



COVID-19 Impact on Farmers' Seed Security



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Seed Security

= Farmers are able to access the quality seeds and planting materials they desire at time of sowing

Key dimensions

1. **Availability** – is there seed in the area, at time of sowing?
2. **Access** – can farmers buy / barter / borrow seed
(*also, related information*)?
3. **Quality**
 - **Genetic** – adapted to environments, traits farmers want?
 - **Seed** - healthy, free of contaminants, can germinate?

Smallholder seed sources

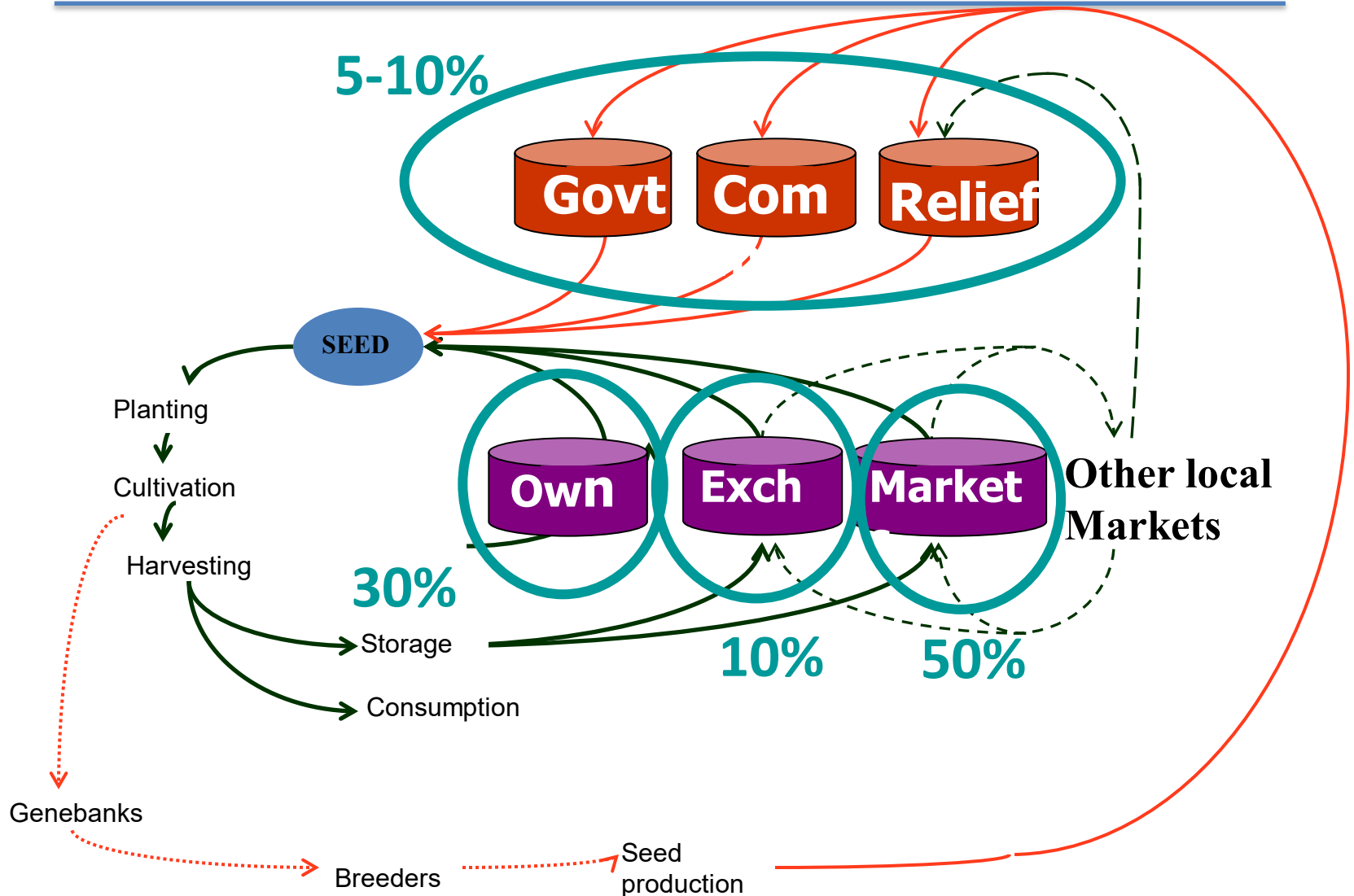


Figure: Almekinders and Louwaars, 1999; data Seed Security Assessments



COVID-19 impacts

- **Availability:** formal - ↓? ; informal – modest change
- **ACCESS :** big impact on demand
 - Income ↓↓; market function disrupted
 - Less \$\$ to support programmes (subsidies, financial services, extension, insurance, etc.)?
- **Quality :** changing crop profiles?



Resilience – short-term

- **Needs assessments** – responses based on evidence
- **Support existing markets:** formal and informal
- **Messaging** – save seed
- **Cash / Voucher Assistance** – w/ advice, links to quality suppliers. **Safety, previous experience**
- **Direct Seed Distribution** – adapted, timely, good quality, mix of crops/varieties



Resilience – medium-term

- **Diversify supply** of quality seed of adapted varieties
 - Breeding + agronomic packages
 - Assessment + promotion: e.g. demo-plots
 - Diversify seed production + business models
- **Diversify marketing outlets** - > closer to smallholders
- **Diversify quality assurance options**
 - Quality Declared Seed, other standards?
 - Decentralise processes