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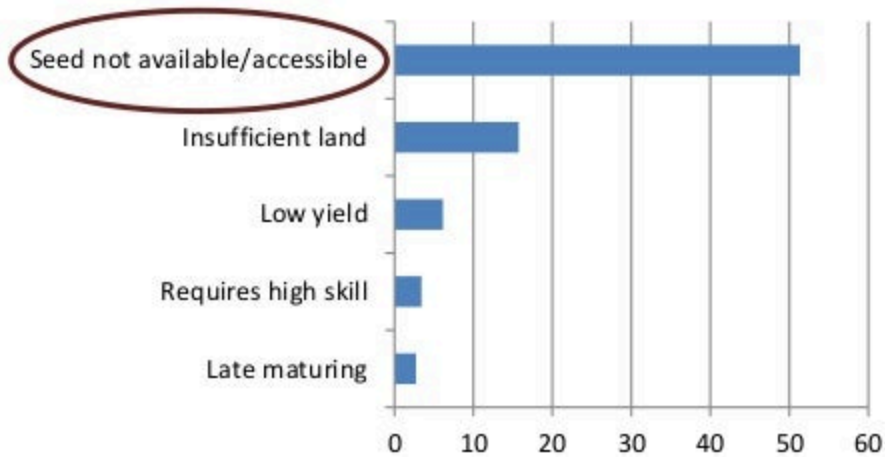
Assessing Institutional Innovations to promote women-led informal seed systems in Eastern India

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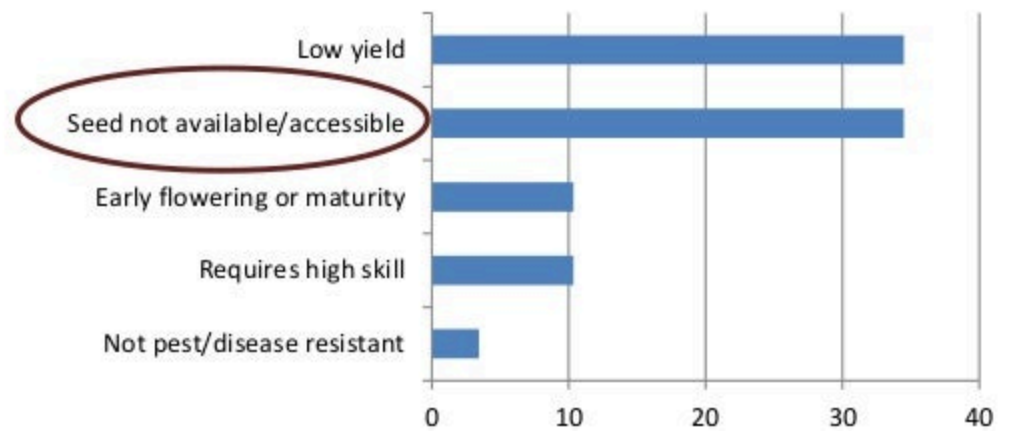
7 Dec 2017, Amsterdam

Reasons for discontinued use of STRV

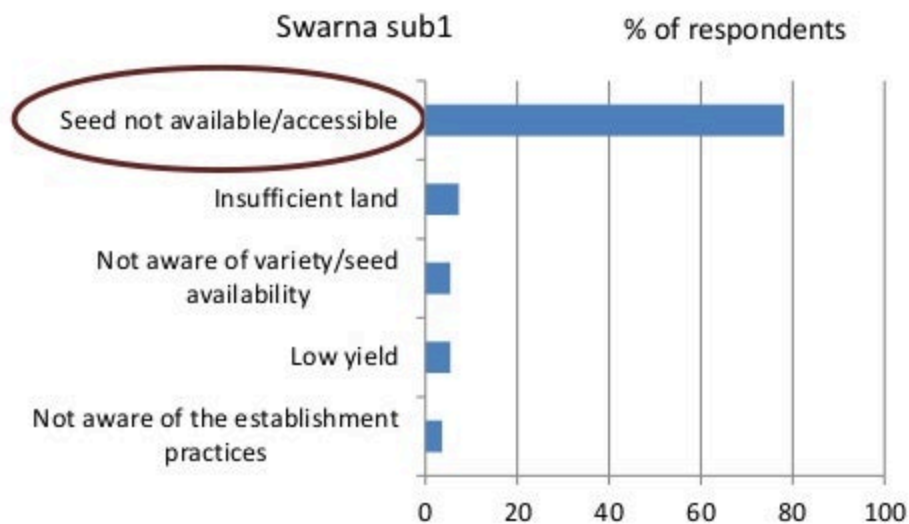
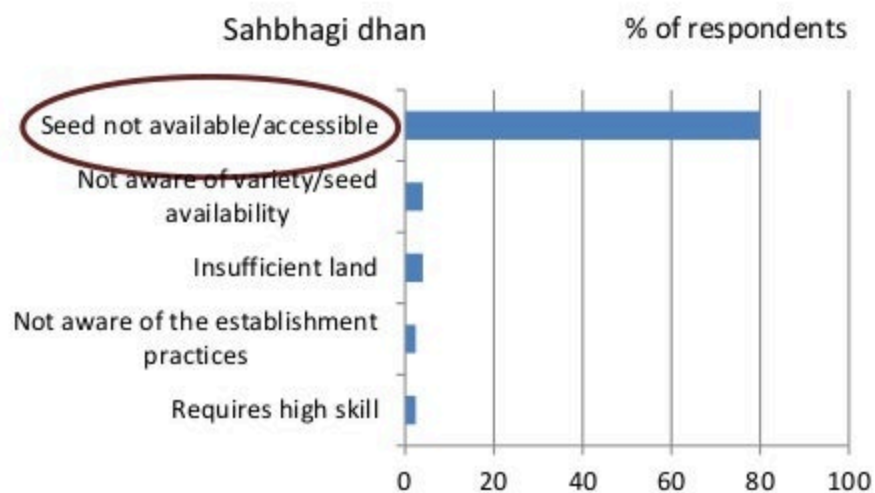
Sahbhagi dhan % of respondents



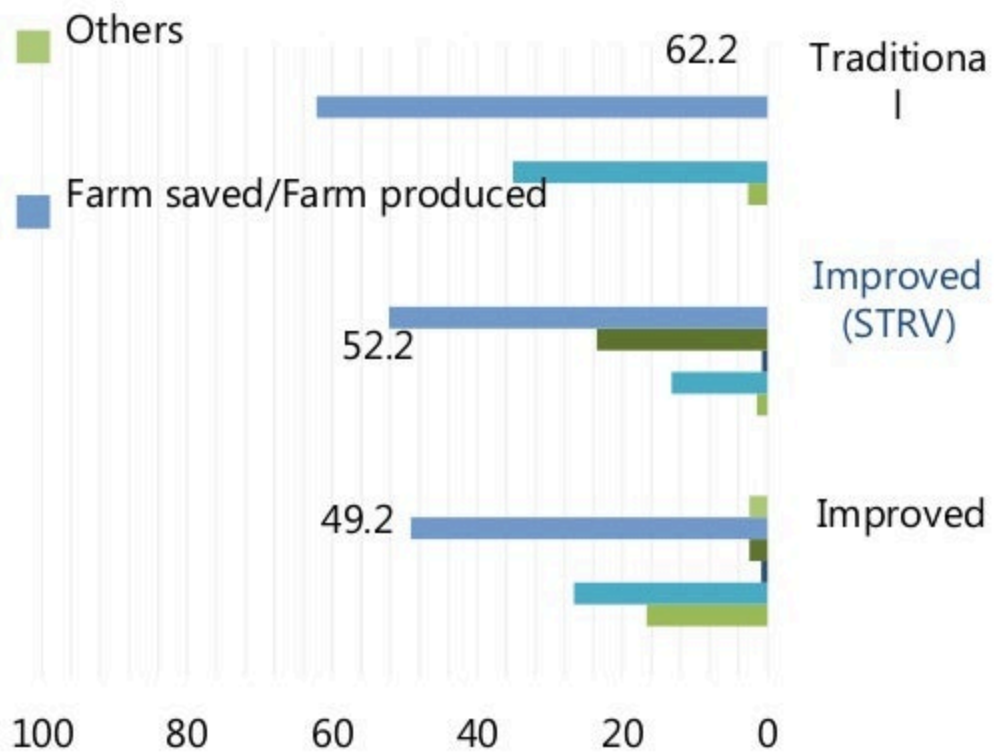
Swarna sub1 % of respondents



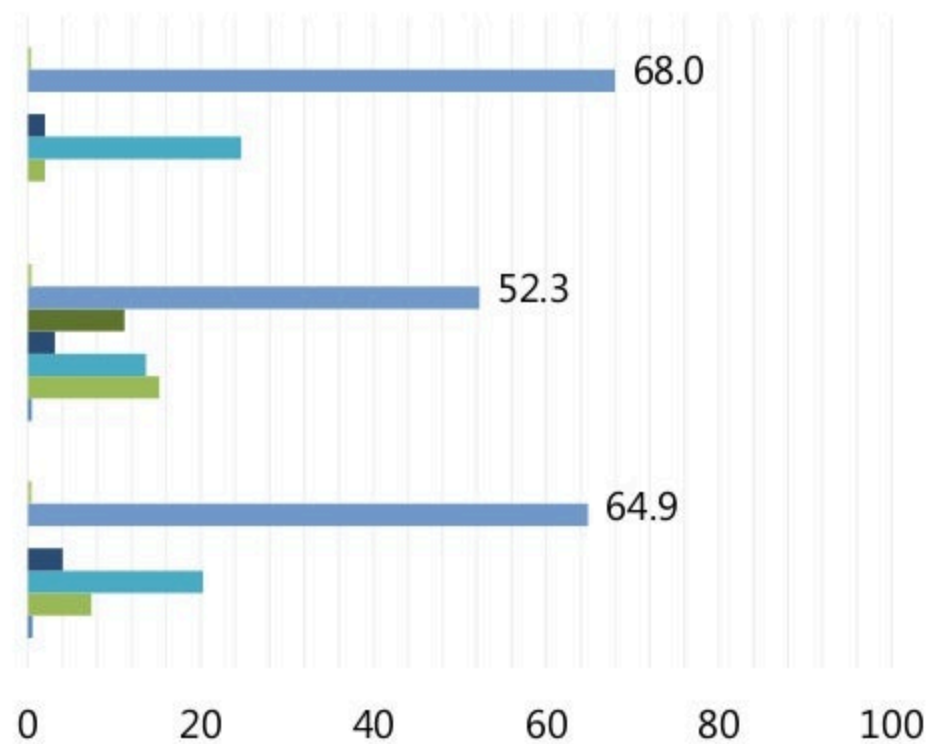
Reasons for not cultivating STRV



Seed Source



Plots of female headed households



Plots of male headed households

*Plotwise data

Women-led Seed System Models

M1: Community-based seed reinvestment model

Location: Odisha

Leading agencies: Multiple NGOs & Dept. of Agriculture

- Individual seed production
- Women SHG-led aggregation
- Obligatory contribution to community seed reserve
- Women SHG-led seed dissemination
- No financial transaction
- Informal institutional arrangements through Women self-help groups

M3: Private company led seed production and aggregation engaging WSHGs

Location: Uttar Pradesh

Leading agency: GEAG

- Individual farmer level production
- Village Resource Committee (VRC) managed
- Women SHGs involved and engaged in seed collection and processing
- VRC led aggregation
- Branding and marketing (As truthfully labelled seed)

M2: Village level seed bank and seed business model

Location: Uttar Pradesh

Leading agency: RGMVP

- Individual seed production
- Seedbank at SHG Village Organization level
- Seedbank-led aggregation
- Voluntary contribution to seed reserve
- Financial transactions
- Connected to local market

M4: Farmer Producer Company (FPC)

Location: Uttar Pradesh

Leading Agency: GDS

- A multi commodity FPC
- Some women members in FPC
- Individual production and member led aggregation
- FPC governed seed production and marketing
- Governing body for operations

Research questions

- How do the different institutional models with diverse ways and extent of engaging women contribute to their economic empowerment and entrepreneurial capacity?
- What factors influence sustainability and viability of the various models? How are they affected by the gender gaps in access to resources and services? Do collectives play a role in addressing the challenges?
- How does women's engagement in seed systems influence and be influenced by the intra household/community gender relations, social and cultural norms and, behaviour and attitudes in different socio-economic and cultural contexts? Does this vary by caste or economic status of the households?
- What is the efficacy of these institutional innovations in improving access to good quality affordable seed? What are the key challenges and opportunities in scaling out such models?

- Mixed methods
 - Survey
 - FGDs, KI Interviews with Seed VC actors



Pic credit: Vinaynath Reddy



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