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Zimbabwe experiences on impacts of seed laws on the functioning of Farmer Managed Seed Systems and Community Seed Banks

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E-LEARNING SERIES

Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on
DRYLAND SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

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Presentation layout



INTRODUCTION

CURRENT STATUS OF ZIMBABWE SEED SYSTEMS

(a) Formal

(b) Informal

POLICIES AND LEGISLATION GOVERNING SEED
PRODUCTION , PROCESSING AND MARKETING

- FACILITATION OF IMPORT AND EXPORT

SOME GOOD PRACTICES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF FMSS

(a) Community Seed Banks

(b) Seed and Food Fairs

(c) Pfumvudza/ Conservation Agriculture

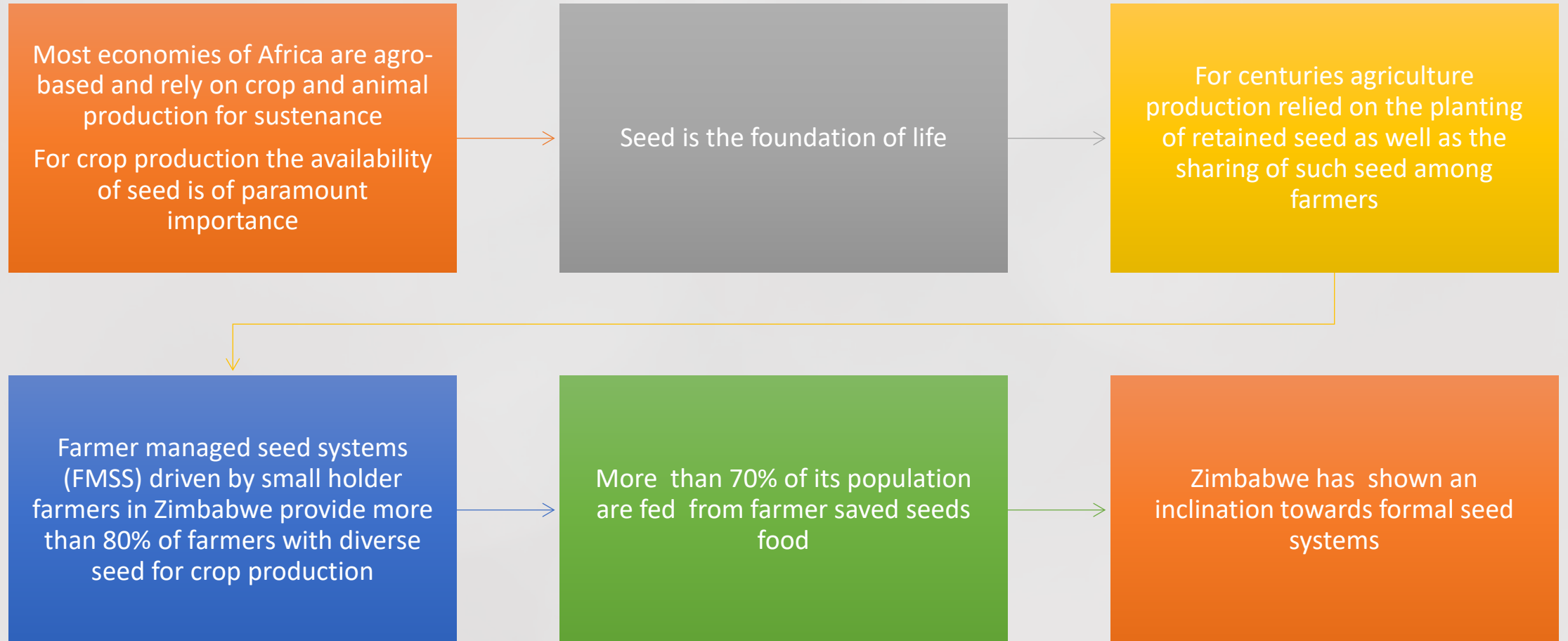
(d) Establishment of FFS

(e) Establishment of champion Seed enterprise

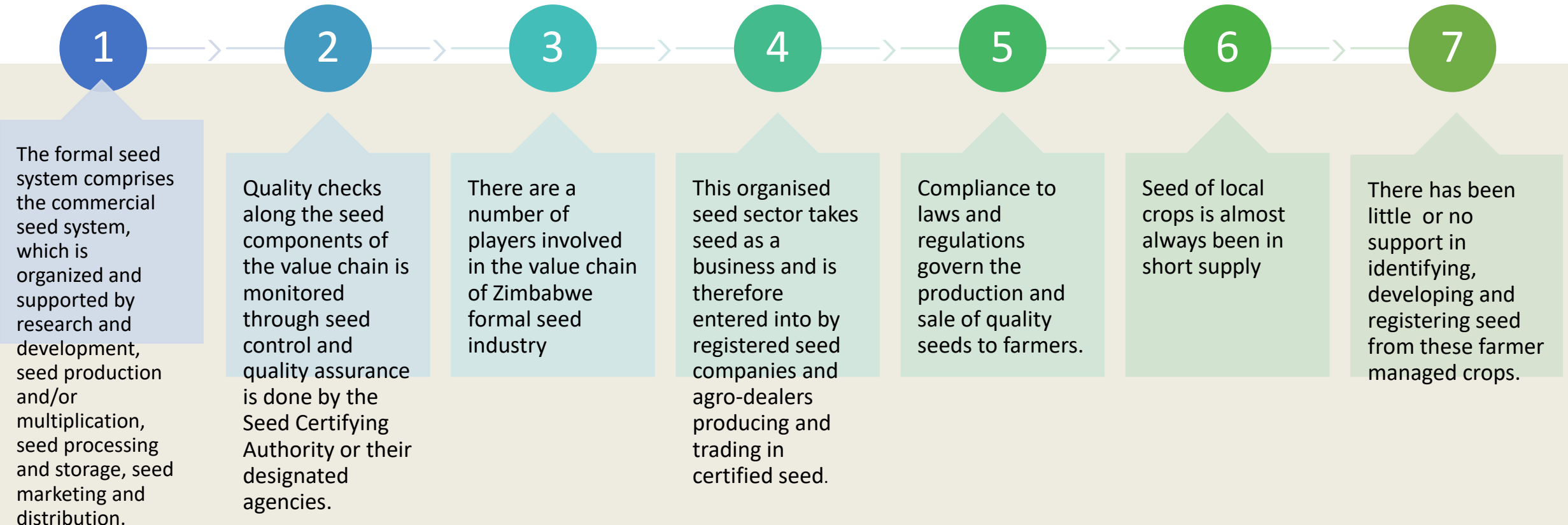
RECOMMENDATION

CONCLUSION

Introduction



Current Status of Zimbabwe Seed System



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Current Status of Zimbabwe seed system



- **The formal seed system** comprises the commercial seed system, which is organized and supported by research and development, seed multiplication, processing and storage, marketing and distribution.
- Quality checks along the value chain is monitored through seed control and quality assurance by the Seed Certifying Authority or designated agencies.
- A number of players are involved in the value chain of this sector.
- This sector takes seed as a business; only registered seed companies and agro-dealers are involved.
- Compliance to laws and regulations govern the production and sale of quality seeds to farmers.
- There has been little/no support in identifying, developing and registering seed from farmer managed crops.



FMSS IN THE NATIONAL POLICIES

Farmer Managed Seed Systems within in the Zim National Policies

- Zimbabwe has a fairly well developed seed sector
 - Existing Policies include the following:
 - **National Agriculture Policy Framework**
 - Supports the development of local indigenous farmer systems through strengthening seed selection, preservation and storage of FSS
 - Promote alternative agriculture practices which enhances crop diversity
 - Supports conservation of genetic resources and its associated knowledge as well as enable SHF to participate in equitable sharing benefits arising from the use of their genetic resources.
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+ Zimbabwe National Strategy and Action Plan on PGRFA



Section 4.2.3 Priority 3: Recognition and protection of traditional knowledge systems

Requires carrying out inventory data base of PGRFA traditional knowledge from communities and national levels

Developing mechanisms of recognition and protection farmer varieties through establishing standards for maintenance, registration as well as developing a national catalogue of farmer varieties.

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Zimbabwe Seed Act [Chapter 18:13]

- It is the main legislation regulating seed sector in the country.
- The Act establishes the Seed Services Department which is the Regulatory Authority.
- The Authority regulates:
 - the production, processing certification and sale of certified seed and the importation and exportation of seed and
 - implement a seed control system to ensure the maintenance of prescribed standards and availability of quality seed on the market



Plant Breeders Rights Act [Chapter 18:16]

The purpose of the Act is to provide legal protection for new plant varieties, granting breeders exclusive rights to exploit their varieties

Article 17.3(c)

“a farmer who cultivates less than ten hectares of land may use the harvest from any prescribed plant for the purpose of propagating the plant on that land, where the harvest was obtained by propagating the plant on that land or by propagating another plant, which is essentially derived from the plant concerned, on that land

Article 17.3(d)



“a farmer who derives at least eighty per centum of his annual gross income from farming on communal land or on resettlement land ... may multiply the seeds of any prescribed plant; and exchange with any other such farmer ... any prescribed plant which he has grown or reproduced on his land ... and donate any plant or seed ... to the State or a statutory body or to any other organisation which the Minister has authorised to seek such a donation; and such other conduct shall not be an infringement of the holder’s rights ...”



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Other Policies impacting on FMSS

- National Strategy for PGRFA
- Provides a roadmap and framework of implementation of the ITPGRFA
- AGRIC Food Systems Transformation Strategy
- Agric Education 5.0
- Rural Development 8.0
- Traditional Grains Communication Strategy
- Legumes commercialization strategy



Facilitation of import and export

- Only registered seed companies and agro-dealers are allowed to import and export seed following an application with supporting certification documents approved by the Certifying Authority.
- This facilitation guarantees that exported or imported seed is compliant with standards stipulated in the legislation.
- Whether it is imported or exported seed, this facilitation provides an assurance for the receiving country and farmers that the seed in question is of good quality and therefore guarantees food security when planted.

There nothing in place for the import or export of FMSS

SOME GOOD PRACTICES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF FMSS



Community Seed Banking



CTDT established 24 CSBs and mobilized germplasm collection from local communities



CTDT with the help of the SPGRC is carrying out digitalization exercise of PGR in Community Seed Banks



Capacitated/empowered local farmers to manage the Community seed banks



CSB have provided access to local germ plasm and have helped to guard against erosion of knowledge of local gem plasm



CSB promotes TK preservation and have become hub or centres of excellence of indigenous knowledge

SOME GOOD PRACTICES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF FMSS



Seed and Food Fairs



A platform for sharing knowledge and exchange of information

Give opportunity for farmers to market their products and create linkages with various stakeholders

A platform which showcase diversity of pgr

A platform to promote the production and consumption of traditional foods

STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE FMSS



CREATE ACCESS TO RESOURCES
FOR SHF



FACILITATE MUTUAL LEARNING



CONDUCT RESEARCH ON
SYSTEMS INTERFACE AND
POLICY DISCOURSE



IMPROVE FARMERS
EXPERIMENTAL DESIGNS



CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO
SHARE RESEARCH



BRIDGE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE
GAPS THROUGH
CONDUCTING EDUCATION AND
AWARENESS

Challenges related to FMSS



Lack of supportive/appropriate pieces of policies or legislation



Attitude of stakeholders in the formal seed sector is hardly accommodative of the FMSS (its looked down upon)



Absence of financial support from Government to advance FMSS work.



Documentation of farmer knowledge and innovation is absent