept of agriculture extension (theory and practice).
- Key group extension methods.
- Establishment and promotion of group extension methods in enhancing technology transfer and diffusion to farmers.

As a result of these trainings, farmers are now able to apply these skills to improve their farming practices and increase production and productivity. This will improve crop/soil management practices and lead to increase in yields while conserving the soil.

2.2 ICT4Ag solutions to support private sector-led extension

Information Communication Technology for Agriculture (ICT4Ag)[5] equipment, including cameras and Pico projectors, has been procured to facilitate this sub-objective. The equipment will be used by extension agents in various location of the project. Already, training of extension workers (TOTs) on dissemination of agricultural information, knowledge, and skills using Information Communication Technology (ICT) platforms has been conducted. The use of digital technologies will be replicated in various parts of the project locations to allow many farmers to access information more quickly. Considering the low literature levels in the project sites ICT4AG technologies deployed are simple tools such as use of short videos that will be recorded in the field in local languages and disseminated through pico-projectors during training sessions in the field. Use of still pictures for extension agents to illustrate an event during field training. Use of radio for mobilization, to pass extension messages and or market information. etc. Those trained have acquired skills that is being used to transfer knowledge to farmers using simple ICT tools. In the upcoming season, this knowledge will enable farmers to improve on their farm management and increase production and productivity.

2.3 Develop evidence-based soil fertility management recommendations

A soil testing and mapping exercise for agriculturally productive regions was conducted to identify soil- and crop-specific nutrient deficiencies. Mapping was done by experts from Makerere University in Kampala, MAFS, University of Juba, and the private sector within the assessed areas.

The lab results indicate that soils in the sampled areas are predominantly sandy loam, well drained with suitable soil pH range pH range (5.5 – 7.5). Nitrogen and available phosphorous were also found to be below critical levels, yet they are required by plants in large quantities. The study also found that the soils have very low levels of soil organic matter which limits the potential of these soils to hold water and nutrients, and thus these soils are susceptible to leaching and degradation.

[5] In the context of this project, ICT4AG technologies deployed will be simple tools such as use of short videos that will be recorded in the field in local languages

Therefore, the practice of integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) needs to be introduced to consider the different social-economic profiles of the farmers as well as the soil variability. ISFM integrates use of improved seed, organic and inorganic fertilizers to increase and stabilize crop yields.

As a starting point to soil fertility management, it was recommended that legumes/cover crops like groundnuts and beans should be included as intercrops to enhance buildup of organic matter and nitrogen biological fixation. Soil nutrient management is best achieved by integrating organic fertilizers. Animal manure is a common source of organic fertilizers but will require bigger quantities to meet the crop nutrient requirements therefore supplementing it with inorganic sources is recommended especially for the poor nutrient soils like the ones present here. Common nitrogen fertilizers include NPK, Urea and ammonium nitrate while Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) are among the inorganic sources of Phosphorous.

A3SEED is using these recommendation to design training curricula for training extension workers to extend this knowledge to farmers in the various areas. One training on these recommendations was conducted for extension workers in each of the project hubs, with the aim to have them adapt the recommendations to the changing soil fertility dynamics over upcoming seasons. More trainings are planned for 2022. The farmers will be expected to use improved soil health management practices, including crop rotation, mulch, and organic materials for enriching soils such as compost and manure to improve on their crop performance. This will lead to high yield and hence increased income for the out growers, seed companies and agrodealers.

2.4 Develop evidence-based crop protection recommendations

This activity is planned to begin in 2022 when crop production has started.

RA3: Quality Seed, Input and Output Marketing, and Distribution

3.1 Facilitate last-mile distribution through the private seed and input dealer network

During the inception phase, IFDC conducted the seed sector and commodity value chain assessment, which indicated that only 20% of the quality seed stock was sold through the formal seed system in 2020 (with 10% through agro-dealers and another 10% directly to farmers). Most of this was legume seeds, such as groundnut, cowpea, and sesame, and some hybrid maize, as well as a variety of vegetables. Despite existence of about 20 seed companies and 19 agro-input dealers, their direct supply of quality seed to farming households was found to be insignificant. Underlying causes of low sales or distribution of quality seed and agricultural inputs through agro-dealers networks included: (1) low reach of the agro-dealer distribution network, as 90% and over 80% of agro-dealers and seed companies, respectively, were located within Juba; (2) lack of finance and credit; (3) limited local supply chains for agricultural inputs; (4) poor marketing strategies; (5) lack of experience in business management; (6) limited technical knowledge on inputs; and (7) poor seed policies, resulting in fake seed and multiple taxes.

Considering these findings, the project organized a three-day brainstorming session for seed sector value chain actors and stakeholders in the public and private sectors to come together to generate ideas for addressing the challenges. The workshop was facilitated by Premium Agro

Consultant, a local consultancy firm. A total of 38 participants (nine female and 29 male) from seed-producing companies, agro-input suppliers, international NGOs Cordaid and World Vision, government, and IFDC attended the workshop.

As a result of these discussions, A3 SEED has established an entry point to work to strengthen agro dealers and ensure a well-connected agrodealer businesses model that bring seeds directly to the farmers through village agents. This will help create an effective and efficient last-mile seed retail system that offers easy access to quality seed and other agro-inputs for rural farming communities. For sustainability of agro-dealer businesses, A3 SEED will strengthen the linkage between agro-dealers and seed companies; explore possibilities for linkage with financial institutions such as Banks, MFI's and SACCOs to facilitate easy access to finance for building their businesses. The discussions also focused the role of Seed Traders Association of South Sudan (STASS) to working with seed companies to lobby with government on seed quality improvement and regulations.

3.2 Establish agribusiness clusters through seed producers, input dealers and traders

Activities under this sub-objective were not started in the first year in part due to the disruption caused by the abrupt resignation of the RA3 Lead.

3.3 Promote women and youth empowerment in seeds, inputs, and commodity aggregation and marketing

Five two-day workshops were conducted in the project hubs of Magwi, Torit, and Yambio. In these meetings, the participants included members of women and youth associations, women and youth traders of agricultural produce, processors of agricultural produce, representatives from cooperative unions, a blacksmith, operators of plow and tractor hire services, progressive farmers, and agro-input dealers. A total of 98 participants attended the workshops (Table 5).

Table 4. Participants in the Two-Day Workshops Promoting Women and Youth Empowerment

Project Location	Category	Sex		
		Male	Female	Total
Magwi	Women	0	18	18
	Youth	5	13	18
Torit	Youth and Women	15	10	25
Yambio	Women	0	18	18
	Youth	6	13	19
Total				**98**

The meetings were designed to generate ideas about the business opportunities for the youth and women in the agricultural value, including an understanding of the challenges/threats of women and youth employment. Various findings emerged from the group discussions as tabulated below:

Table 5 Agricultural Businesses women and youths are involved in currently

Yambio		Magwi		Torit	
Youth	**Women**	**Youth**	**Women**	**Youth**	**Women**
Agro input business like hoes, seeds, and chemical selling	Retailing business	Vegetable growing,	Produce marketing	Rearing of livestock	Transport of local vegetables

Vegetable production like tomato, onion Processing maize, rice, and groundnuts Retailing business for agricultural produce Storing of agricultural foods for surplus Farming and selling of agriculture produce like **maize, cassava**	Processing maize, rice, and groundnuts Crop production Agro-input business like hoes, seeds, and chemical selling Hotel business Baking bread	Juice making, Piggery, Poultry Production, Agro input selling.	Sale of vegetables	(goats/ cows)	Porridge/ tea making Local Poultry keeping

These findings will help A3 SEED to:

- Develop business plans for enterprises for youth and women in various locations as indicated above
- Develop module on women's economic empowerment for integration into other Result Area 3 training curricula based on the Reach-Benefit-Empower-Transform framework[6].
- Develop a youth inclusion strategy for food systems and determine new on- and off-farm employment opportunities in rural areas.

The strategy will include:

- Facilitation of the establishment of women- and youth-led demonstration plots.
- Facilitation of the establishment of women- and youth-led market stations in fairs.
- Rollout of business plan competitions in each area to engage young entrepreneurs and youth groups in graduation mechanisms (training, coaching, grants).
- Support for emerging women and youth agripreneurs in agricultural career development.
- Support for sustainable mechanisms to promote a conducive environment for women factory employees (such as facilitating a reduction of stigma for women working in factories, collaborating with line ministries to develop workplace policies to protect women and girls against gender-based violence).
- Development of sustainable provisions for skill development of women in relevant tasks for processing and value addition of crops, such as grinding, packaging, and branding.
- Assessment of mechanisms in which local Chambers of Commerce or trade unions foster conducive factors for women's engagement in processing enterprises.

Targets for these strategies will be incorporated in the 2022 activity planning cycle.

3.4 Facilitate access to input support mechanisms, including savings clubs, smart vouchers, and seed fairs

Activity under this sub-objective were not initiated during the reporting period . Its activities are planned for 2022.

RA4: Capacity Building and Learning Agenda, as well as Monitoring Evaluation, Learning, Sharing (MELS)

The MELS team in Juba, comprising a MELS Manager and a MELS Coordinator, was recruited in a timely manner. The recruitment process was supported by KIT.

[6] A3 SEED is gender and youth focus. This strategy helps clarify project objectives by distinguishing between approaches that reach women participants, such as by including them in program activities; those that benefit women, by improving their circumstances in some way; and those that empower women.

A MELS plan for A3-SEED was developed. It was then presented and discussed by IFDC, KIT, and EKN and operationalized (Figure 5).

Regular bi-weekly meetings were held among RA4 and MELS officers at KIT and IFDC to develop and coordinate joint activities.

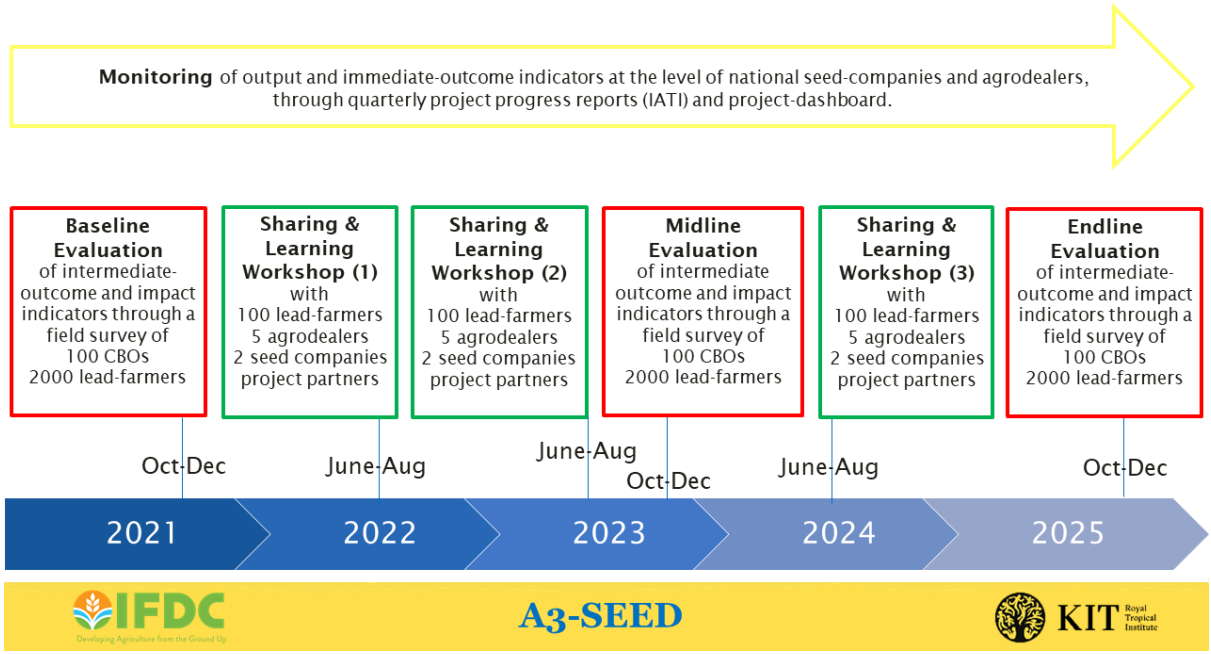

Figure 5. MELS Plan

Between November 2021 and December 2021, IFDC, in collaboration with KIT, completed a baseline survey and report, which gathered and analyzed primary data on 2,000 farm-households and 100 community-based organizations (CBOs) from five project areas: Juba, Yambio, Torit, Nzara, and Magwi.

With the technical support of KIT, IFDC has also designed a progress-monitoring system (based on IATI guidelines) for the project to gather additional data from seed companies and agro-dealers on a quarterly basis, visualized through a digital dashboard. Seed companies have been trained on how to populate the dashboard.

6 Selection of Value Chains

The original approved proposal of A3-SEED provided a preliminary selection of seed value chains based on their market potential, nutritional value, climate resilience, alignment with MAFS Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP) priorities, and the perspective of surplus production resulting from the combined use of quality seed, inputs, and GAPs. The confirmed list of commodities consisted of maize, sorghum, groundnut, cowpea, sesame, bean, and horticulture (20 vegetables).

The value chain development assessment showed that sorghum, maize, groundnut, cowpea, bean, and sesame are important food and cash crops for the farmers in all the target areas of Bor, Juba, Torit, Rumbek, and Yambio. Therefore, A3-SEED will focus on these six main crops along with assorted vegetables, which provide income-generating opportunities for women.

The above list was validated during the inception phase through the seed value chain development assessment conducted by Enterprise Inc. in the five geographical areas of interest to the project and has been categorized according to hub (Table 6). The value chains identified in the assessment include rice and millet as additional main crops in at least two geographical areas.

Table 6. Crop Value Chains by Hub of Stability

Hub	Value Chains of Focus
Bor	Sorghum, millet, cowpea, and horticulture
Rumbek	Sorghum, sesame, groundnut, and horticulture
Torit	Maize, sorghum, sesame, bean, groundnut, and horticulture
Yambio	Maize, rice, bean, groundnut, cowpea, and horticulture
Juba	Maize, sorghum, rice, sesame, bean, groundnut, cowpea, and horticulture

7 Inclusion Strategy

With support from KIT, two online trainings sessions were delivered on "Gender and Youth Inclusion for A3-SEED" to both IFDC and KIT teams. To aid gender-responsive baseline data collection, a revision was made on the module on gender/youth for the baseline survey questionnaire. More importantly, a full-time inclusion officer was recruited who is currently mainstreaming gender in all the project result areas.

During the reporting period, a document that gives an overview of potential interventions to ensure a gender-responsive approach across the different project components was developed. It included:

- Gender-responsive approach across all MELS, including regular reflection as part of the action learning. This is detailed in the KIT support plan.
- Gender-responsive extension design across all RA1 and RA2 activities.

Moreover, the following priority activities were conducted to understand the investment landscape of women and youth in the area.

- Mini workshops were held to map out existing women entrepreneurs and youth engagement programs (government/NGO/private sector/other) as well as women and youth groups in target areas. The meetings, conducted in Magwi, Torit, Yambio, Bor, and Rumbek, were aimed at identifying what programs already exist for A3-SEED to collaborate. These workshops identified opportunities for collaboration with local government at state and county levels; opportunities for identifying synergies with SSADPII, and FSN REPRO projects that have ongoing activities in the areas. It also enabled the project to know some of the challenges and potential risks – insecurity, lack of infrastructure, and widespread relief dependency. Moreover, the mini workshops helped the project team to figure out potential areas of investment in small enterprises along the seed value chain.
- The team, with support from KIT technical experts, reviewed TORs for all activities/trainings/events to ensure alignment of approaches for inclusion across all Result Areas. Work on this document is still in progress. When complete, it will include common templates for planning and reporting across all Result Areas.
- Progress was made in working with the private sector (seed companies, agro-dealer) to orient them on the inclusion strategy. This involved:
  - Informal discussions with seed companies: who and where are women/youth in the staff.
  - Support for seed companies to understand their market/clients.
  - Support for seed companies on the design and delivery of more inclusive extension and seed delivery mechanisms.
  - Integration of inclusion in baseline studies.
- The next steps will include implementation of the inclusion strategy to inform the selection of inclusive business models for specific interventions for women and youth (Result Area 3), aimed at empowerment/transformation outcomes and organization of a gender session for whole team to align on concepts and language to ensure a harmonized approach.

8 Relationship with Other Stakeholders and Partners

Leveraging Government Capacity

A3-SEED conducted introductory meetings that have brought on board representatives from each of the states and counties where seed companies will produce seed. At inception, it was

clear that the following government structures would play an important role in A3-SEED implementation.

Level of Government	Activities to Coordinate with Government	Mode of Relationship
National Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security [7]	• Extension, marketing, inspection, and quality control and policy issues	A Memorandum of Understanding that will enable the project to access technical expertise from MAFS is being discussed.
State Ministry of Agriculture	• State-level supervision and technical guidance through the relevant technical departments	On-demand technical support from state Ministry of Agriculture officials
County-level government	• Support from the village-level extension system, capacity support to field agents, and quality control through field inspectors.	On-demand technical support from the county Department of Agriculture

National-Level Efforts

Seed sector assessments conducted during the inception phase of A3-SEED uncovered the following policy issues and recommended actions that will be taken into consideration during the implementation of A3-SEED. It is worth noting that the recommendations for action did not translate to any budget change.

1. ***Existence of a Seed Testing Laboratory****:* In 2021, A3-SEED assessed the national seed laboratory located at MAFS. The laboratory is managed and operated by the Department of Research at MAFS. With support from the project, STASS is working with MAFS to facilitate seed inspectors to offer seed inspection, a crucial component of seed certification. Seed companies (members of STASS) are willing to contribute through STASS to facilitate field inspection. The laboratory will play a pivotal role in last-mile quality assurance by testing the quality of seeds. This will lead to certification of seeds produced by the seed companies, which can compete in the market with imports. The national seed laboratory will be complemented by state label laboratories that are being established in collaboration with FSN REPRO.
2. ***Seed Quality and Regulation Strategy****:* Through SSD4SS, a draft seed quality strategy was developed. A3-SEED is collaborating with MAFS and STASS to ensure that the draft strategy is improved, finalized, and passed by the Ministry to guide the quality of seeds in the country. This is an ongoing process that started in the first year of the project.
3. ***National Bureau of Standards (International Partnerships)****:* The South Sudan National Bureau of Standards has a laboratory facility at the Nimule Border; it also has a well-equipped lab in Juba. A3-SEED could develop a section of these labs to support local entrepreneurs for seed testing using South Sudanese standards, so that seeds processed locally could be availed to the farmers or the seed air market in the country. This recommendation is under consideration and would be implemented around the third year of the project.

[7] The national government will get involved in providing policy guidance in extension, seed quality control and creating enabling environment for seed marketing

4. ***National Polices and Frameworks****:* Various seed policies and frameworks currently exist in the country. In 2011, MAFS released their Agriculture Sector Policy Framework for 2012-2017, which outlined an ambitious agenda for policy and program development. This included collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry on a climate change strategy and green agriculture policy. These policies are at varying stages of execution, though most are in the early stage. The CAMP and Irrigation Development Master Plan (IDMP)document now informs most developments in the agriculture sector and is used by MAFS to guide development partners. A3-SEED will benefit from these documents by making relevant reference to them to inform its project implementation.
5. ***MAFS Seed Policy (July 2012) and Seed Bill (October 2013)****:* The policy and bill aim to establish: (a) the Seed Council, to guide and supervise policymaking; (b) the Seed Testing and Certification Agency, to control quality of seed in the country; and (c) the Directorate of Plant Protection, to effectively carry out the necessary inspections. Neither has gone through the government approval process yet. In the first year of implementation, the project interacted with a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-hired consultant working with the MAFS on developing this policy. IFDC, through A3-SEED, contributed content and knowledge.

9 Management Systems and Approaches

Adaptive Management, COVID-19, and Other Crises

As the project began in the era of COVID-19, A3-SEED applied an adaptive management approach for project implementation. While this is the standard IFDC approach under business-as-usual conditions, maintaining adaptive and flexible programming regarding current or future shocks and crises, such as the effects of COVID-19 and potential insecurity, is of utmost importance.

Consortium Project Management

KIT and IFDC have worked well together during the reporting period. Through virtual means and limited travel in country, the KIT team was able to provide the much-needed technical and MELS support. KIT will continue to provide in-country (scoping and technical support missions) and remote technical support from the Netherlands. The effective collaboration in South Sudan between IFDC and KIT is yet another testimony for an effective partnership that spans multiple projects, including ISSD and Private Seed Sector Development (PSSD) in Burundi and the ISSD/Sahel project.

10 Coordination with Other Netherlands-Funded Projects in South Sudan

The following start-up activities of coordination during the period under reporting are worth mentioning:

- A3-SEED developed a seed sector Coordination Committee with current DGIS/IGG/EKN-funded projects, including FNS-REPRO (FAO) and FSABSS (Cordaid).
- Through the Coordination Committee, A3-SEED facilitated three high-level meetings with FNS-REPRO and FSABSS to discuss complementarities among the different projects
- Meetings, chaired by A3-SEED, were conducted every two months to discuss any coordination issues.
- To foster private sector participation, the Coordination Committee co-opted the membership of STASS.
- The Coordination Committee provides advice, support, and strategic leadership, and oversight to the seed sector projects.
- The Coordination Committee advises on seed sector objectives, as well as the approach and scope of the projects as set out in the project documentation (e.g., TORs, proposals).
- The Coordination Committee intends to hold focused discussions around how EKN can use the information provided by seed sector projects and how to best institutionalize this learning within EKN.

Figure 6. Aloro Babanju, Value Chain and Agriculture Markets Specialist f FSABSS (Cordaid), presents to A3-SEED beneficiary seed companies

The project has also maintained close field-level coordination with other projects, such as:

- Agricultural Markets, Value Addition and Trade Development Project (AMVAT), funded by the African Development Bank and implemented by FAO. The project works in the same areas of Torit, Magwi in Eastern Equatoria, and Bor in Jonglei.
- South Sudan Livelihood and Resilience Project (SSLRP), funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and implemented by VSF Germany. This project focuses on community empowerment and infrastructure, thereby contributing to creating enabling environment for markets in the areas where both projects are implemented, Magwi and Bor.
- Toward Sustainable Clusters in Agribusiness through Learning in Entrepreneurship (2SCALE), a multi-year project funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by IFDC in nine countries, including South Sudan. A3-SEED will collaborate with 2SCALE particularly at the market end of the value chain.

Apart from the coordination with the above-mentioned projects, the project has maintained close collaboration with the following stakeholders:

- Donors – EKN, European Union, USAID, World Bank, African Development Bank
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
- NGOs/UN – FAO, World Food Programme, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, World Vision International
- Seed Trade Association (STASS)
- Private Sector – seed companies
- Private Sector – agro-dealers/distributors
- Farmers – individuals and groups
- Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare

11 Seed Relief/Aid

FAO has remained the main supplier of relief seed in South Sudan, accounting for over 80%. While FAO previously had an agreement with STASS (including 2021) to procure about 27% of the 9813MT of locally produced seed, seed companies have not seen this at implementation. The few locally procured seeds are those from local subsidiaries of the regional companies in Kenya or Uganda. According to FAO this is because South Sudanese seeds are way more expensive than imported seeds. However, discussions with other relief organizations are ongoing in order to offer alternative market to FAO and direct farmer buys. Nonetheless, the larger A3-SEED objective is to establish a network of local agro-dealers that will use business relationships to move seeds from seed companies to the farmers. Relief agencies provide a readily available local market for seeds. Instead of importing, A3 SEED, in this objective believes that if relief seed is bought locally, the funds will be in circulation within the South Sudan economy; everyone along the seed value chain including the farmers will benefit etc.

12 Management of Co-Investment Fund

Preparation for competitively acquiring private sector seed company partners through Co-Investment grant was already complete. An Applicant Review Committee was established as part of fund management oversight and due diligence. The Co-Investment Fund grants is being administered by each Result Area Leads under the supervision of the A3-SEED Project Manager, with support from the NAFO. Co-Investment will enable 10 seed companies to

With these companies on board, they will mobilize about 1500 farmer seed out growers who will benefit from access to foundation seeds, training, and direct access to seed companies. The expected result will be about 3000MT of seeds produced by these out growers with the support of the seed companies and IFDC technical staff.

Process of Selecting Seed Companies for Co-Investment

- A TOR for seed company co-investment in seed production was rolled out for four weeks in 2021.
- 18 local seed companies submitted an application for co-investment using the same template.
- A committee was formed to conduct an analysis of the applications based on set criteria.
- Of the 18 seed companies that applied, 10 met the requirements of the co-investment TOR and were selected.
- A3-SEED has now signed agreements and commissioned those seed companies for work in the first and second seasons of 2022.

Table 7. Competitively Selected Seed Companies for Co-Investment

	Seed Company	Location
1	Magwi Seed Company Limited Seed (MASCO)	Magwi
2	Grow Seed Company Limited	Juba, Magwi, and Terekeka
3	Gumbo Glow Seeds Limited	Juba
4	Green Horizon Seed Company	Juba and Yambio
5	Smart Seeds Limited	Juba and Kajokeji
6	AFROGANIC Limited	Torit and Magwi
7	Sun City Seed Company	Bor
8	AMASCO Limited	Rumbek
9	Alliance Agriculture Cooperatives Society (AACS)	Torit
10	PRO Enterprises Limited	Magwi and Yambio

13 Conflict Sensitivity

During the reporting period, A3-SEED took all precautions and applied all approaches to ensure conflict sensitivity. The project conducted state-level consultations in all areas of A3-SEED implementation. The state-level consultations, considered mini-launches, were meant to provide clarity on what the project will do in each of these communities. It also tempered expectations, such as the distribution of free food or seeds. These consultations also provided an opportunity for communities to begin necessary activities. The farmer groups being formed by seed companies will be supported by the local authorities to organize themselves to establish peace committees and procedures to prevent and resolve disputes. A3-SEED has conducted Political and Economic Conflict Analysis, which identified risks and mitigation measures for these risks in the various hubs of stability. The security assessment also helped understand the security risks involved in the implementation of the project and how the project staff could prepare for such risks. These studies have already informed several project decisions, including location of our office, office setup, and prioritization of hubs of stability.

14 Exit Strategy and Sustainability

The project proposal explained the clear sustainability and exit strategy. However, during the reporting period, and particularly during the inception phase, the following sustainability plans were developed and incorporated within work plans as a guide for project implementation and

interventions. The exit strategy and sustainability plan also formed the critical basis for establishing external partnership agreements, as an essential documentational component of the Co-Investment and Partnership Fund grant management and oversight.

- **Building the capacity of seed companies**: Sustainability is built into the core framework of the design, with the arrangement that ensures A3-SEED is implemented through private sector partners – seed companies. The implementation arrangement is critical for the exit strategy and eventual transference of services to the private sector, which will ensure a sustainable commercial relationship with outgrowers, smallholder farmers, and extension service provision. This is further complemented by the capacity building of the seed companies and seed outgrowers as well as the local government, with the aim of developing a pipeline of experts that can support agriculture development activities at different levels.
- **Working with various levels of government**: A3SEED's exit strategy is strengthened by the fact that government structures at the National, State and, especially, County (Payam and Boma) levels will be involved from the onset A3SEED activity preparation overseeing activities and monitoring progress. Capacities of government institutions will be strengthened to ensure effectiveness; The integration of Government extension agents will also serve as part of the exit strategy at project completion.

- A3-SEED is designed to embed its activities to ensure that government at national. state, county and payam levels play crucial roles in contributing to interventions of A3SEED in seed sector regulations. The project has started involving and consulting with the government at various levels, including national, state, county, payam, and boma. The extension agents and village agro-dealers will be integrated into units of the local government extension system, with the capacity to manage other upcoming development partner projects in the country. The local level boma, payam, and county agents present the best entry points to deliver services that are responsive to the agricultural and economic needs of the community and have a good outreach to women and men who are experiencing poverty.

15 Annexes

Summary of Results by Indicator

Indicator	Target (2020-2025)	Achieved (2020-2021)	Clarification on Actual Results
Percentage of seed producers pre-ordering EGS against payment of an advance	50%	0	• Discussions with STASS and MAFS on a strategy to access and produce EGS are ongoing. • Meeting with all seed companies conducted to discuss short-term and longer-term access to foundation seed.
No. of seed companies engaging in EGS production	2	0	• 2 seed companies will be engaged in 2022. • Seed companies that won Co-Investment and Partnership Fund grants will self-select.
Increased volume of EGS produced		0	• Progress on this target will be realized at the end of the first season of 2022. STASS, seed companies, and university and MAFS breeders are exploring this area.
No. of existing seed companies with tripled seed-derived turnover	5	0	• A3-SEED has contracted 10 seed companies to start work in 2022. • Achievement of this target will be measured at the end of the project.
No. of new seed companies reaching a turnover of at least U.S. $50,000	3	0	• A3-SEED has contracted 10 seed companies to start work in 2022. • The achievement of this target will be measured at the end of the project.
No. of community-based seed producers groups reaching an annual seed related turnover of more than U.S. $10,000	40	0	• Seed companies are currently mobilizing farmer groups for seed production in the coming season. • Progress on this target will be realized by the end of the second season of 2022.
No. of individual private seed companies with an annual seed-related turnover of more than U.S. $10,000	40	0	• A3-SEED has contracted 10 seed companies to start work in 2022. • Achievement of this target will be measured at the end of the project.
Percentage of STASS costs covered through direct member contributions	25%	10%	• The project has started discussions relating to the STASS sustainability plan. • Options for self-financing through member contributions are being considered.
No. of STASS local chapters established	4	1	• STASS has a full-fledged office in Juba. Its coordinator can coordinate activities throughout the project hubs.
Cost of local seed quality assurance as a percentage of total seed price	10%	0	• A3-SEED has started working with seed companies and STASS on a hybrid seed certification strategy to ensure competitiveness of locally produced seeds.
No. of institutional buyers accepting local quality assured seed	5	1	• FAO is currently the only institution willing to buy locally, but others, such as NPA, ICRC, and VSF Germany, are being explored.

Indicator	Target (2020-2025)	Achieved (2020-2021)	Clarification on Actual Results
Percentage of relief seed procured nationally, coordinated through STASS	50%	30%	• Progress on this target will be realized by the end of the second season of 2022.
No. of farmers trained directly on quality seed use and associated good agricultural practices	50,000	1609	• 1,609 farmers trained through 55 demonstration plots established by STASS.
No. of farmers adopting at least two offered new technologies	50,000	0	• Training of extension workers on integrated soil fertility management has been conducted and knowledge will continue to be deepened for outgrowers. • 55 demo plots across 6 counties. • Soil quality assessment was conducted in all hubs.
Increase of yields of targeted crops by beneficiaries	50,000	0	• Progress on this target will be realized by the end of the first season of 2022.
Income increases from surplus production of targeted crops for direct beneficiaries	50%	0	• Progress on this target will be realized by the end of the second season of 2022.
Income increases from surplus production of targeted crops for direct beneficiaries	25%	0	• Progress on this target will be realized by the end of the second season of 2022.
No. of farmers exposed to low-tech ICT4Ag solutions	100,000	0	• Basic ICT4Ag equipment has been procured; the use and exposure of beneficiaries to this will start in 2022. • 5 workshops conducted. • 4 radio talk shows aired. • 5 stakeholders consultation have already taken place in this regard.
No. of farmers reached with recommendations	50,000	0	• Ongoing mobilization; results will be reported by the end of 2022.
No. of ABCs established	8	0	• Ongoing mobilization: results will be reported by the end of 2022.
No. of agricultural actors benefitting from ABC establishment.	6,000	0	• Ongoing mobilization: results will be reported by the end of 2022
No. of new agro-dealers established with an annual turn-over of more than U.S. $6,000	100	0	• Mobilization of agro-dealers is ongoing. Its measure will be determined by mid-year or end of 2022.
No. of new jobs created by agro-dealers	400	0	• This will be measured by the end of 2022.
No. of farmers introduced to women economic empowerment module	50,000	0	• Development of modules for women's empowerment is ongoing.
No. of women graduated from the agr0-career development trajectory	400	0	• Mobilization of women entrepreneurs is ongoing. Progress will be measured when they establish their businesses by April-June 2022.
No. of women who have established a business with at	200	0	• Mobilization of women to participate in businesses along the seed value chain is

Indicator	Target (2020-2025)	Achieved (2020-2021)	Clarification on Actual Results
least U.S. $6,000 annual turnover			ongoing. The measure of how many have established businesses will be determined by mid-year or end of 2022.
No. of youth graduated from the agro-career development trajectory	400	0	• Mobilization of youth agro-dealers is ongoing. The measure of how many have established businesses will be determined by mid-year or end of 2022.
No. of youth who have established a business with at least U.S. $6,000 annual turn-over	200	0	• Mobilization of youth to participate in businesses along the seed value chain is ongoing. The measure of how many have established businesses will be assessed by mid-year or end of 2022.
No. of farmers benefitting from access to input support	25,000	0	• Progress on this target will be realized at the end of the second season of 2022, when farmers begin accessing improved seeds.
No. of local field experts trained	120	20	• 20 extension agents were trained in various locations.
No of training curricula published and communicated to South Sudanese partners	4	1	• Modules on soil health management were developed.
Lessons and recommendations on approaches, methods, and materials used in South Sudan documented	4	0	• This is planned. For the first season of 2022
No. of targeted rapid problem and opportunity analyses implemented in each intervention area: • Seed sector • Input sector • Intensification of production of target crops • Women empowerment • Youth employment	5	5	The following studies were conducted during the inception phase of the project: • Seed Sector and Commodity Value Chain Assessment in South Sudan • Soil Fertility Assessment • Gender and Youth Assessment of the Seed Sector in South Sudan • Political and Economic Conflict Assessment • Conflict Sensitivity • Area Risk Assessment
No. of seed sector innovations initiated, analyzed, documented, and communicated	5	0	• These innovations will be assessed during the implementation of the first cropping season of 2022.
End-of-project evaluation	1	0	• This will be conducted at the end of the project.

Stakeholder Matrix and Seed Sector Partner Mapping

Seed Sector Partner	Role in Seed Value Chain	Capacity	Capacity Gaps	Remarks
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS)	Policy and legislative framework	Formulate and adopt seed policies and regulatory frameworks. A seed policy was produced by SSD4SS and could be finalized and adopted.	Most of the agriculture and seed-related policies are at the draft stage.	Finalization and adoption of the seed policy will guide sector development and transformation.
Department of Research, MAFS	Variety development	35 varieties released, 8 commercialized.	Trained and skilled breeders for priority crops. Functioning breeding programs or only multi-location trials of existing varieties?	
Department of Research, MAFS	Foundation (early generation) seed production	So far, MAFS has produced over 22.1 mt of foundation seed and sold all to the seed companies.	Volumes can be increased based on demand. Is demand known beforehand through some pre-order system or coordination of demand through a platform?	
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	Seed quality control on imported and locally produced seed.	Laboratory infrastructure for seed tests (e.g., viability).	One central laboratory is functional; no decentralized laboratory infrastructure?	
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	Seed production field inspection.	Trained field inspectors for foundation and certified seed production.	60 inspectors were trained.	
NGOs/UN	Procurement and distribution of relief seed (seed aid)	80% imported, 20% locally produced. Large system of distribution.	Are they working toward sustainability models/mechanisms through partial subsidies?	
NGOs/UN	Support local seed production, mostly community-based or individual farmers-based seed production.	The NGOs sometimes use seed company expertise. They also hire external consultants for training these actors on quality seed production.	Are they supporting private seed companies to cater to their needs?	NGOs/UN to enable more local/national sourcing of seed.

Seed Sector Partner	Role in Seed Value Chain	Capacity	Capacity Gaps	Remarks
NGOs/UN	Organize seed fairs using the voucher system.	Facilitate sharing and exchange of seeds (mostly informal).	Sustainability models requiring co-investment of farmers and stakeholders.	
Seed Trade Association (STASS)	Advocate to the government for member seed companies.	Participate in and influence policy through stakeholder meetings and the national seed committee.	Have they prioritized the intervention areas for advocacy and action?	
Seed Trade Association (STASS)	Establish the Seed Forum, bringing together different actors, including donors.	Capacity to facilitate exchange between actors is limited.	The Seed Forum is functional. STASS has a strategy, work plan, and activities in the seed sector.	
Seed Trade Association (STASS)	Define the quality control system in collaboration with MAFS/Government of South Sudan.	Propose a system based on internal quality control systems of members.	STASS needs to strengthen its relationship with the government to impose controls.	A workshop on seed quality is being organized for November 2021.
Seed Trade Association (STASS)	Perform variety trials for maize.	Collaborate with CIMMYT to establish multi-location variety trials for variety release.	They need to collaborate with the MAFS Department of Research to have the technical skills to collect quality data of these trials to convince a release committee.	
Private sector seed companies (international)	Companies from abroad (Uganda, Kenya) export seed to South Sudan.	Capacity to deliver quality seed and market accordingly.	Awareness of the adaptation and appropriateness of the varieties in South Sudan.	
Private sector – seed companies (national)	Produce local seed and import seed into South Sudan.	Production and distribution and marketing of quality seed.	Awareness of the need for specific varieties.	
Private sector – agro-dealers/distributors	Distribute and sell seeds and inputs in a sustainable way by bringing inputs and services closer to the farmers.	Local networks for distribution and marketing of seed to clients.		
Private sector – agro-dealers/distributors	Distribute and sell other important inputs (fertilizer, pesticides) and provide services (spraying, mechanization).	Local networks for distribution and marketing of seed to clients.		

Seed Sector Partner	Role in Seed Value Chain	Capacity	Capacity Gaps	Remarks
Private sector – agro-dealers/distributors	Provide advisory/extension services to clients (farmers).	Extensive network of farmers; trusted.	Limited capacity to transfer technology to farmers in a participatory way.	Compete with national/local seed companies through tendered seed aid.
Farmers/farmer groups	Produce seed for their local needs.	Highly variable capacity for seed production and quality assurance.		
Project: Agricultural Markets, Value Addition and Trade Development Project (AMVAT)	Develop crop value chains of sorghum, maize, sesame, and groundnut.	Established 20 Aggregation Business Centers, 10 Seed Enterprise Groups, and 120 Business Producer Associations.		
Project: FNS-REPRO	Enhance farmers' access to quality seeds of superior varieties and contribute to food and nutrition security and economic development.	Facilitate local seed production for maize, sorghum, cowpea, and groundnut.		Strong synergy with A3-SEED.
Project: FNS-REPRO	Promote both formal and informal seed systems as well as private and public actors in the seed value chain.			
Project: South Sudan Agribusiness Development Project (SSADP) II	Develop maize, sorghum, groundnut, and cassava value chains by supporting enterprises.	Provide innovative financing and business support services.		
Project: South Sudan Livelihood and Resilience Project (SSLRP)	Support farmer organizations and invest in rural agro-based value chains or enterprises.	Community-Driven Development Planning, including strengthening of CBOs with an output of functional, gender-responsive and diverse CBOs.		A3-SEED beneficiaries will benefit from improved rural infrastructure as a result of SSLRP activities.
Seed Systems Group (SSG)	Implement IFAD-funded "Building Back Better Rural Livelihoods Recovery Initiative for the Horn of Africa Project," which focuses on seed production and distribution through seed companies and village-based advisors.	Subsidize seed companies in the production of quality seeds and develop a network of village-based advisors for extension and distribution of quality seeds to the farmers.	Has a set of technical skills in seed systems development, especially in developing EGS production, that can bridge the gap created by absence/limited EGS.	As A3-SEED is a longer-term project, it will inherit the gains from this one-year initiative and develop sustainability over the life of the project.

Risk Matrix including Risk Status and Mitigating Measures

	Main Risk	Owner of Risk	Reason/Cause	Effect	Risk Mitigation measures effect in 2021	Risk Assessment			
						Probability	Impact	Level of Risk	Risk Response Strategy
1.0	**Agriculture production risk**								
1.1	Erratic rainfall	Farmer households (HHs)	Changes in the weather	Damage or destroy crops	N/A	50-80%	High	High	• Promote climate change mitigation practices and gather comprehensive and accurate weather data for purposes of forecasting.
1.2	Prolonged drought	Farmer HHs	Changes in weather / deforestation	Low yields	N/A	30-60%	High	Medium	• Promote adoption of drought-resistant crops and gather comprehensive and accurate weather data for purposes of forecasting.
1.3	Inadequate extension services	Farmer HHs	Inadequate investment in extension services	Inadequate information on many aspects of the farming business	Embarked on community-based extension workers training	20-50%	Medium	Low	• Expand reach of extension services and provision of accurate information based on reliable data. • Work with village-based extension agents. • Use demo plots for farmer field days.
1.4	Absence of improved agricultural inputs	Farmer HHs	Lack of locally produced or imported inputs	Inability to plant or harvest in time, thus limiting yields	Mobilization of seed companies for seed production	20-60%	Medium	Medium	• Introduce risk-reducing inputs that improve the likelihood of better quantity or quality of farm products, such as fertilizers and compost.
1.5	Prevalence of pests and diseases	Farmer HHs	Limited access to pesticides in terms of availability, access, and cost and poor	Yield losses in crops	The project trained extension workers on dealing with pests and diseases	30-60%	High	Medium	• Promote varieties less prone to pests and diseases. • Boost investment in production/marketing or importation of quality

	Main Risk	Owner of Risk	Reason/Cause	Effect	Risk Mitigation measures effect in 2021	Risk Assessment			
						Probability	Impact	Level of Risk	Risk Response Strategy
			agricultural practices						pesticides and training of farmers in pest control.
1.6	Poor soil fertility	Farmer HHs	Poor agricultural practices and lack of fertilizers	Yield losses in crops	Soil analysis conducted, recommendations on soul fertility management developed	20-50%	Medium	Low	• Conduct a soil and farming system assessment; based on the results, provide recommendations for fertilizers and compost to reduce the risk of low yields.
2.0	**Market risk**								
2.1	Inadequate/absence of market infrastructure (e.g., storage)	Farmer HHs and traders in crop produce	Inadequate investment in agricultural infrastructure	Loss of produce	Beneficiaries are being organized in groups to access markets	20-60%	Medium	Medium	• Collaborate with other projects that invest in farm/market infrastructure. • Promote private sector investment in agribusiness development and infrastructure.
2.2	Poor transport infrastructure	Farmer HHs and traders in crop produce	Inadequate investment in transport infrastructure development	Loss of produce and inability to grow markets	Roads in the project areas are being improved especially in Magwi, Torit, Bor, and Juba to Rumbek roads	50-70%	High	High	• Collaborate with other projects that invest in transport infrastructure. • Support public sector investment in transport infrastructure development.
2.3	Disorganized distribution channels	Farmer HHs and traders in crop produce	Lack of proper agribusiness sector development and organization	Price distortions	Beneficiaries are being organized in groups to access markets	20-60%	Medium	Medium	• Mobilize businesses along the distribution chain. • Promote investment in agriculture value chain development.
2.4	Fluctuation in agriculture produce prices	Farmer HHs and traders in crop produce	Unexpected change in supply or demand	Impact on market price	Seed companies and out growers are working together to determine	20-60%	Medium	Medium	• Work with STASS to determine actual production costs. • Offer trainings to producers to improve the quality of seed.

	Main Risk	Owner of Risk	Reason/Cause	Effect	Risk Mitigation measures effect in 2021	Risk Assessment			
						Probability	Impact	Level of Risk	Risk Response Strategy
					prices for seeds based on cost of production				• Collaborate with other projects that offer improvement in post-harvest infrastructure.
3.0	**Political risks**								
3.1	Ethnic divisions	Investor	Historical disagreements / rivalry among different ethnicities	Destruction of community mobilization and organization structures as well as loss of life	A3 SEED has sought services of a security expert, to provide assess and provide weekly updates on political and security risks	30-60%	High	Medium	• Work with the NGO forum. • Actively engage stakeholders throughout the community to follow a robust Early Warning System. • Consider demonstrating quick wins at the outset of the project.
3.2	Political differences	Investor	Power struggle for control of resources	Rising tensions	A3 SEED has sought services of a security expert, to provide assess and provide weekly updates on political and security risks	30-60%	High	Medium	• Establish a robust Early Warning System. • Actively engage stakeholders across political divides. • Ensure no demonstration of bias toward any political group.
3.3	Political elite capture	Investor	Wrestle for financial and asset benefits that come with the investment	Distortion of project purpose	A3 SEED has sought services of a security expert, to provide assess and provide weekly updates on political and security risks	20-50%	Medium	Low	• Balance the interests of competing groups. • Establish a broad-based beneficiary committee with the ability to retain ownership of the investment for the rightful target beneficiaries.
4.0	**Security risks**								
4.1	Localized intercommunal violence	investor	Historical disagreements / rivalry among	Destruction of community mobilization and	A3 SEED has sought services of a security expert, to provide	30-60%	High	Medium	• Engage a security advisor who provides weekly updates from across the country.

	Main Risk	Owner of Risk	Reason/Cause	Effect	Risk Mitigation measures effect in 2021	Risk Assessment			
						Probability	Impact	Level of Risk	Risk Response Strategy
			different ethnicities	organization structures including loss of life	assess and provide weekly updates on political and security risks				• Establish a robust Early Warning System and actively engage stakeholders across the community. • Consider demonstrating quick wins at the outset of the project.
4.2	Outbreak of major conflicts	investor	Disagreements/ rivalry among various political elites	Destruction of community mobilization and organization structures as well as loss of life	A3 SEED has sought services of a security expert, to provide assess and provide weekly updates on political and security risks	10-40%	High	Low	• Engage a security advisor who provides weekly updates from across the country. • Establish a robust Early Warning System and actively engage stakeholders, especially the political actors.
5.0	**Programmatic risks**								
5.1	Failure to secure commitment from local partners	Investor	Weak capacity and management systems and uncertain commitment	Failure to optimally achieve project objectives	Local partner consultation and sanitization has been successfully conducted through mini workshops in all hubs. There is expression of commitment at state, county and payam levels	20-50%	Medium	Low	• Conduct mini launches (meetings) in all hubs (this has been done and the project received a warm reception from partners across the hubs). • Establish robust partner selection and verification mechanisms to admit competent and committed partners.
5.2	Exclusion of some groups	Investor	Selectively working with particular target groups	Beneficiary group(s) targeted for retributions, leading to local tensions and	Stakeholder consultation has paved a way for equitable mobilization of beneficiaries. Seed	20-50%	Medium	Low	• Adopt informed, consultative, proper, verifiable, and accurate beneficiary selection criteria with consideration of the dynamics that shape the

	Main Risk	Owner of Risk	Reason/Cause	Effect	Risk Mitigation measures effect in 2021	Risk Assessment			
						Probability	Impact	Level of Risk	Risk Response Strategy
				extended inequalities	companies are selected from various hubs.				communities being targeted by the project.
5.3	Monitoring and reporting risks	Investor	Insufficient monitoring and reporting	Reduction in quality of decision making and programmatic impact	So far baseline assessment was successful, clear monitoring schedule has been designed and being implemented	10-20%	Low	Low	• Institute a proper M&E framework at the inception of the project and orient partners on its adoption and implementation.
5.4	Work flow risks	Investor	Suboptimal workflows	Inadequate timely achievement of quality outputs	Clear plan of activities that will lead to achievement of outputs has been developed	10-20%	Low	Low	• Establish and maintain proper work plans, ensuring proper and optimal workflows.
5.5	Government interference	Investor	Gaining control of political capital from project activities	Polarization of beneficiaries and resulting inequality due to selective participation of some beneficiary groups	Through close interactions during 2021, governments at al levels have been very cooperative and supportive. Chances of interference have been substantially reduced.	20-50%	Medium	Low	• Temper expectations through the launch at national level and mini-launches in each hub. • Seek immediate government buy-in and active participation while ensuring a broad-based approach that brings all stakeholders on board, leaving no room for dominance by one group.
5.6	Poor coordination with partners and non-key partners	Investor	Imperfect coordination	Weakened complementarity and constraint to overall programmatic impact	There is now a TOR for coordination with all Netherlands Funded Development projects (FSN REPRO and FASBSS)	20-50%	Medium	Low	• Schedule regular partner engagement, coordination, and input into project implementation.
6.0	**Fiduciary risks**								
6.1	Misappropriations by partners	Investor	Insufficient fraud mitigation and	Failure to minimize exposure to	A3 SEED is designed such that less limited	30-60%	High	Medium	• Ensure all partners have established and practice

	Main Risk	Owner of Risk	Reason/Cause	Effect	Risk Mitigation measures effect in 2021	Risk Assessment			
						Probability	Impact	Level of Risk	Risk Response Strategy
			detection measures	misappropriation of resources	financial resources are handled and managed by government. Seed company and STASS grants have clear installment payments and reporting schedules. Therefore, this risk is highly reduced.				proper financial management practices with no fraud record.
6.2	Absorption capacities	Investor	Insufficient delivery capacity among the partners	Slow and/or ineffective resource usage within the available time schedule	A3 SEED technical team works closely with seed companies to ensure effective and efficient utilization of funds	30-60%	High	Medium	• Establish a mechanism using robust criteria to identify partners with the capacity to absorb the project and deliver in a timely manner.
6.3	Financial reporting	Investor	Inadequate financial reporting	Weak accountabilities that constrain effective decision making and best use of financial resources	A3 SEED technical team works closely with seed companies to ensure effective and efficient utilization of funds	30-60%	High	Medium	• Train all partners on reporting requirements. • Ensure all partners have established and use proper M&E practices.
7.0	**Reputation risks**								
7.1	Distribution of sub-standard inputs	Investor	Failure to produce the right quality of inputs	Loss of confidence by the beneficiaries in the quality of project services	The project has not plan to distribute any inputs to beneficiaries. Seed companies will access Foundation seeds on a commercial basis for their out growers.	20-50%	Medium	Low	• Work with experienced seed companies with the capacity to monitor production processes. • Select seed producers with the technical know-how in regard to seed production.

	Main Risk	Owner of Risk	Reason/Cause	Effect			Risk Assessment		
					Risk Mitigation measures effect in 2021	Probability	Impact	Level of Risk	Risk Response Strategy
7.2	Supply of seed varieties do not thrive in the South Sudan environment	Investor	Poor or misinformed seed variety selection	Financial and time loss to the producers and the farmers	Market for seeds is being pursued through 2 ways; access for seed companies to the aid market, as well as enabling commercial access to seeds by local farmers.	20-50%	Medium	Low	• Engage seed experts and develop a local business network for the seed supply system. • Widely circulate information through various media on the right quality of seeds required to all seed producers and farmer HHs.

Developing Agriculture from the Ground Up

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