

# Seed certification and marketing governance in Mali: Do farmers actually benefit?

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## Plan

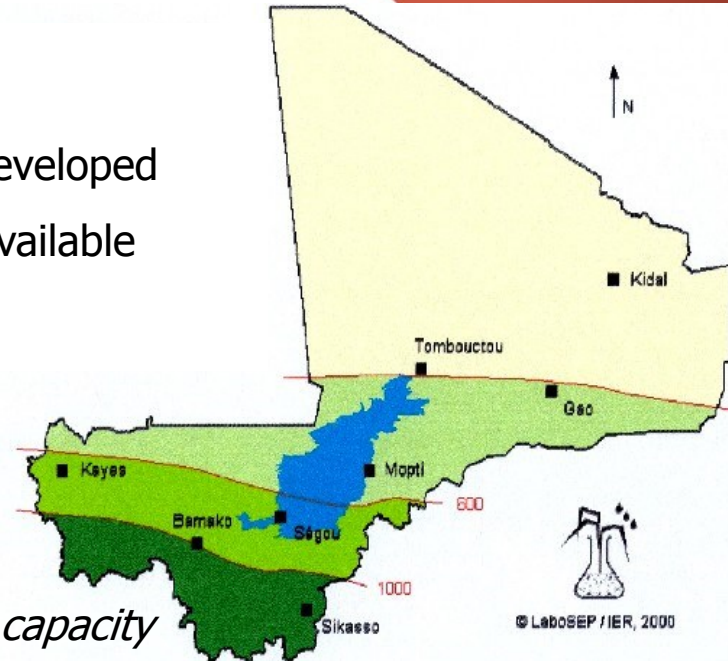
- **Background**
- **Seed policy**
- **Seed actors / Network**
- **Disconnections**



## Background

- ❖ Agriculture employed about 60% of pop
- ❖ Improved varieties are well promoted
- ❖ However, seed market remains under developed
  - ❖ Small quantity of **certified** seeds available for farmers
  - ❖ For the majority, seed sourced from exchange, in kind or cash

*Lack of certified seed hinders adaptation capacity of farmers*



## Seed policy

- ❖ In Mali, seed production, distribution and use are guided by seed law
  - ❖ Seed Law developed in 2010
  - ❖ Seed regulation: seed when offered for sale have to **be certified with official label** indicating the kind and variety and its % germination
  - ❖ Any seed that is not properly labelled is not supposed to be sold



## Seed Actors

### ❖ Formal Seed Sector

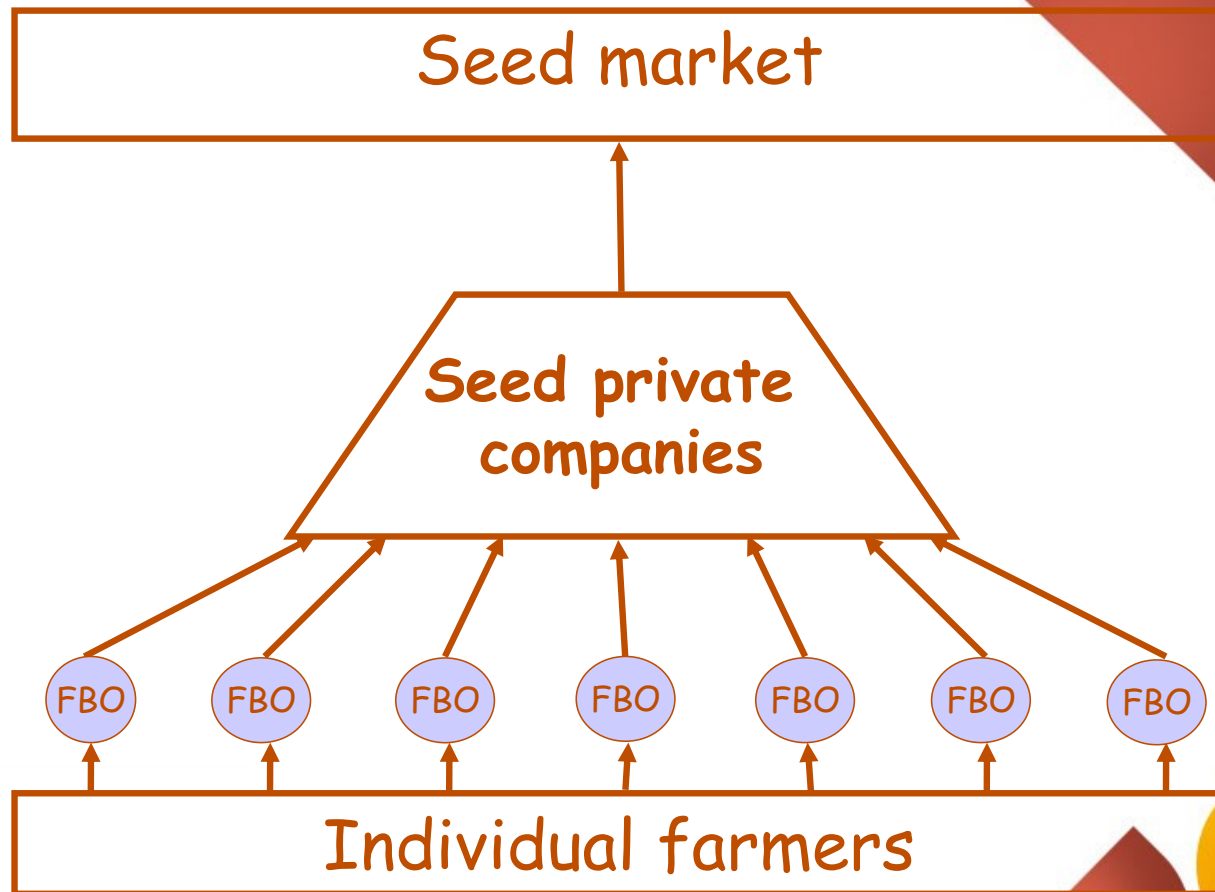
- ❖ Research centers (IER; ICRISAT); Farmers' association and private companies (FASO KABA)
- ❖ Investments in R&D of new varieties; registration, marketing and distribution

### ❖ Informal Seed Sector

- ❖ Farming community (70% of smallholder farmers)
- ❖ Develop & maintain own varieties based on preferences and means of seed exchange; no formal quality control



## Disconnections



OP : Organisation de Producteurs

## Disconnections...

- ❖ Farmer associations can hardly afford certification costs.
  - ❖ On average, certification of 1 ton of seed cost around USD 146
  - ❖ ... because of the high seed certification cost, >80% of seed used is from traditional and informal seed systems

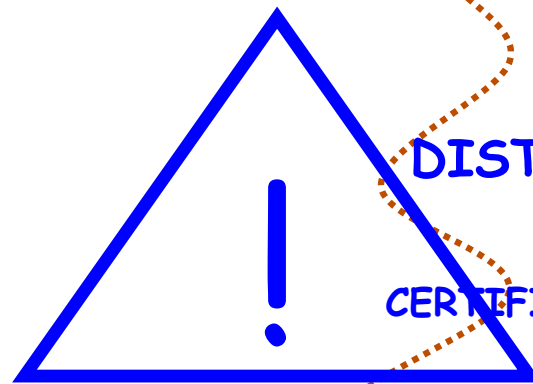
*"[...] Now, the rainy season is short, we all shift to early maturing varieties. But we hardly produce the seed because we cannot afford the certification cost..."*

(Mamoudou Cisse, Bougouni, Feb 16)



## Disconnections...

Access to certified seed market



DISTANCE & COMPLEXITY

CERTIFICATION COST

Individual farmers



## Disconnections ...

- ❖ Seed policy is set at national level to professionalise the sector
  - ❖ ... but not supporting local development
  - ❖ and private sector seems to make profit from the regulation
- ❖ Why the gaps ?
  - ❖ Top down approach of policy process (limited consultation)
  - ❖ Insufficient resources (human and financial)



## How to bridge the g

- ◆ Consultations
- ◆ Subsidy
- ◆ Decentralised the certific



### ◆ Information Training

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options for M  
platforms are  
investment in

Can an increase in the p  
climate variability and cl  
platforms think so.

Agriculture contributes a  
economy. Smallholder fa  
crops, but these days the  
variability risks. Science  
Bougouni, Koutiala, and  
conditions for effective s  
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actors, extension officers, and the private sector. The platforms have focused on  
policy information sharing and joint consultations to promote multi-stakeholder

$$16,800 \div 48,000 = .35$$

$$.35 \times 100 = 35\%$$



Policies and Institutions

## Challenges

- ❖ How to promote more public investment without compromising interests of seed companies?





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