

# **Context Analysis Tool Assessment Presentation**

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# Introduction

- Mercy Corps Nigeria collaborated with ISSD Africa to pilot test the CAT in Borno State, Northeast Nigeria (NE Nigeria) in July 2022.
- Prior to field-testing the tool, Mercy Corps/ISSD Africa worked closely with the Mercy Corps Nigeria team to orient them to the CAT & SERT and its methodology and to adjust the tools, as needed, to be most relevant to the context.
- 3 LGAs Where selected for the Pilot test (**Bama, Jere & Damboa**) strategically because they are the LGAs where Mercy Corps was intervening with Agriculture intervention.
- One has to understand the specific features of a conflict context, identify the seed security problem, and then determine the type of response that is possible to implement, while also doing no harm.
- This CAT methodology is a modest beginning for promotion of better practice.



## The Context Analysis Tool (CAT) provides humanitarian actors with an

- Analysis process to understand seed systems in conflict settings.
- It aims to help implementers design effective interventions to support and develop these seed systems, while ensuring that farming community members' needs drive the seed
- System strengthening, recovery, and development process.



## CAT Background

# CAT Sections

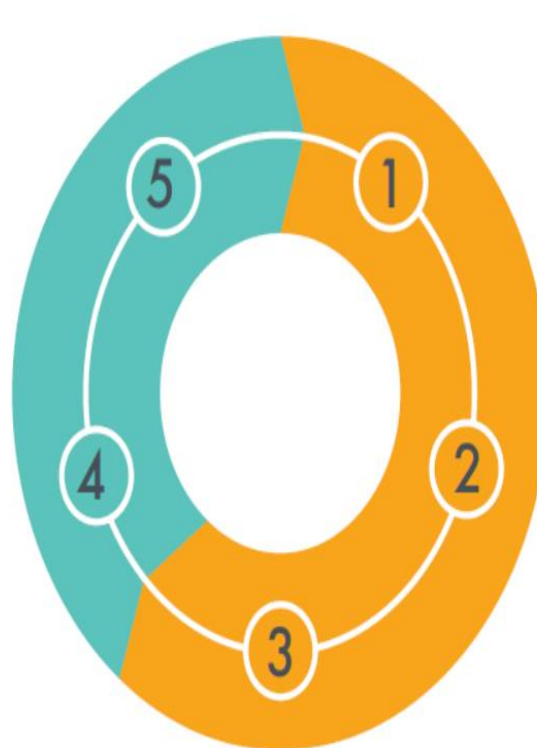
**Section 1:** Characterizing conflicts and their effects on seed system programming

## Section 2: CAT Methodology

- Phase 1 - Assess the context
- Phase 2 - Explores practical programming considerations for seed-related interventions

## Section 3: Practical tools

## CAT methodology/Object



### Phase 1 Assess the context

- 1 Patterns of the conflict
- 2 Effects of conflict on seed systems
- 3 Current status of seed system



### Phase 2 Analyze and identify opportunities to improve seed system functioning

- 4 Decision-making framework for working on seed systems in a given conflict context
- 5 Programming interventions – identify specific programming opportunities to improve seed system functioning

# Assessment Methodology

## Data Collection

- Primary data was collected using both qualitative and quantitative methods.
- Data collection was coordinated by Mercy Corps Nigeria's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) team and the Nigeria Analytics Team (NAT), in close coordination with Program teams (Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition) and the Technical Support Unit (TSU).
- The data was collected using adapted survey and interview guides outlined in the CAT as well as tools from Seed System. Qualitative and quantitative data were triangulated to develop the findings presented in this report.
- Within each LGA, data collection sites were chosen to include communities consisting primarily of farmers.

# KEY FINDINGS

**Table 3. Type of conflict present within LGAs**

LGA	Type of Conflict				
	Insurgency	Economy-driven conflict	Scarcity and denial of resources	Cultural and/or community driven conflict	Political conflict
Jere	Insurgent activity by AOGs prevents movement outside of safe zones. Farmers unable to safely access fields because of risk of being murdered or kidnapped for ransom.	Unemployment leads to thuggery, drug abuse, and petty theft by youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tension between community members for food and clean, piped water</li> <li>Competition for farmland</li> <li>INGO aid creating tensions between recipients and non-recipients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmer/herder conflict (farms destroyed by herder animals)</li> <li>Inter-ethnic rivalries</li> <li>Erosion of traditional courtship norms</li> <li>Indebtedness for goods and services received</li> </ul>	Not mentioned
Bama	Poverty, unemployment, absence of law, and illiteracy were all mentioned as root causes of insurgency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unemployment and lack of job prospects, particularly for youth, combined with poor law enforcement, leads to increased violence and crime</li> <li>Lack of social safety nets through government contributes to poverty-driven conflicts</li> <li>Restrictions on crop production (tall cereal crops banned by security forces) reduces income for farmers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tension between community members for available food, water, and housing resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erosion of traditional courtship norms</li> <li>Radicalization of youth leads to criminality and disregard for traditional and family values and norms</li> </ul>	Not mentioned
Damboa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insurgent activity by AOGs prevents movement outside of safe zones. Farmers unable to safely access fields because of risk of being murdered or kidnapped for ransom.</li> <li>Root causes of insurgent activity: poverty, religious ideology, and unemployment.</li> </ul>	Commodity prices rising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competition for farmland</li> <li>Competition for water and firewood</li> </ul>	Farmer/herder conflict (farms destroyed by herder animals)	Political conflict (warring politicians and unfulfilled political promises)

**Table Key**

Frequency of mention:	Frequently mentioned	Moderately mentioned	Scarcely mentioned	Not mentioned
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# Description of current agricultural system

## Land acquisition

- According to the quantitative survey, more than half of all respondents farm >2 hectares and between 30-40% of respondents farmed 1-2 hectares.
- Both before and after the conflict, farmers primarily rents land for cultivation. However, the conflict has affected land availability in other ways.
- Damboa and Jere LGAs have both experienced a large influx of IDPs that have significantly increased competition for land. In Damboa, some farmers may be able to farm on land deserted by farmers who have fled the region.
- In Bama, a local agricultural extension officer mentioned that security personnel have restricted farmers' access to certain areas in order to dig security trenches, including in areas with fertile land desired by farmers.
- Across the three LGAs, farmers said that they now must farm small plots of infertile land that remain risky to visit.



# Description of current agricultural system

## Crop profile

- Crop choices differed between LGAs.
  - **Jere** farmers reported growing the most diverse array of crops out of the three LGAs; **maize, rice, beans, groundnuts, sorghum, millet, and cowpeas** were all selected as a primary crop by survey respondents.
  - During an FGD with male farmers, they narrowed down to **maize, rice, beans, and groundnuts** as the most important crops within the community. Security forces have restricted tall cereal crop production in areas where military trenches have been established to reduce cover for insurgents, however, farmers still grow maize for direct consumption in approved areas.
  - Farmers grow **rice, beans and groundnuts for income generation**. Male farmers noted that production of sorghum, millet, and cocoyam have decreased in the last five years.



## KEY FINDINGS cont..

- As in Jere, security forces have restricted the planting of tall crops in Bama LGA, leading farmers to change their planting patterns away from cereal crops.
- Bama farmers focused almost exclusively on groundnuts and beans despite the restrictions, a small number of farmers in Bama (9%) still reported growing maize in approved areas.
- Male farmers in Bama confirmed these primary crops during an FGD and added sorghum, another restricted crop, as an important crop for both direct consumption and income generation.
- Bama farmers grew maize and beans for both food and income purposes, but groundnuts were grown for income generation. Male farmers noted that production of millet and sesame have also decreased due to restrictions by government security forces.
- Farmers in Damboa did not face restrictions on their crop selection, and therefore over 70% of farmers grew maize as their primary crop.

# Description of current agricultural system

Chart 2: Primary crop planted during 2021 planting season

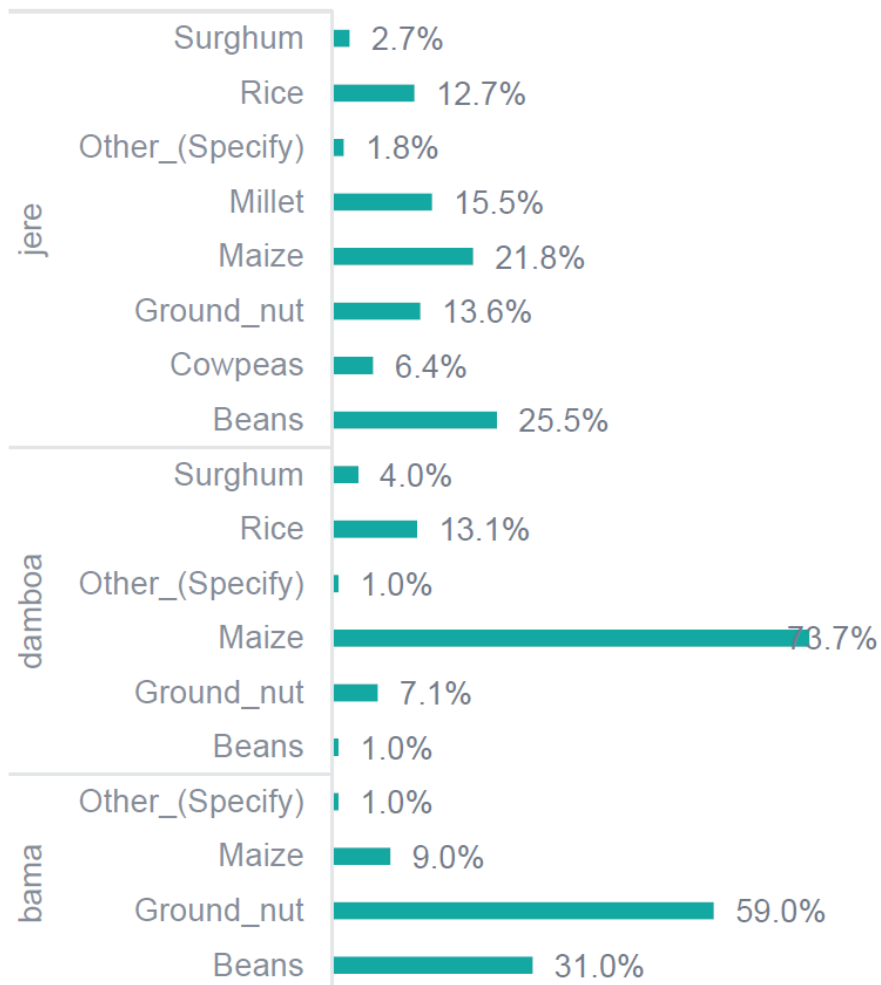
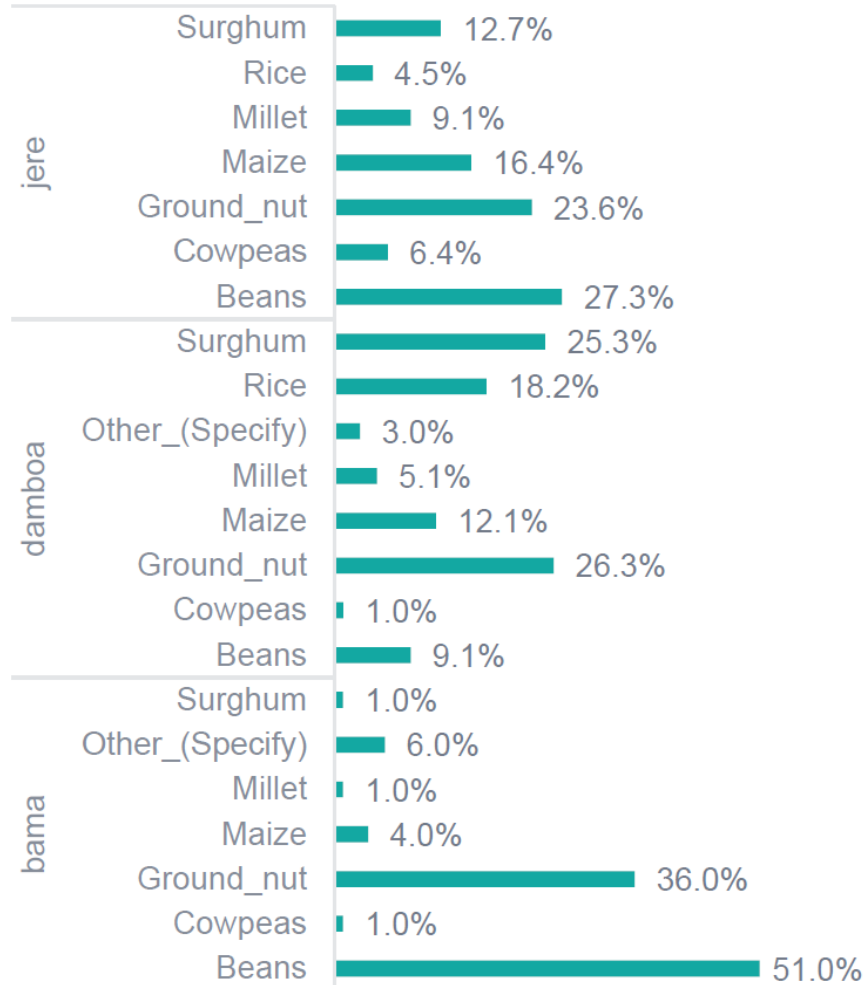


Chart 3: Secondary crop planted during 2021 planting season

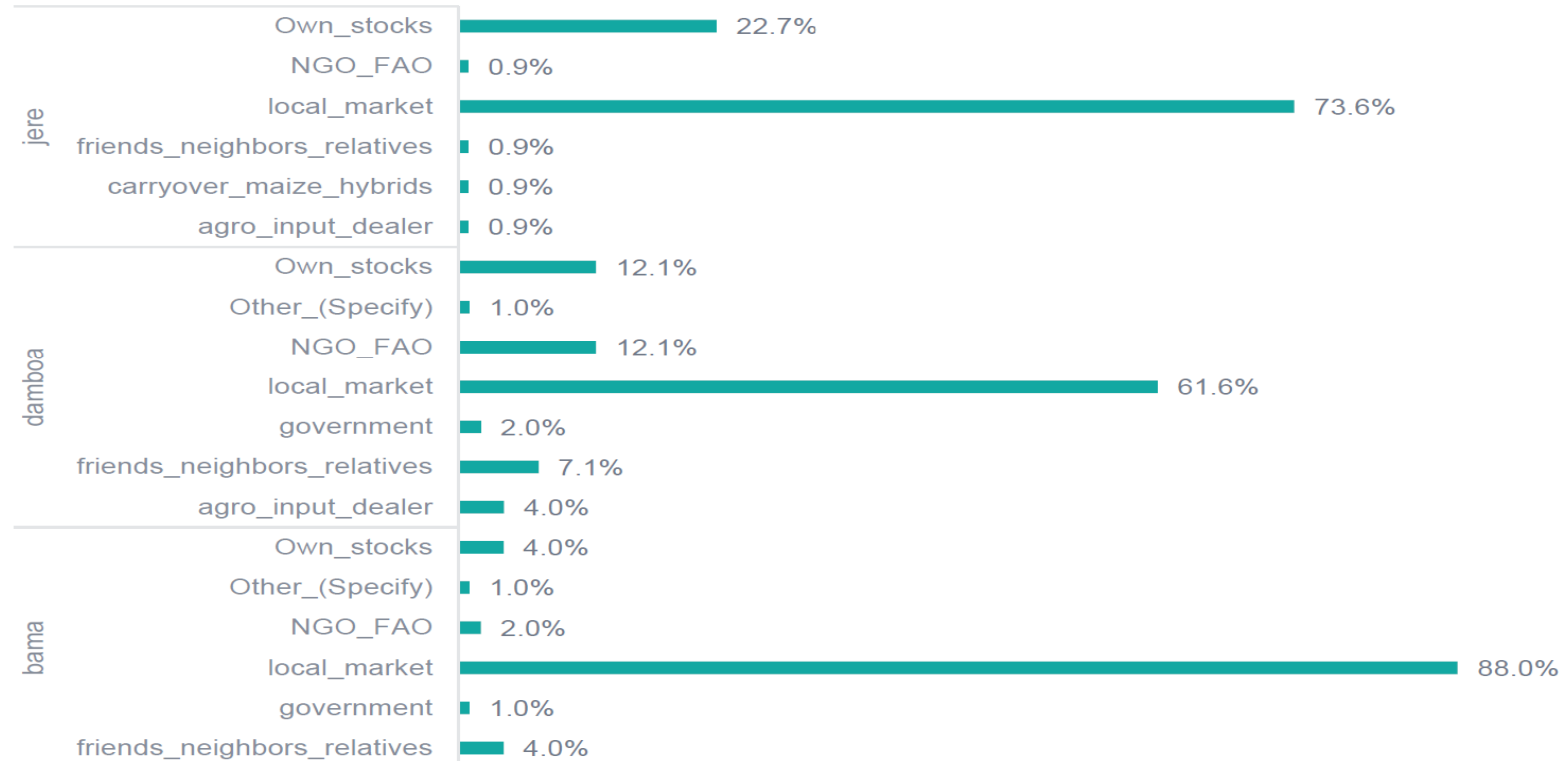


Most of these food was for home and income

# Seed system dynamics: Seed sourcing and accessibility

In all three LGAs, survey respondents said they primarily relied on **local markets** to purchase their seed

Chart 14: Seed sources for primary crop during 2021 planting season



# Seed system dynamics: Seed inaccessibility

**Table 7. Seed security problems, by LGA**

LGA	Seed quality (health & variety suitability)	Seed accessibility	Seed availability
Jere	<p>Locally-produced seed are thought to be poor quality.</p> <p>The availability of high-quality seeds of improved, early-maturing varieties is perceived to have declined due to the conflict and disruption of the seed supply chain.</p>	Seed prices have risen due to recent flooding, which resulted in a scarcity of seed, and insurgent activity, which reduced farming activities overall	The availability of high-quality seeds of improved, early-maturing varieties is perceived to have declined due to the conflict and disruption of the seed supply chain
Bama	<p>Not mentioned as a concern in qualitative data</p> <p>Quantitative data shows that &lt;1% of Bama farmers listed seed quality as 'poor' in 2021 (Chart 18 and 19, Annex 3)</p>	Not mentioned as a concern in qualitative data	Mixed evidence on availability of seed that requires further investigation
Damboa	<p>No access to certified seed.</p> <p>Lamented loss of their local varieties.</p> <p>Agro-dealers cannot travel to bring in new varieties due to road closures and insecurity.</p>	Seed prices have risen due to low supply and high competition for seeds.	Seed unavailable because of recent flooding that resulted in crop losses.

Table Key:	Frequently mentioned
Frequency of mention	Moderately mentioned
	Scarcely mentioned
	Not mentioned

# Seed system dynamics: Seed saving, storing, and sharing

- FGD data indicates that seed saving practices have declined in all three LGAs because harvests have dropped. However, survey data indicates that 23% of farmers in Jere, 12% in Damboa, and 4% in Bama used their own saved seed for their primary crop.
- The decline in saved seed also decreased seed sharing practices

**Table 8. Seed production and storage concerns, by crop, from men and women farmer FGDs**

Crop	Concerns tied to production of seeds	Concerns tied to storage of seeds
<b>Jere</b>		
Rice	Lack of good quality seeds from seed companies	No communal seed storage warehouses Inadequate storage space within farmer homes
Beans	Stored grain used for seed and therefore not sorted or properly stored	No concerns noted
Groundnut	No concerns mentioned	No concerns noted
<b>Bama</b>		
Groundnut	Scarcity of seeds	No storage facilities for seeds
Beans	Scarcity of seeds	Stocks eaten before they are stored
Maize	Scarcity of seeds	Stocks eaten before they are stored
Sorghum	Scarcity of seeds	Stocks eaten before they are stored
<b>Damboa</b>		
Maize	Crop flooded, which destroyed seed supply	Lack of good storage facilities
Rice	Prices unaffordable to farmers	Poor storage conditions
Groundnut	Stored grain used for seed and therefore not sorted or properly stored	Poor storage conditions
Sorghum	Lack of availability of seeds	Seeds not available

# Effects of conflict on the agricultural system

## Negative or disruptive effects

Insurgent activity was mentioned in all three LGAs as a significant disruptor of agricultural activities. **Men and women farmers felt insecure going to their fields** and changed where they farm to be on plots closer to military-secured areas. This meant that plot sizes reduced as farmers had to compete for farmland. In Jere and Bama, farmers also **shifted their crop portfolio** away from tall cereal crops (maize, sorghum, millet, etc.) that are currently prohibited towards bushy or ground-spreading crops (beans, groundnuts

## Positive effects

While many effects of conflict are negative, it is important to consider what might be positive changes due to the expansion of coping strategies or the creation of new supply options. When asked about any positive impacts of the conflict on their agricultural systems, farmers in Damboa commented on the positive impacts NGOs are making: jobs for youth, good quality seed, soil interventions, employment opportunities for former government officials, and improvements in housing. Bama farmers also pointed to the inputs provided to them by NGOs as the only positive

# Effects of conflict on the agricultural system

**Table 9. Effects of conflict on agriculture**

LGA	Crop choice disrupted	Limited access to farmland	Labor disruptions	Input supply disruptions	Market disruptions
Jere	Restrictions on tall crops (maize, millet) so plant beans, groundnuts, and okra	<p>Farmland outside of Jere town is inaccessible due to insurgent activity.</p> <p>Farmers must work faster and leave earlier.</p> <p>Many seek out small plots close to Jere town, which leads to stiff competition for land.</p>	<p><b>Men</b> - used to be the primary farmers in family. Would farm a large enough acreage that they could outsource labor to youth and others within the community, so even be a source of employment. Now many farmers have left the area or are forced onto shared plots</p> <p><b>Women</b> - were not engaged in agriculture before the conflict, but now do small-scale farming to feed the family</p> <p><b>Youth</b> - no longer have farming as a source of employment. Many have left the area</p> <p><b>Hired</b> - labor supply from neighboring countries has stopped, raising the price for hired labor</p>	None mentioned	<p>Fewer merchants are available out of fear for AOGs</p> <p>No longer trade with neighboring States or across international borders, must produce and consume locally</p> <p>AOG tax on harvest makes farming less profitable for farmers</p>
Bama	Restrictions on tall crops (maize, millet, sorghum) so plant beans and groundnuts.	While access to fertile farmland has been restricted due to danger of insurgent activity for the past ~10 years, access is slowly returning. Half of respondents said access was improving and half said they had limited access.	<p><b>Men</b> - used to be primary farmers in family, but had to pause activities on large-scale plots for fear of kidnappings or violence. Recently re-engaging with farming as threat of violence reduces.</p> <p><b>Women</b> - not as engaged in agriculture before the conflict, but took over when men forced to stay home. When women became targets of AOGs, women reduced</p>	Lack of tractors, seeds, and insecticides	No surplus to market
			<p><b>Youth</b> - no changes noted</p> <p><b>Hired</b> - price for hired labor increased</p>		
Damboa	None mentioned	<p>Inability to access fertile farmland due to insurgent activity.</p> <p>Land they have access to not fertile.</p>	<p><b>Men</b> - used to farm large-scale plots, but now farm smaller plots close to garrison town</p> <p><b>Women</b> - used to farm, but now they too must farm on smaller plots close to community for reduced hours. Many women switched to off-farm, daily paid work</p> <p><b>Youth</b> - no change noted</p> <p><b>Hired</b> - price for hired labor increased</p>	<p>Input supply chain disrupted (fertilizer and herbicide mentioned).</p> <p>Goods captured by militants.</p>	None mentioned

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	Not mentioned



# Next Steps

## For Program Implementers

- The CAT piloting exercise revealed information about how farmers source seed for the major cereal and pulse crops they grow and how these sources have been constricted due to the ongoing conflict around them.
- The CAT revealed how seasonal events, such as the flooding that occurred in Jere and Damboa, can have important seed security implications when the conflict environment prevents farmers from securing seed through a diversity of sources.
- It also revealed an agro-dealer network that is unused by many farmers, in particular poorer farmers—including women farmers—who are unable to afford certified seed at its current price.

# Conclusion

- Humanitarian actors' experience of linking seed system work to peacebuilding efforts needs to be broadened significantly and quickly.
- To date, the most common seed-related intervention in conflict contexts has been to import the seed, distribute it quickly – with limited understanding of the context – and then exit. The CAT methodology aims to help practitioners move beyond this approach.
- One has to understand the specific features of a conflict context, identify the seed security problem, and then determine the type of response that is possible to implement, while also doing no harm. This CAT methodology is a modest beginning for promotion of better practice. We still have much to learn around working in these very challenging contexts.

*Thank You!*

