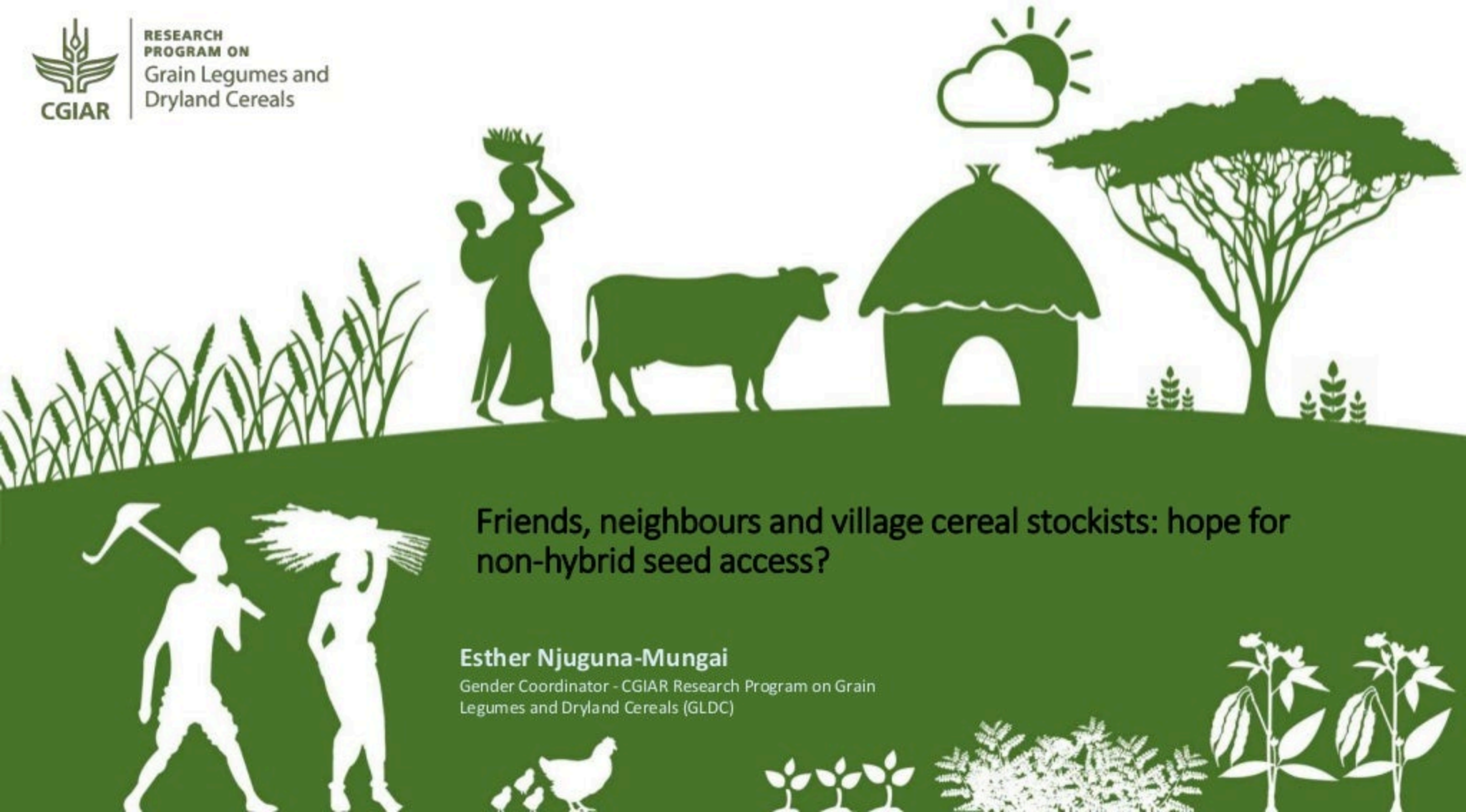




RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Grain Legumes and
Dryland Cereals



Friends, neighbours and village cereal stockists: hope for non-hybrid seed access?

Esther Njuguna-Mungai

Gender Coordinator - CGIAR Research Program on Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals (GLDC)

Background and introduction

- For most CGIAR/NARS breeding programs, when a variety is ready for release to farming communities, the plan is usually to progress from early generation seed to either seed companies or community seed producer groups
- if it's a hybrid seed, the model is new seed is reproduced each season, and the farmers know they need to replace their seed every season
- Hybrids are easy to commercialize; there is interest from the seed company and there is a market for the seed products



Background and introduction

- For non-hybrid seeds, like the portfolio in GLDC mandate, this model doesn't work in a linear way
- Because the seeds are self-pollinating etc, farmers use them for more than one season without dramatic reduction in yields.
- Farmers also get alternative channels of sourcing the non-hybrid seeds that are not the typical marketing channel
- I share two examples in this presentation

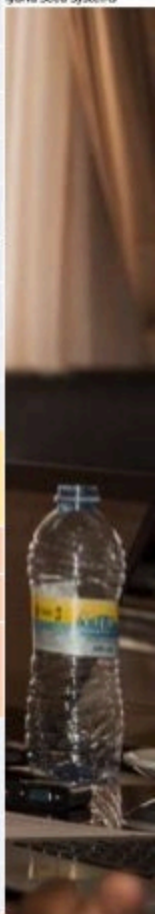


1. North and East Uganda Mixed Methods Survey, 514 HH, 2018/2019

From whom did you first get to know about/source seed for groundnut variety?



	1.11. Region											
	Eastern				Northern				Total			
	Sex of the head of household				Sex of the head of household				Sex of the head of household			
	Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male	
	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %
Government extension	1	4.2	3	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.2	3	1.3
Farmer group	1	4.2	3	2.3	4	19.0	4	4.2	5	11.1	7	3.1
NGO/CBO	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.1	0	0.0	2	.9
Research centre (trials/demos/field days)	1	4.2	11	8.4	1	4.8	0	0.0	2	4.4	11	4.8
Seed/grain stockiest	5	20.8	21	16.0	2	9.5	20	20.8	7	15.6	41	18.1
Another farmer relative	10	41.7	59	45.0	13	61.9	57	59.4	23	51.1	116	51.1
Another farmer neighbor	5	20.8	24	18.3	1	4.8	10	10.4	6	13.3	34	15.0
Radio/newspaper/TV	0	0.0	1	.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	.4
Other	0	0.0	9	6.9	0	0.0	2	2.1	0	0.0	11	4.8
Own Seed	1	4.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.0	1	2.2	1	.4
Total	24	100.0	131	100.0	21	100.0	96	100.0	45	100.0	227	100.0



But **why** and **how** do farmers, relatives and neighbours account for **66%** of the sources mentioned for groundnuts?

Own saved seeds – which is considered key for most legumes accounted for only 2.2% for the female farmers and 0.4% for male farmers



Photocredit: Ruth Wanjiku, CBCC. Women farmers in East Uganda

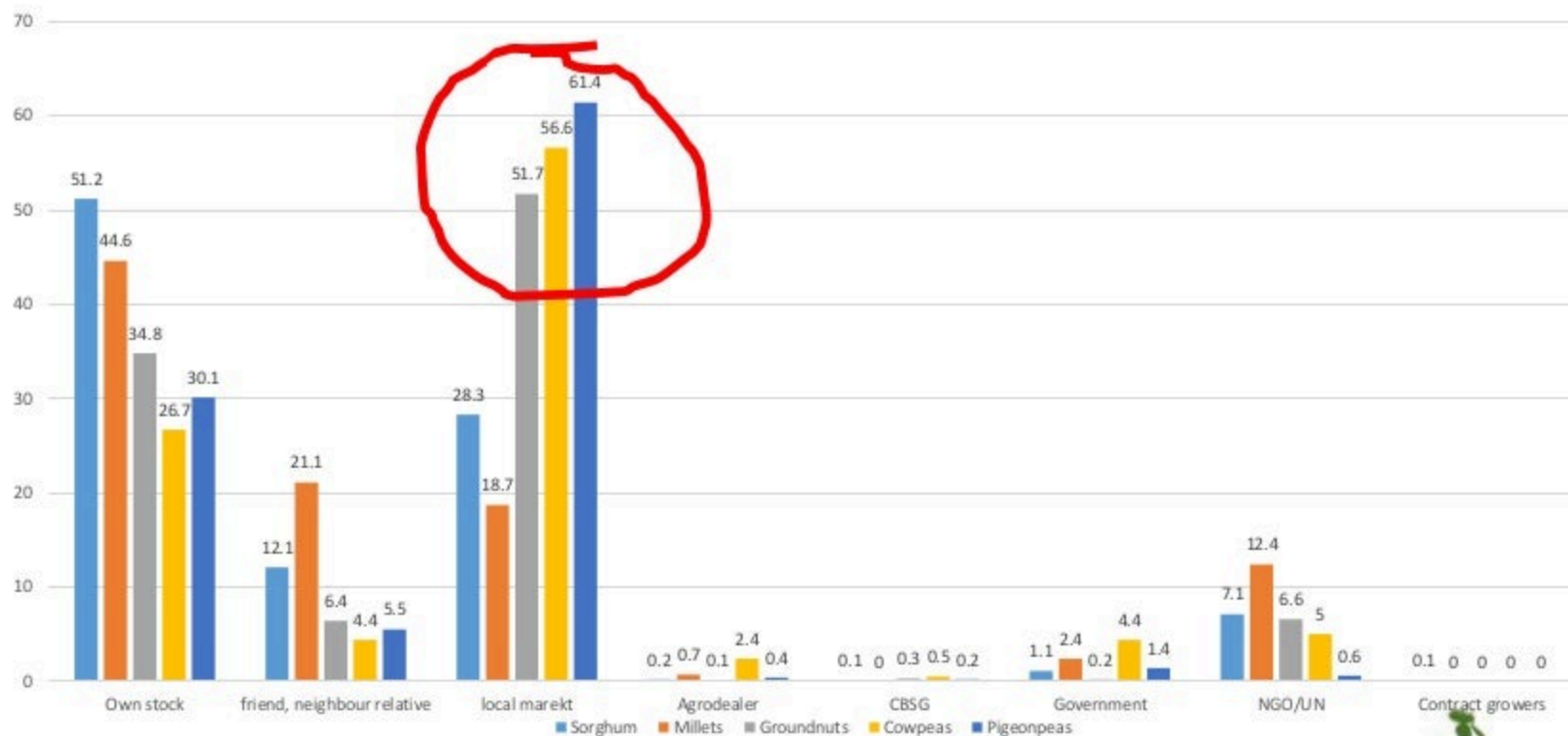
Culture of sharing seeds as an integral part of sharing farm labour

		sex of the farmer	
		Female(n=291)	Male(n=223)
Labour Type used by Farmer		Column N%	Column N%
Family labour	No	0.0	.4
	Yes	100.0	99.6
Hired Labour	No	44.3	42.2
	Yes	55.7	57.8
Both family and hired labour	No	44.3	42.6
	Yes	55.7	57.4
Community shared labour	Eleja		
	Aleya		

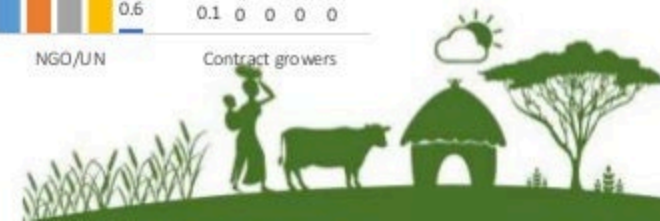


Photo credit: Africacare/Adolphe Muwaw. Women working together in South Kivu

2. McGuire and Sperling: The legume and cereals seed sources for 6 countries

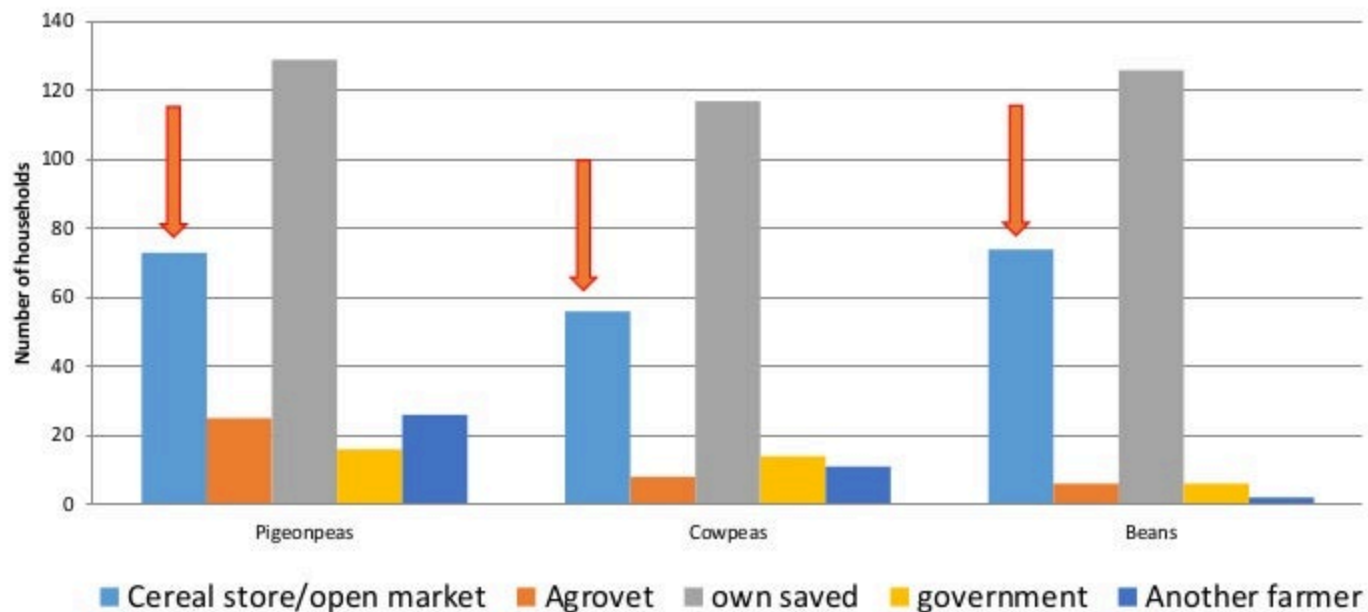


- Malawi,
- Kenya,
- DR Congo,
- Haiti,
- South Sudan and
- Zimbabwe
- sample of 2592 households



Cross sectional household survey/Infrastructure, Eastern Kenya (Njuguna et al., 2014)

Fig 1: Main seed channels for joint legume plots

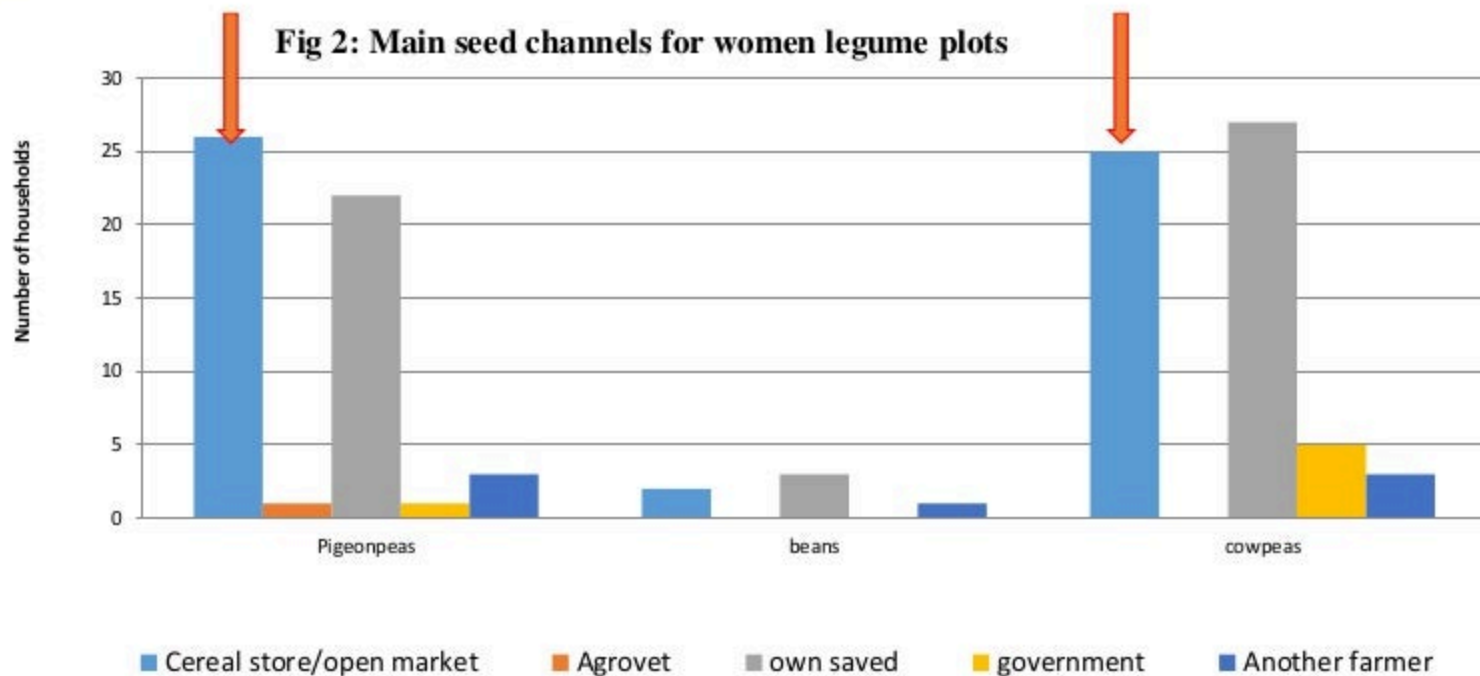


- Farmers close to main county headquarters >10 agrovet shops
- Farmers 30km from county headquarters, < 3 agrovet shops
- Farmers 60 km away from county headquarters, <=1 agrovet shop
- 500 Households



Cross sectional household survey/Infrastructure, Eastern Kenya

Fig 2: Main seed channels for women legume plots



Are the cereal stockist's an opportunity for GLDC gender responsive seed delivery?

- *Cereal stockists* are traders with a shop and storage facility in the trading centres in almost all rural markets centre
- Farmers in Eastern Kenya sell their farm produce to the *cereal stockists* at harvesting time (negative connotation – exploitation?)
- They play a key role of legume and cereals aggregation in the local villages. The cereal stockiest are entrepreneurs, they invest in crop protection, sell some of the produce forward on the value chain



Are the cereal stockist's an opportunity for GLDC gender responsive seed delivery?

- At the beginning of the rainy season, they sell 'grain' to the farmers, at a higher price, and the farmers use the grain as seed.
 - They are the first link to the market for rural farmers, they are already living in the rural areas
 - **Their transaction involves 'cash' component**
 - With a business objective, they play a critical role in maintenance of germplasm, that is adapted to the local conditions
 - **They are *trusted* by the community members, especially the women who can sell grains in small quantities to them**
 - They have a social capital that is also supported by the fact that they sell other consumables, necessary for rural households e.g. soap, sugar – and occasionally run a credit system for the farmers
 - **They have the potential to be a 'varieties/high quality seed' information hub for the villages**



Are the cereal stockist's an opportunity for GLDC gender responsive seed delivery?

- Cereal stockists' are business men, they are not agriculturalists, do they consider the impact their actions have on the livelihoods and food security of surrounding villages? Do they link the dots?
- The regulatory framework (in Kenya) does not give them leverage to sell seed?
- Cereal stockists – are they universal in all dryland areas across countries? They are not used by extension processes
- GLDC seed systems struggles with entry point for non-hybrids seeds into the commercial delivery pathway, would the cereal stockiest hold the key?



Are the cereal stockist's an opportunity for GLDC gender responsive seed delivery?

- The intimate relationship between the cereal stockists in the rural villages and the rural women and men farmers is a unique social enterprise that needs to be explored for delivery of improved legume varieties.
- The policy framework to support their recognition could be tested
- Their capacities on knowledge of high-quality seed of improved varieties to be considered.
- Every rural woman, even though constrained by mobility norms, always goes to their local trading centres, to sell produce or buy inputs; their chance of interacting with a cereal stockists in the market is very high





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Thank you

