

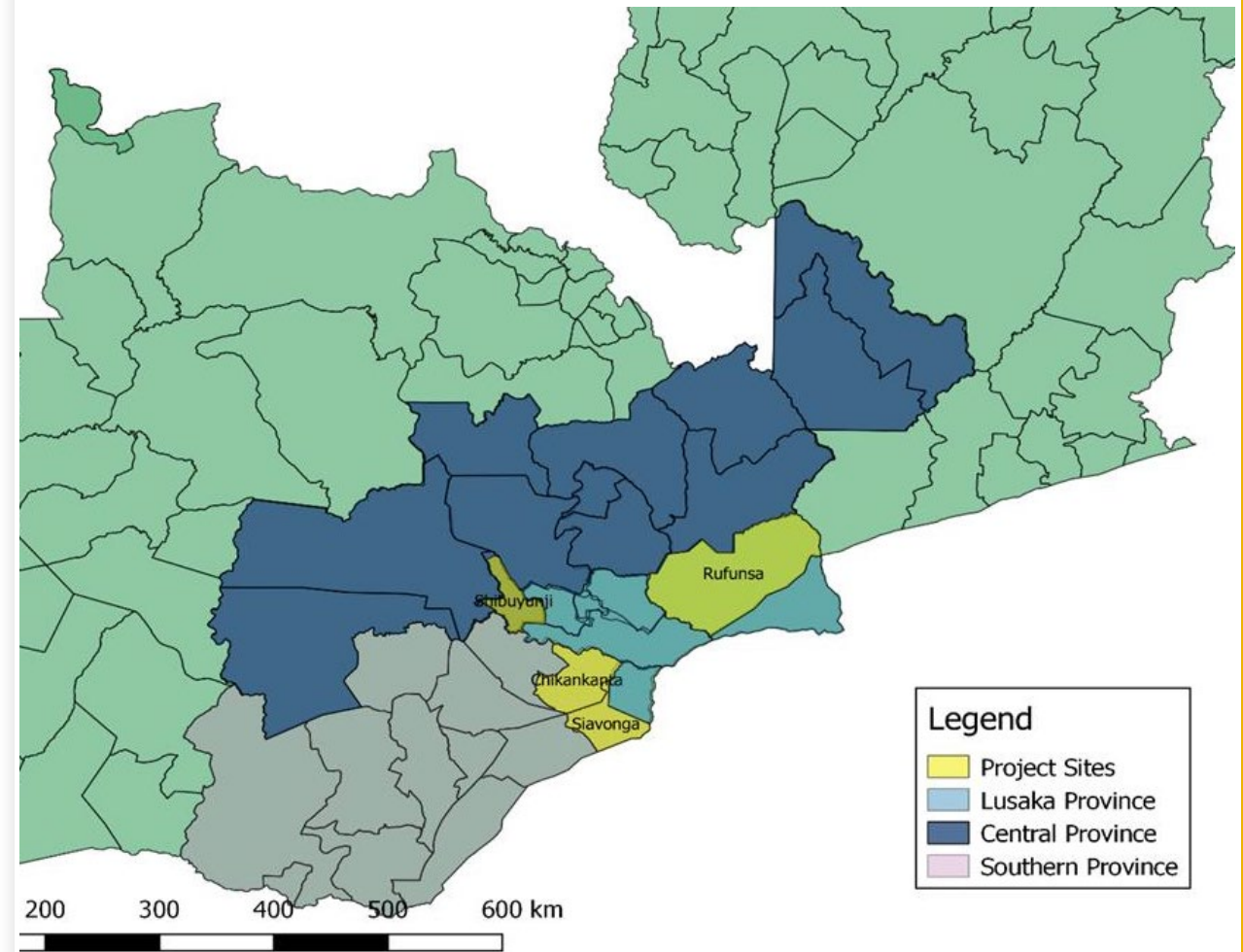
A woman wearing a wide-brimmed hat and an orange shirt is holding a large ear of grain, possibly sorghum, in a field. The background shows green foliage and a clear sky.

The Zambian Case:
SD=HS
Community
Technology
Development Trust

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Project's main objective

“Empower farmers to participate in the development, use and ownership of genetic resources, to achieve food and nutrition security”





Capacity
building
through
63 farmer's
field schools
(FFS)

1. Participatory Plant Breeding
 - PVD, PVE and PVS
 - 7 crops
2. Seed production and marketing (6 FSE)
3. Germplasm conservation and utilization->
Community Seed Banks
4. Lobbying and advocacy



Key learnings, and positive changes identified from the project

- Farmers' engagement in PPB gives voice and recognize their knowledge and needs related to seeds, it enhances decision-making capacity
- PPB promotes access to useful varietal diversity by SH farmers (CSB)
- Bridging the gap between farmers and other actors (breeders, certifiers etc.) boost new ways of collaboration



Key learnings, and positive changes identified from the project

- Promotes social cohesion, knowledge exchange and organization among farmers
- Increases farmer's confidence in their knowledge boosting innovation
- Has considered women's voice; their confidence and active participation in decision-making has increased
- Has increased breeders' interest and engagement
- L'économie – income generation

Main challenges identified

Breeding

- Few breeders : many farmers, little time/opportunities to interact
- FFS –PPB approach can be rigid: single activity (one breeding approach, one crop)
- Seed production
- Cost of certification, foundation seed and labeling are high for farmers.
- Organization in the future
- How to sustain farmers groups for breeding, seed production and commercialization after the project SD=HS ends



Our suggestions for action - research

1. Ways to increase collaboration and linkages between groups (FFS networks)
2. Explore ways for a FFS to do multiple activities. Reduce time/labor commitment per activity
3. Design and organization of activities for efficient interaction among breeders and farmers for joint learning/creation despite time constraints
4. Sustainability of farmers groups – training (e.g. governance, accounting), diversify activities and potential benefits, formalize groups for long term engagement