

**TO REGISTER OR
NOT TO REGISTER?
THAT IS THE QUESTION**

**WEBINAR 10 NOVEMBER 2020
BRAM DE JONGE**

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OXFAM

1

What is a farmer variety?

No specific definition, but one main characteristic:

Farmers play a key role in the development of the variety, as opposed to varieties solely developed by formal sector breeders

Traditional variety ↔ Improved variety
Heterogeneous material ↔ 'DUS' variety

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Page 2 **OXFAM**

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The Formal Seed Sector

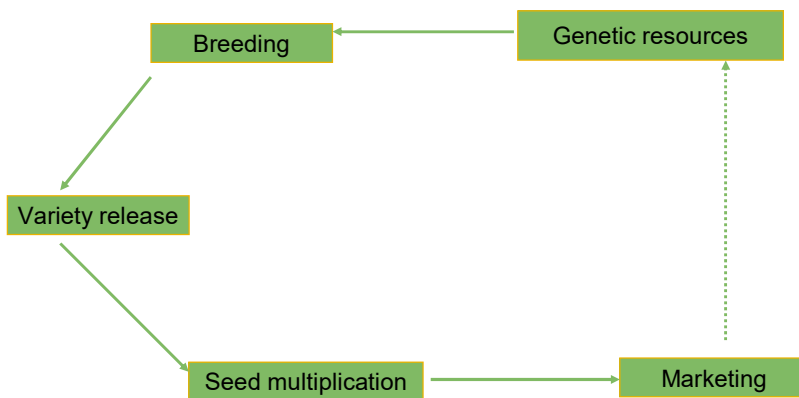


Figure: Louwaars & de Boef, 2012

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The Informal or Farmers' Seed System

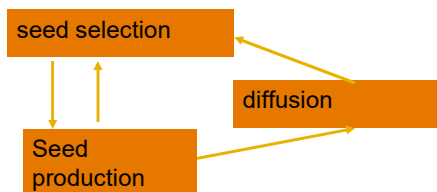


Figure: Louwaars & de Boef, 2012

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The Formal and Farmers' Seed System

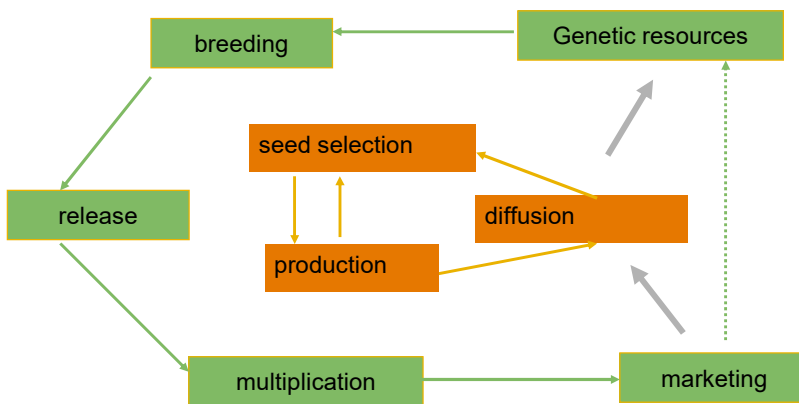


Figure: Louwaars & de Boef, 2012

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Why to register farmer varieties?

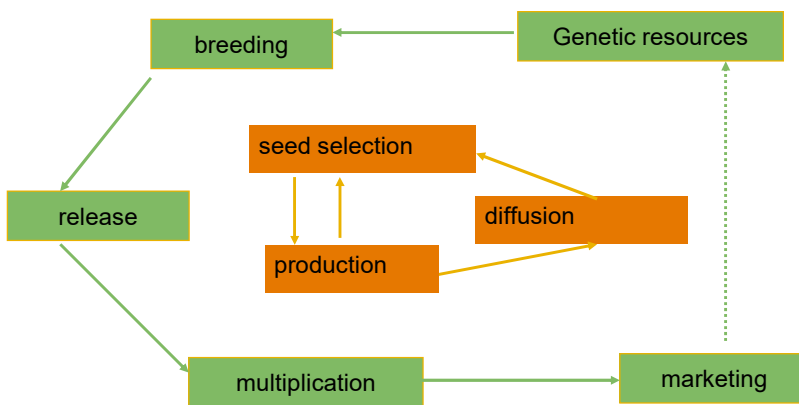


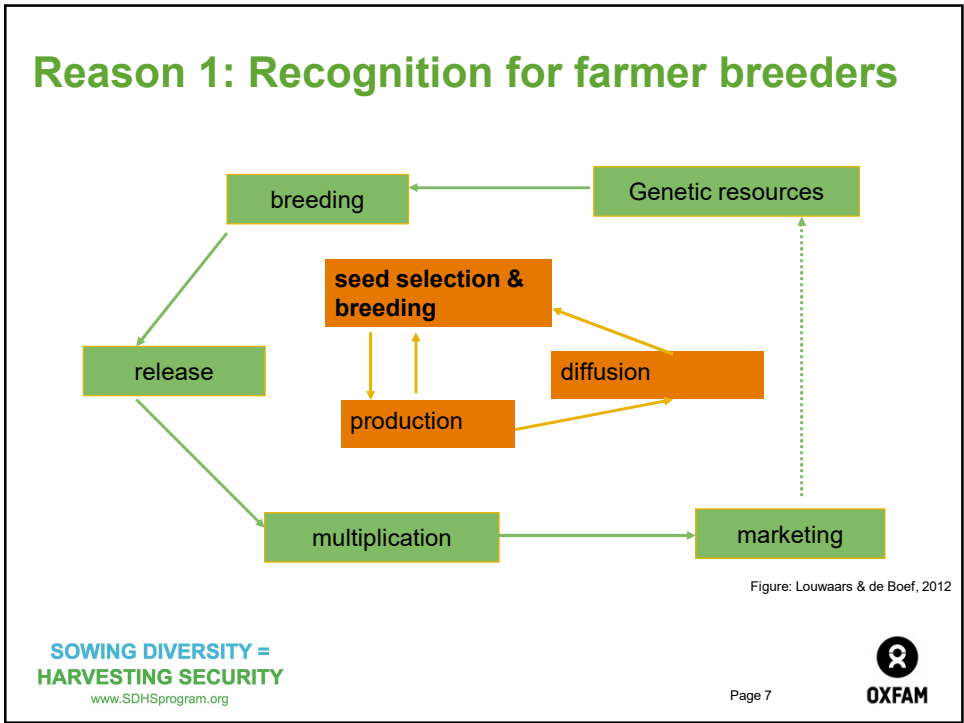
Figure: Louwaars & de Boef, 2012

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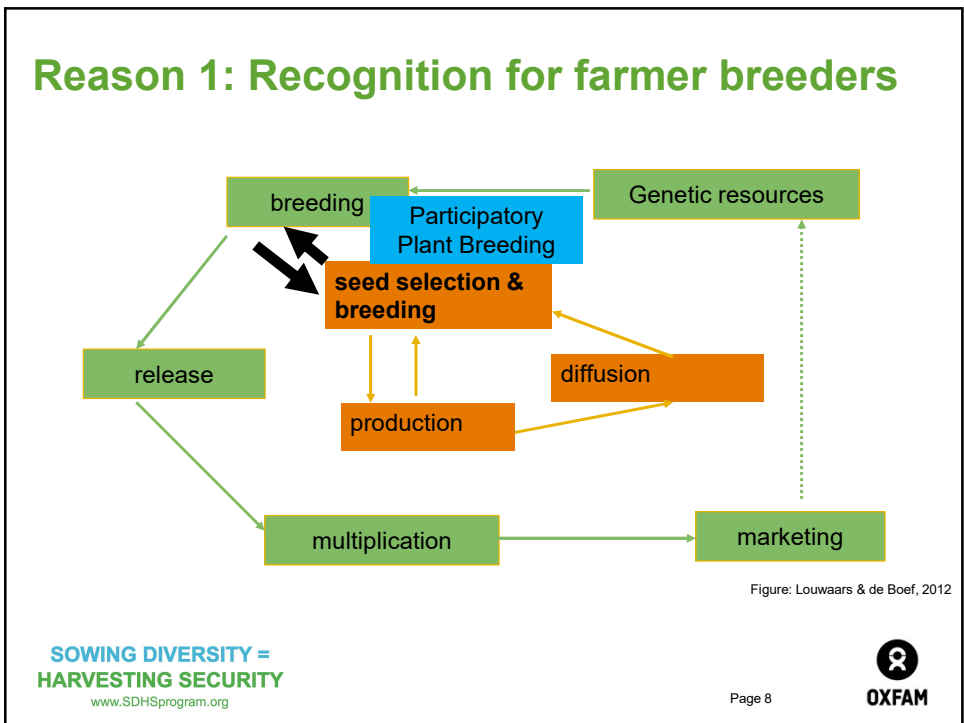
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Reason 1: Recognition for farmer breeders

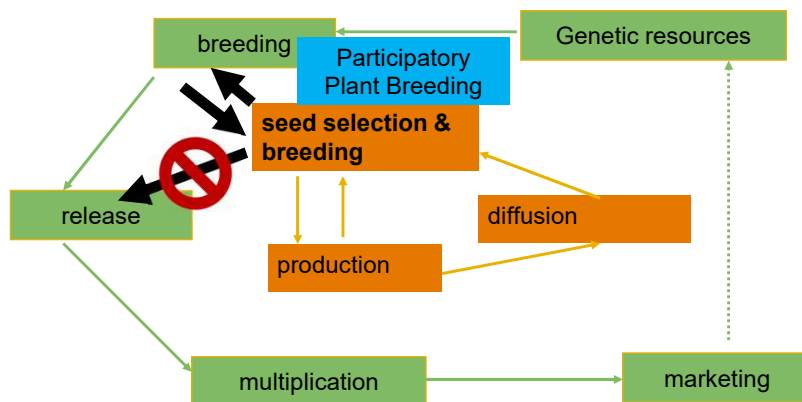


Figure: Louwaars & de Boef, 2012

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Reason 2: Commercialisation

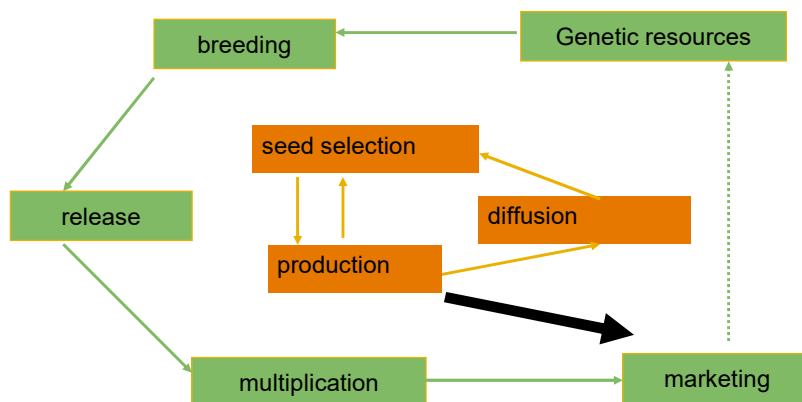


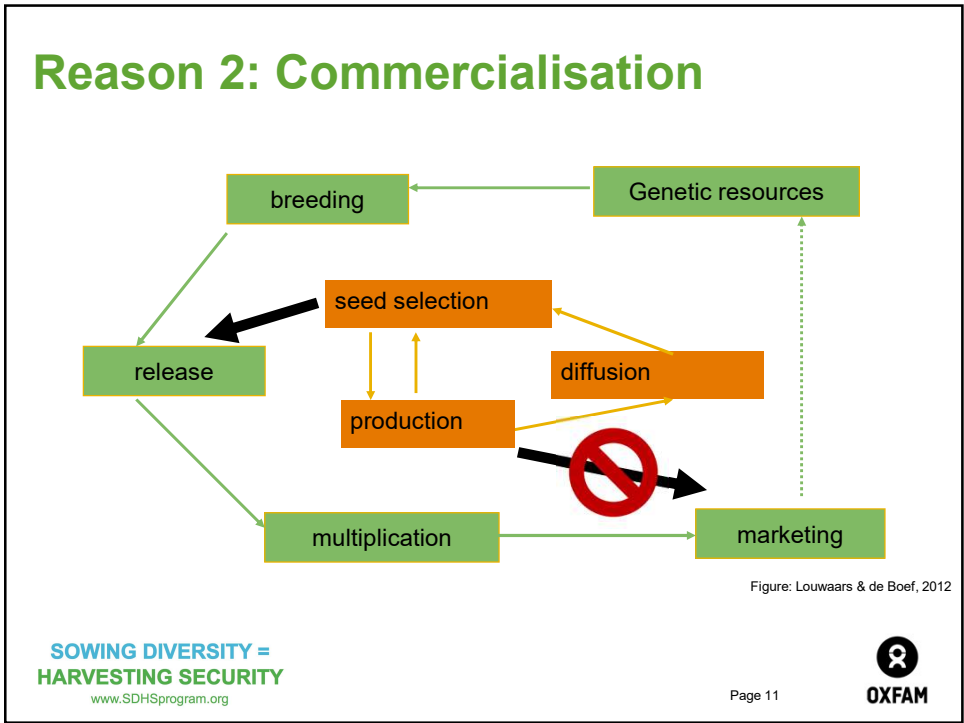
Figure: Louwaars & de Boef, 2012

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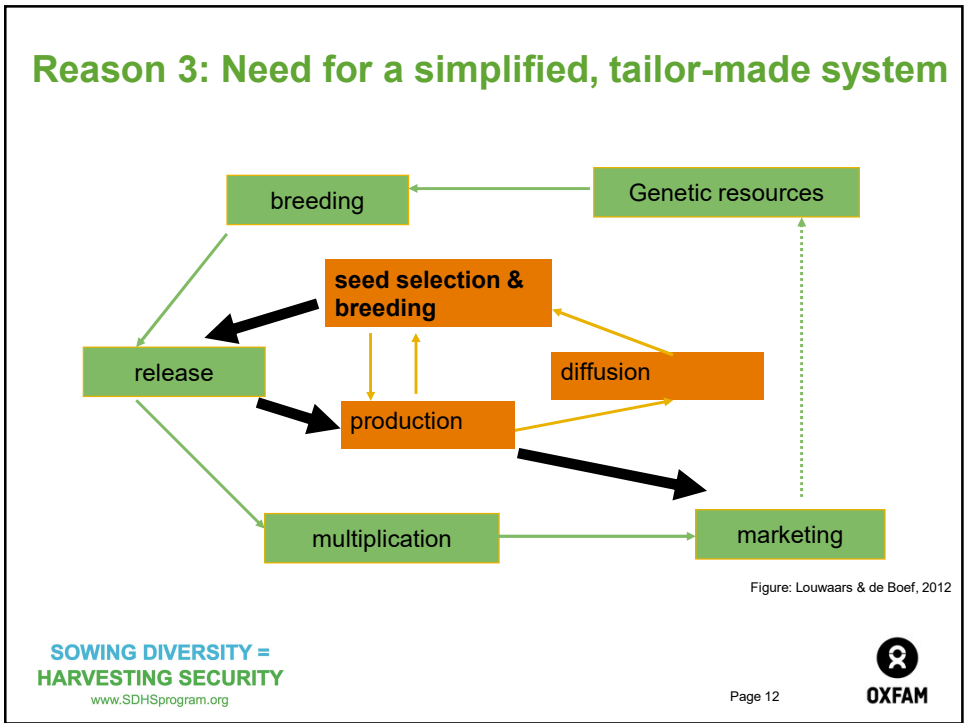
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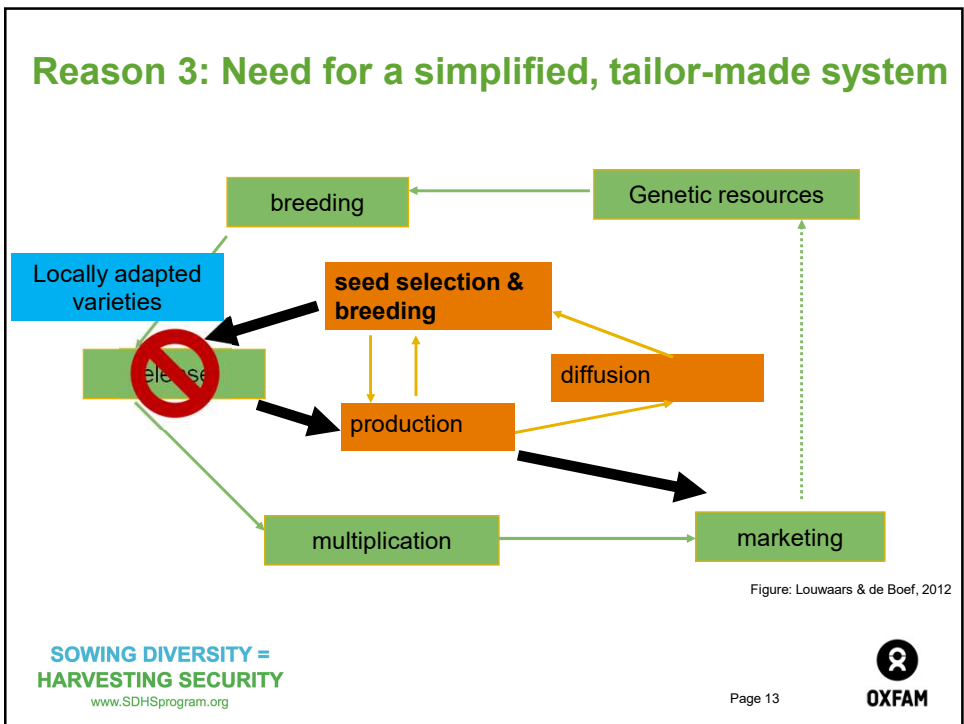
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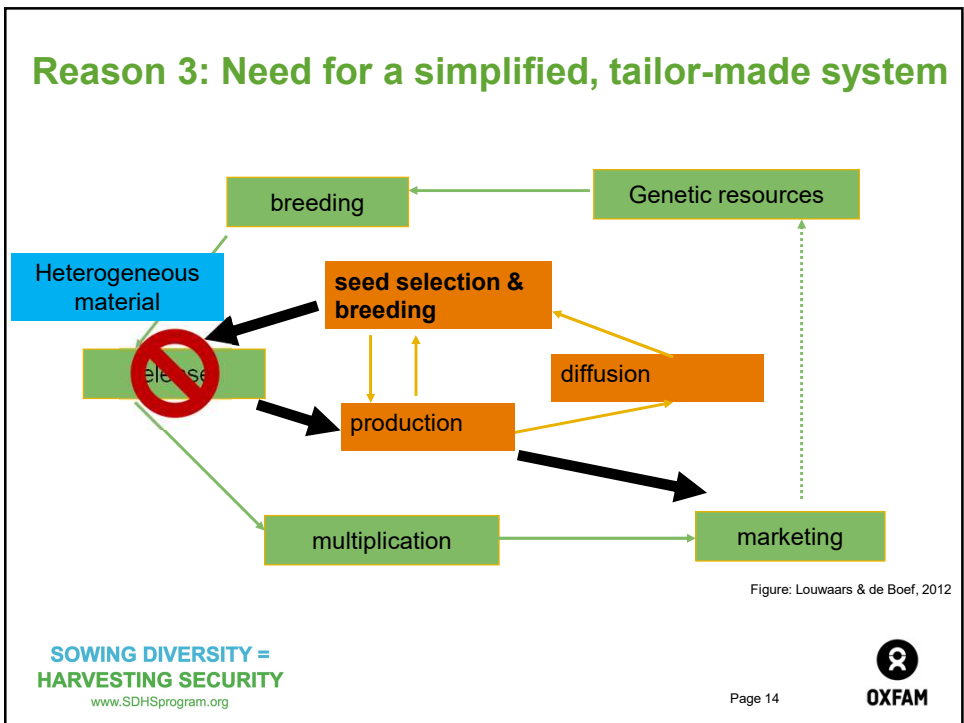
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Reason 4: Conservation

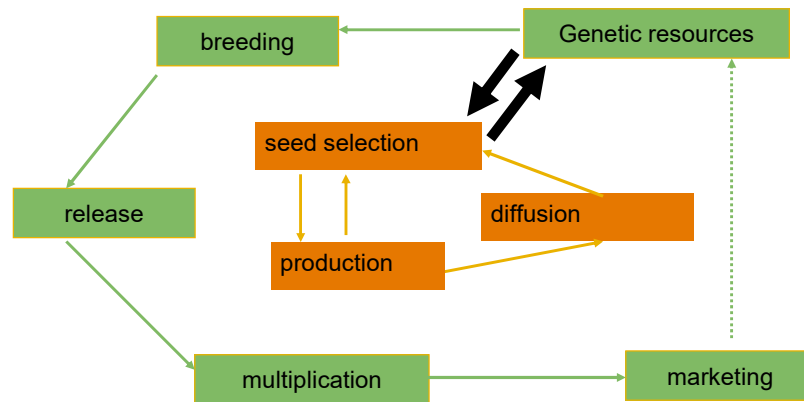


Figure: Louwaars & de Boef, 2012

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Why to register farmer varieties?

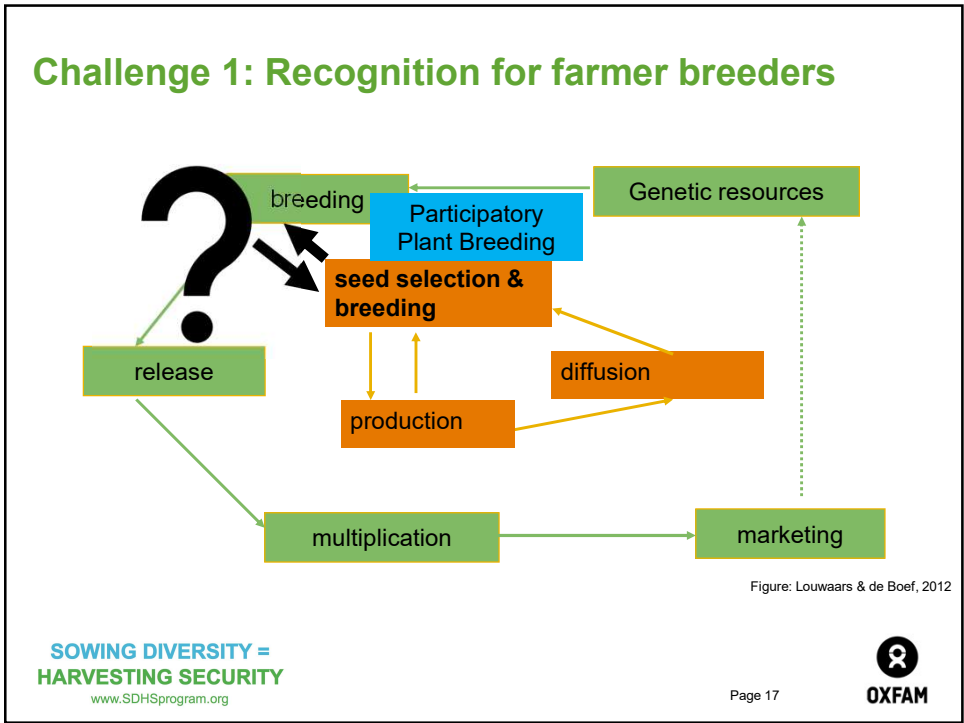
- ❖ To recognize farmer breeders & the value of farmers seed systems
- ❖ To be able to commercialize farmer varieties; incentivize seed production and increase crop-diversity in seed markets more customized to local needs and preferences
- ❖ To establish a simplified, tailor-made system
 - Evaluation by farmers in farmers' fields
 - Cheaper, faster (localized) system
 - Broader/more flexible registration criteria
 - Possibility to register heterogeneous material
- ❖ To promote/reward in-situ conservation

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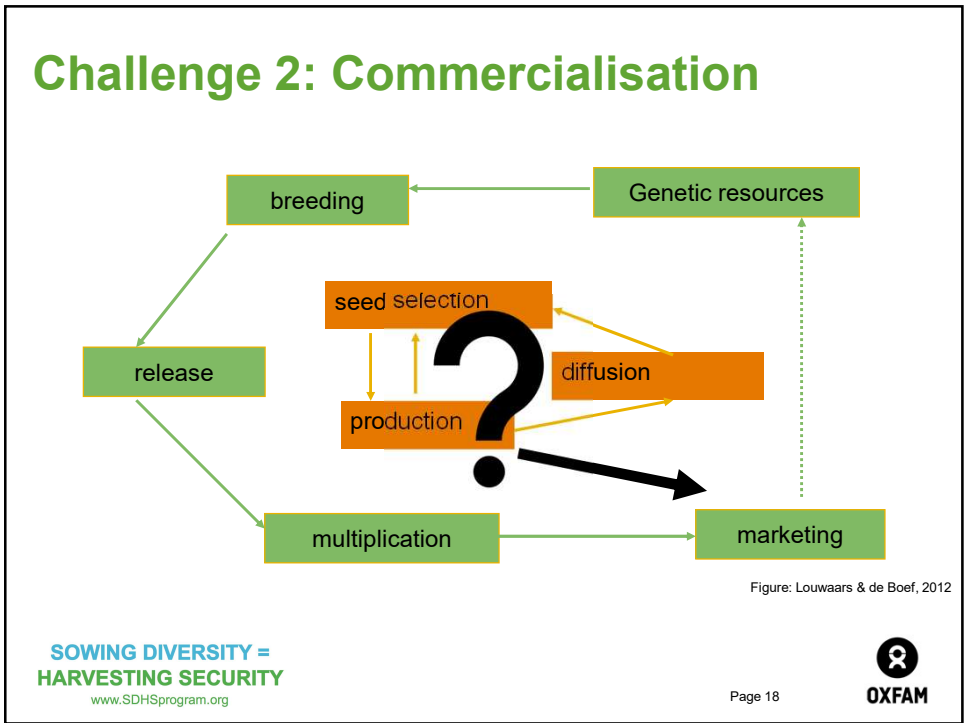
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Challenge 3: Need for a simplified, tailor-made system

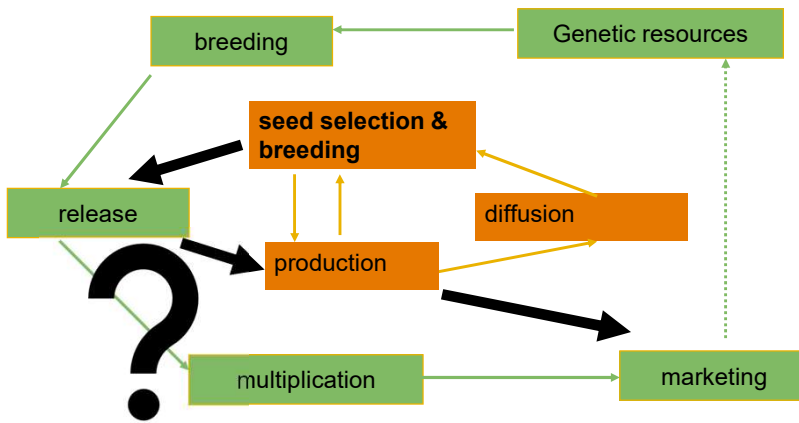


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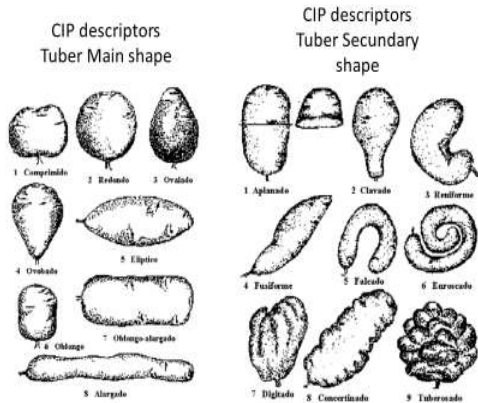
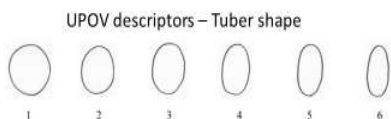
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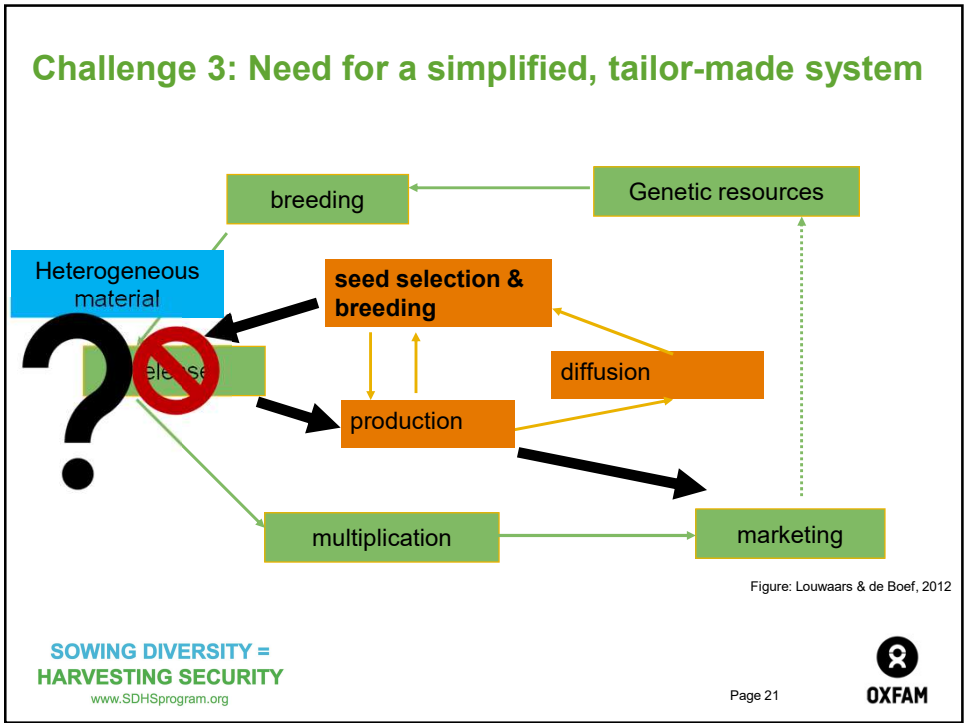


Challenge 3: Need for a simplified, tailor-made system

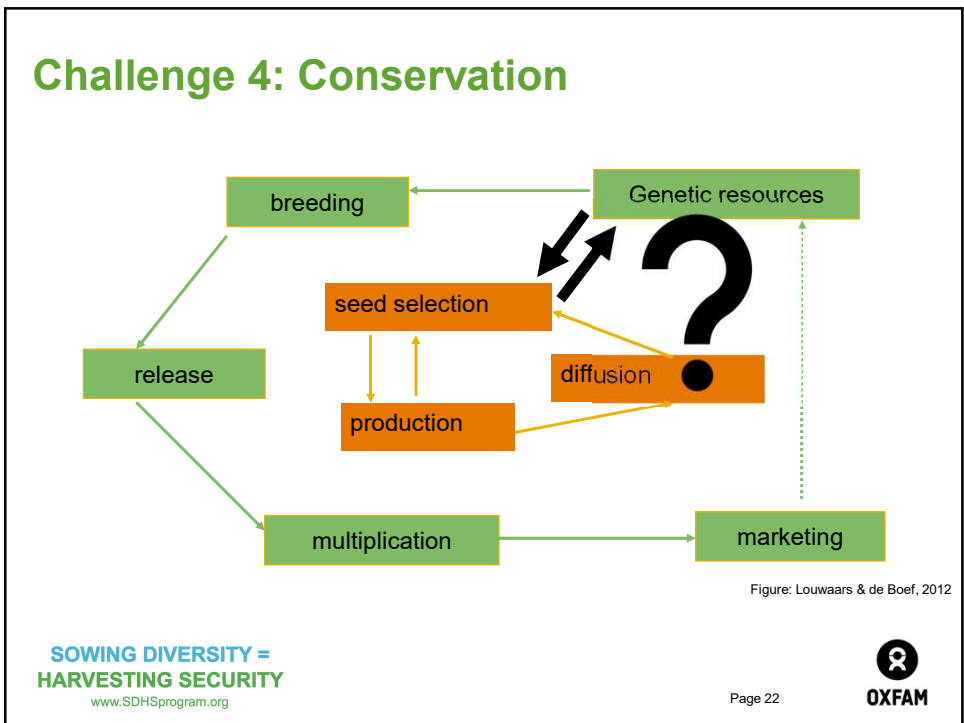
CHARACTERISTICS FOR FARMER'S VARIETIES TO BE CONSIDERED AND INSERTED ON FORM RV-2

| TUBER | UPOV descriptors | CIP descriptors |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Shape (main) | 1=Round | compressed, round |
| | 2=Short-oval | oval, obovate |
| | 3=Oval | elliptical, oblong |
| | 4= Long-oval | elongated oblong |
| | 5=Long | elongate |
| | 6=Very long | |
| Secondary shape | | 0=Absent |
| | | 1=Flattened |
| | | 2=Nailed |
| | | 3=Reniform |
| | | 4=Fusiform |
| | | 5=Falated |
| | | 6=Coiled |
| | | 7=Fingering |
| | | 8=Concert |
| | | 9=Tuberous |





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Challenges re. the registration of farmer varieties

- ❖ How to protect the strengths of farmer seed systems?
- ❖ How to allocate and divide recognition / attribution / ownership?
- ❖ How to equitably share benefits / revenues?
- ❖ How to define farmer varieties, i.e. adjust existing 'DUS' criteria?
- ❖ How to create overall acceptance & reliability?
- ❖ Who is to maintain farmer varieties?
- ❖ Who is to carry the costs of registration, of (source) seed production, of conservation?

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So to conclude:

**To register or
not to register?
That is the question!**

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Thank you!



Photo: Sacha de Boer

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