COMMUNITY SEED BANKS FOR SEED SECURITY, FOOD SECURITY, INCOME AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE COMMUNITY SEED BANKS IN UGANDA?

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What are Community Seed banks??
- Seed stores managed by farmers in particular communities
- The seeds kept in this store are produced by farmers in those communities after being trained in good quality seed production techniques
- Farmers borrow the seed at the start of the rainy season and return it after harvesting with interest in form of extra quantity of the amount of seed borrowed
- The seed returned has to meet quality standards of the seed bank as set by the farmers in that community

Why are Community Seed banks important??
- Farmers used to buy poor quality seeds from markets, shops, neighbors etc.
- Farmers make a choice of the types of seeds they want which they lacked before
- Farmers lacked choices because there were few varieties available
- Farmers used to move long distances looking for seeds but now the stores are within the community
- Some types of seeds had totally disappeared from the communities

Some of the Benefits from Seed Banks
- Since its establishment in 2010, for example; Kiziba/Kabwohe seed bank has increased common bean seed types in the area from 27 to 69 types and benefited 1027 farmers.
- Over 500 households are accessing good quality seeds annually from the three seed banks
- The farmers’ bean yields have improved by 50% as a result of planting good quality seeds from the bank
- The increase in yields has led to improved food security and improved access to bean protein by households
- There is improved income from the sale of beans
- Beans are grown together with bananas and they fix nitrogen which improves the soil and the yields of bananas
- The co-operation and social harmony has increased in the families due to the seed bank making them work together which has improved the general social cohesion of the communities
- Over 60% of the seed bank beneficiaries are women and this has empowered them financially and are now able to take on leadership roles
- Seed banks promote farmers rights of; saving, using and exchanging seed, sharing benefits and participating in decision making

Acknowledgements to Farmers and Partners below: