

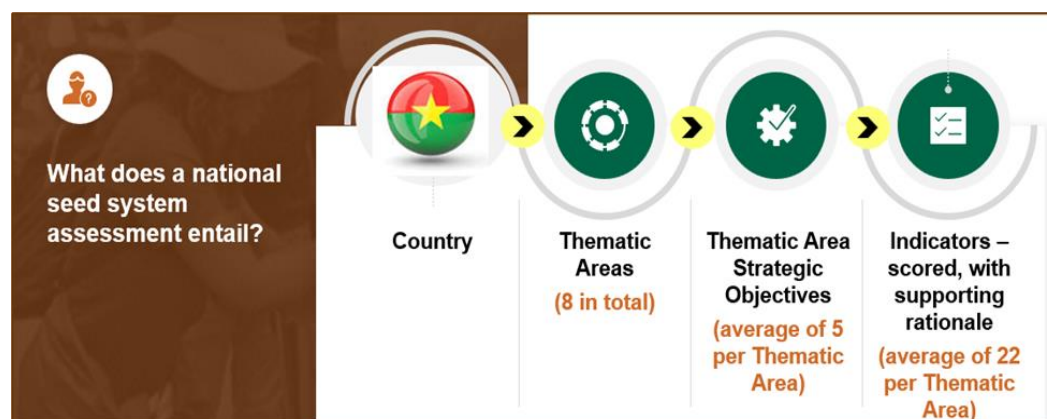
ONE PAGE SUMMARY OF PROCESS THROUGH PHASE 3

#	STEP NAME CATEGORY OF WORK	STEP DESCRIPTION
<b>Phase 1 – Preliminary and baseline work</b>		
1	<b>PRELIMINARY</b> Desk work and discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop list of key country contacts</li> <li>Gather and review other seed system findings (TASAI, ASI, well-vetted studies and reports)</li> <li>Confirm list of who needs to be involved from the country for scoring (i.e., who will “own” the scores and work on recommendations?)</li> </ul>
2	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> Team socialization and training	Review process, TA indicators and scores, profile template, document and data requests, lists to be compiled
3	<b>DATA&amp;DOCUMENTS</b> Desk work and discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gather and review data and documents</li> <li>Complete profile template</li> <li>Complete lists, e.g., of seed producers</li> <li>Complete maps</li> <li>Compile bibliography of curated reports to be used in scoring evidence</li> </ul>
4	<b>BASELINE</b> Assessment scoring and recommendations	Collaboratively agree upon score for each indicator, including consideration of well-vetted literature and in-country expertise. Note areas where there is major uncertainty about score.
<b>Phase 2 – Evidence collection and scoring work</b>		
5	<b>GAP IDENTIFICATION</b> Assessment scoring and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas where additional information is needed to be confident about baseline score.</li> <li>Determine how to get information, e.g.,: site visits; surveys; interviews; focus groups</li> </ul> <p>This should also be a learning process for all.</p>
6	<b>INFO COLLECTION</b> Assessment scoring and recommendations	Scope work to be done from above list, choose tools to carry out, contract local experts, collect and analyse the information, share in agreed format, etc.
7	<b>SCORING</b> Assessment scoring and recommendations	Consider all information gathered and analysis completed, work with government stakeholders to review all scores and confirm or revise them based on evidence reviewed
<b>Phase 3 – Recommendation and proposed solution work</b>		
8	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> Assessment scoring and recommendations	Collaboratively develop recommendations for sustainable and large-scale system improvements
9	<b>SOLUTIONS</b> Assessment scoring and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose specific solutions</li> <li>Determine sequencing <b>both within and across TAs</b></li> <li>Link to CESSA, or other support groups, for implementation</li> </ul>

## SEED SYSTEM ASSESSMENT TOOL (SeedSAT) ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Seed System Assessment Tool (SeedSAT) is an assessment approach that supports comprehensive analysis of national seed systems in Africa. The purpose of using SeedSAT to explore the current status of a country's seed system is to better understand the optimal points of leverage and investment to support seed system modernization. Ultimately, the goal is to support reforms in the seed sector through prioritized investment recommendations with strong value cases to leverage internal and external funding directly aimed at improving farmer access to high-quality seed. SeedSAT does not duplicate good work that has already been done in recent years; the framework allows the use of key recent reports which provide credible evidence of seed system status.

The SeedSAT assessments are premised on several principles. It has been a learning journey for all parties involved while raising awareness of how to sustainably improve national seed systems. The assessment has thus been a highly collaborative approach between the assessment team and the key national stakeholders. Standardization of the assessment approach has been done to support replicability to AGRA countries and beyond. SeedSAT serves as the initial starting point for CESSA following the realization by many practitioners including donor partners, that seed system interventions have not been sufficiently evidence-based, developed with stakeholder involvement and learning, and aligned with best practices. SeedSAT aims to change this pattern. The figure below shows a summary of the assessment structure at a national level.



The Assessment methodology is outlined below with the process divided into 3 phases with 9 distinct steps.

### Phase I – Preliminary and baseline work

#### 1. PRELIMINARY. Desk work and discussion

This is the first activity in phase I that involves the development of the list of key country stakeholder contacts specific to the 8 seed systems segments. The final product is a comprehensive thematic area-specific stakeholder list which has to be approved by the Thematic area lead for adoption.

The second step is to gather and review other seed system studies, publications, and reports that are well-vetted from a variety of sources. It is critical at this stage to compile and confirm a list of who needs to be involved from the country for the scoring process. This gives room for the stakeholders to own the scores and recommendations from the assessment.

## **2. INTRODUCTION. Team socialization and training**

This stage of the assessment involves training the assessment teams for the assessment ahead. The country assessment teams include country teams, country support experts and Thematic area leads. This facilitates the review process where TA indicators, and scores, profile templates, document and data requests forms, and lists to be compiled are reviewed.

A SeedSAT socialization meeting that brings together the country assessment team and all the stakeholders is organized. This grounds the planned assessment of the stakeholders with a view to their buy-in and collaboration during the entire process

## **3. DATA&DOCUMENTS. Desk work and discussion**

This step involves gathering and reviewing the relevant data and documents that will be used in completing the profile templates, and lists, e.g., of seed producers, distributors, etc. A bibliography of curated reports to be used in scoring evidence is also done at this stage.

## **4. BASELINES. Assessment scoring and recommendations**

This is the initial step in developing a baseline score for each Thematic area. The score for each indicator is collaboratively agreed upon, including consideration of well-vetted literature and in-country expertise. Areas, where there is major uncertainty about the score, are noted and flagged for possible collection of more relevant information.

## **Phase 2 – Evidence collection and scoring work.**

### **5. GAP IDENTIFICATION. Assessment scoring and recommendations**

During the baseline scoring process, there are cases where scoring is inconclusive due to lack of vital information. This leads to identifying areas where additional information is needed to be confident about the baseline score. The information is collected through various methods including site visits, surveys, interviews, and focus groups.

### **6. INFO COLLECTION. Assessment scoring and recommendations**

The thematic area lead and the country assessment team plan and gather the missing information. This is based on the scope of the work to be done from the list in step 5.

Appropriate tools are selected to carry out, contract local experts, collect and analyze the information, which is then shared in an agreed format, etc.

**7. FINAL SCORING.** Assessment scoring and recommendations

The final assessment scoring and recommendations are done at this stage after all the necessary missing information is collected and used in the process.

Once all information is gathered and analyzed, the assessment team works with government stakeholders to review all scores and confirm or revise them based on the evidence reviewed.

**Phase 3 – Recommendation and proposed solution work**

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS.** Assessment scoring and recommendations

Collaboratively, the recommendations are developed for sustainable and large-scale system improvements.

The Thematic area lead works with the country experts and the relevant stakeholders to come up with recommendations. Solid recommendations are made after this final scoring addressing the indicators that performed dimly for the improvement of the functioning of the national seed system under investigation. Some recommendations may address a number of indicators and may cut across thematic areas.

A final workshop is organized to bring together all members of the country assessment team and the stakeholders of all the national seed sector for a validation exercise of the assessment results and the proposed recommendations. The final outcome of this meeting informs the adoption of the final results and recommendations.

**9. SOLUTIONS.** Assessment scoring and recommendations

Assessment scoring and recommendations

After the adoption of the final results and recommendations, specific solutions are proposed through the development of the national seed sector strategy and investment plan. The plan determines sequencing both within and across TAs. The implementation plan is then launched at a country level and handed over officially to the national government which will be the custodian. The Implementation Plan is linked to CESSA or other support groups, and development partners, for implementation as described.