

# Community Seed/ Gene Banks



NEEDS Assessment for Developing A Community Seed/Gene Bank for Effective Biodiversity Conservation.

## Project Summary

The Development of a Community Seed/Gene Bank for Effective Biodiversity Conservation in (Sheda, Kwali Area Council) FCT, Abuja Nigeria is a Global Environmental facility (GEF) Small grants Project, Nigeria (SGP) Implemented by the Biodiversity Education and Resource Centre (BERC), Abuja. This NEEDS Assessment report identifies gaps needed to be filled in order to have a Community Seed bank in Sheda, Kwali Area Council, Abuja.

This initiative seeks to regain, maintain and increase the control of the community over seeds, strengthen and establish dynamic forms of cooperation among farmers and between farmers involved in the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.

It also will support multiple activities including building a physical structure for a community seed bank, develop farmer and community agricultural biodiversity committees, seed saver clubs, seed exchange clubs as well as seed production network.

Beyond this project's core function of biodiversity conservation, the community bank will have a broad range of additional purposes which will include technical training aspects of seed collection, storage techniques, domestication as well as sustainable/scaling up mechanisms for the seed bank growth which are all aimed at preserving local wild grains and other indigenous crop varieties to enhance food security and community livelihoods.



This initiative seeks to regain, maintain and increase the control of the community over seeds



Strengthen and establish dynamic forms of cooperation among farmers and between farmers involved in the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.



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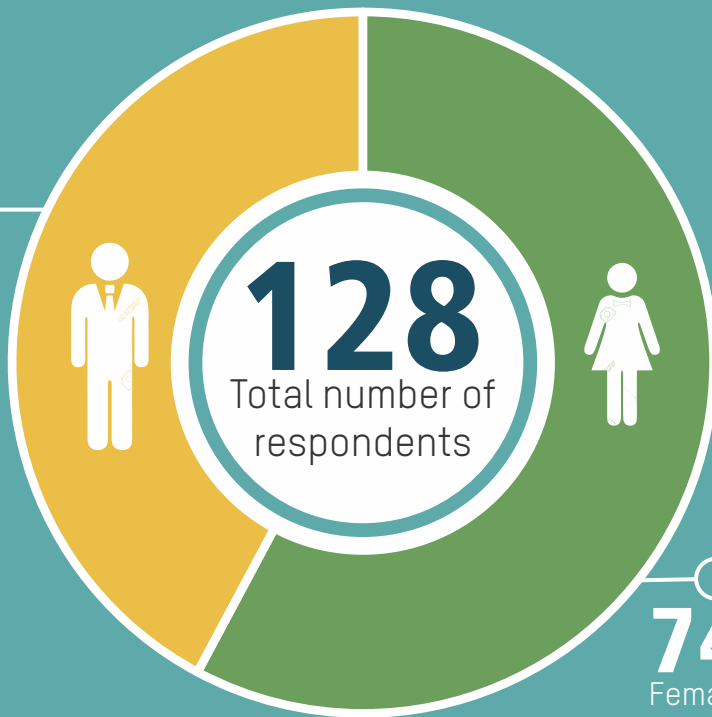
# Bio Data



**150**

Total number of Questionnaires administered

**54**  
Male respondents



**74**  
Female respondents

Age of respondents

18-35

**71**

36-50

**53**

above 51

**3**

Null

**1**

Occupation

**62**



Farmer

**2**



Teacher

**10**



Civil servant

**36**



Trader

Marital Status



**98**

Married



**27**

Single



**0**

Divorced



**2**

Widow



**1**

Null

**10**



Student

**6**



Housewife

**1**



Politician

**1**



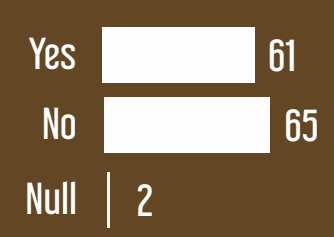
Contractor

# Knowledge About Biodiversity & Seed Conversation

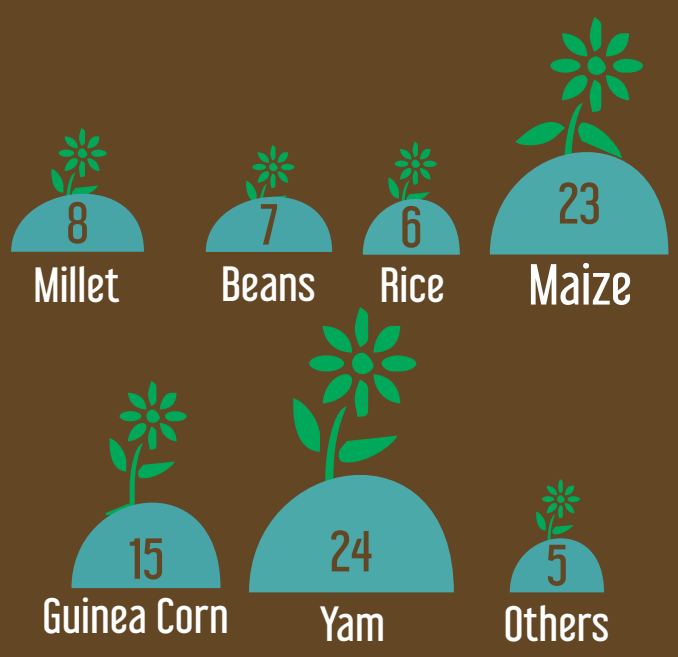
Are there seeds indigenous to your community ?



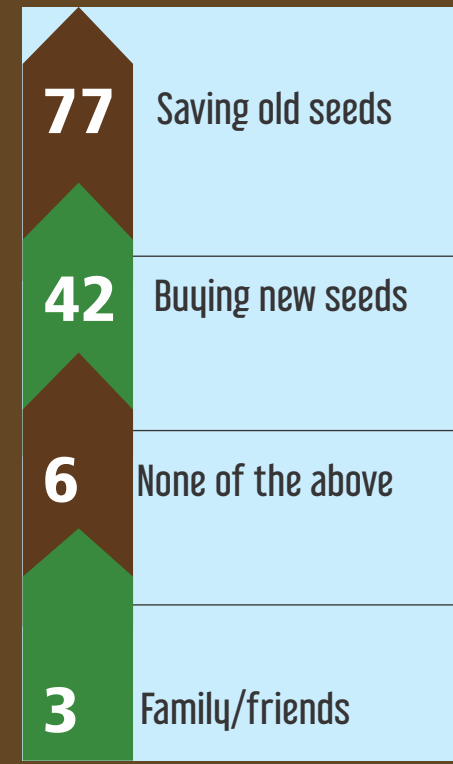
Have you lost any important variety of crops



What varieties have you lost?

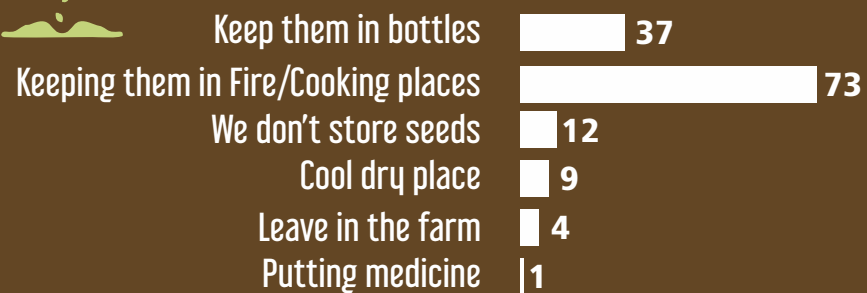


What efforts have you made to preserve them

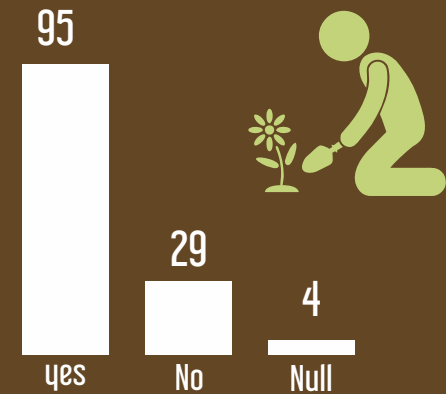


# Knowledge About Biodiversity & Seed Conversation

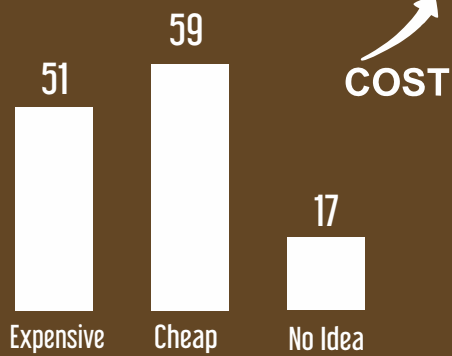
How do you preserve your seeds?



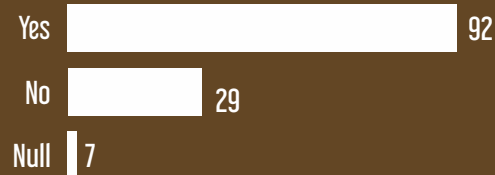
Is the method reliable?



How expensive are these methods?



Are there other species of seeds you would like to preserve?



Do you Seek Alternative/ Modern Seed banking facility and techniques



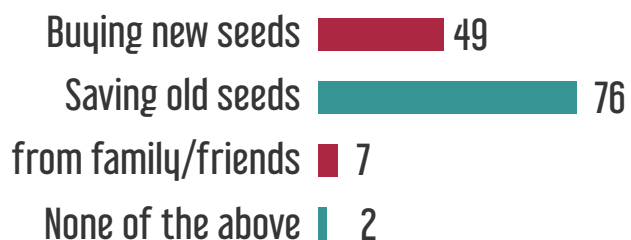
Species of seeds you will like to preserve



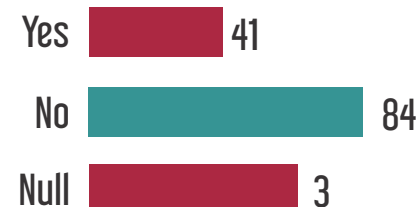


# Seed Access and Availability

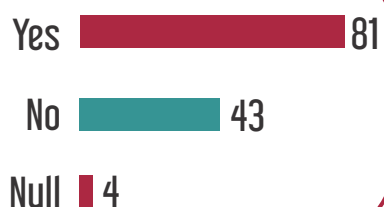
How do you get your seeds?



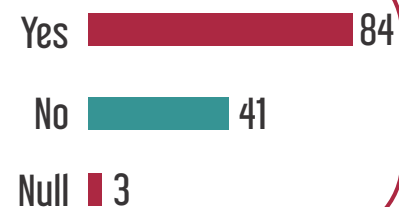
Do you have access to seeds not indigenous to your community



Do you exchange seeds with surrounding villages?



Do you encourage farmers to seek seeds outside the community



In the event of excess harvest, how do you preserve seeds

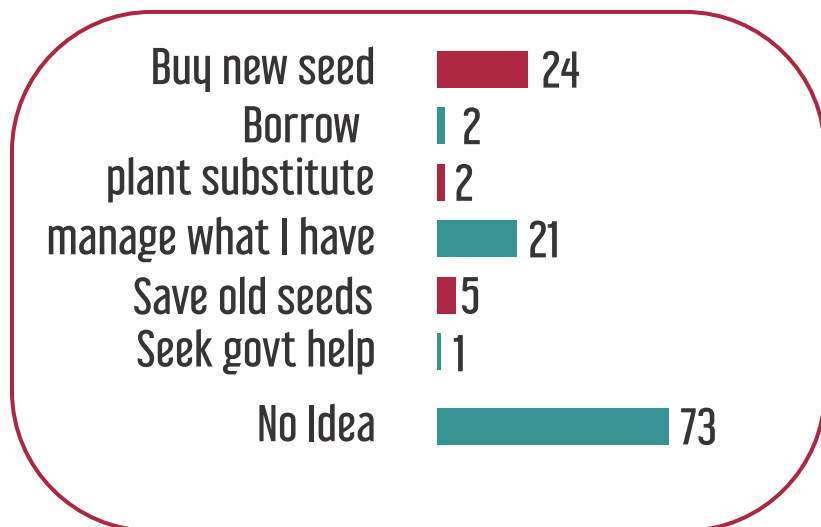
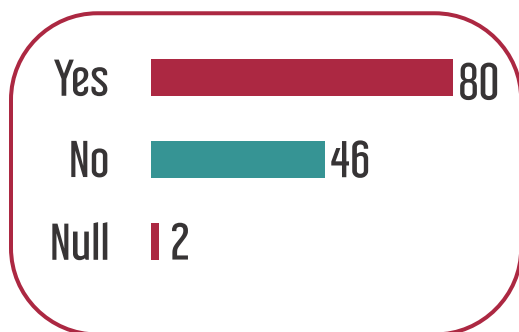




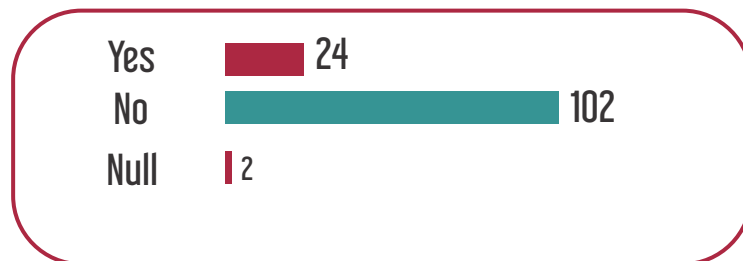
# Seed Access and Availability

How do you handle the shortage

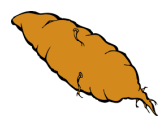
Do you experience shortages?



Are you beneficiaries of any commercial seed dissemination efforts/support groups



What major seeds do you purchase or acquire



Yam



Rice



Maize



Beans



Beni seeds

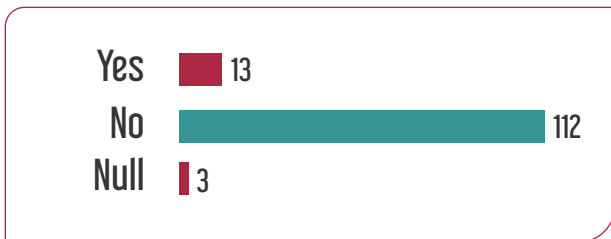




# Seed and Food Sovereignty



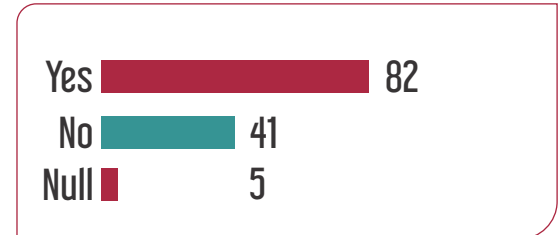
Is there any organization controlling seed purchase/use/exchange in your community



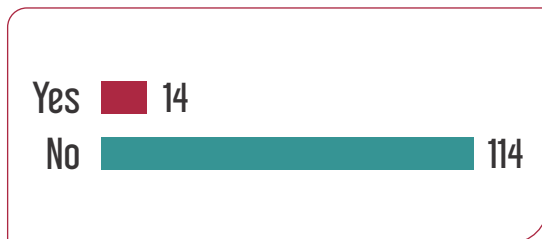
Which group?

**National Seed Council and National Food Reserve Agency**

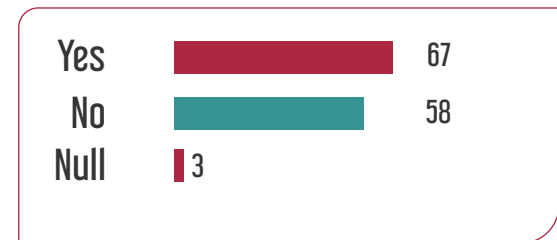
Do you sell your seeds?



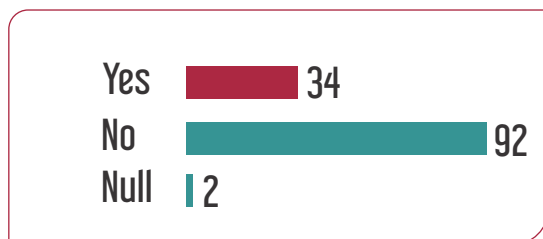
Is there any community based management system in each village in your community



Is enough income being generated from the sales?



Has your community planting material been affected by any external force



What kind of force?



Insect



Heat



Thieves



Wind



Erosion



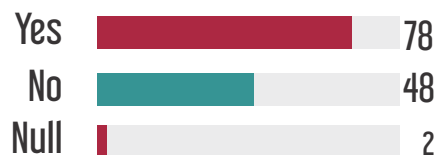




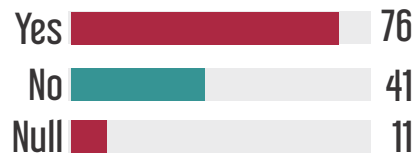
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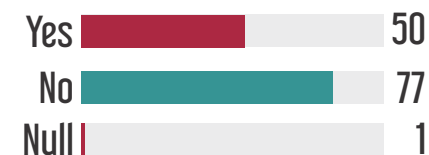
Does your community share knowledge about protecting your locals with other community



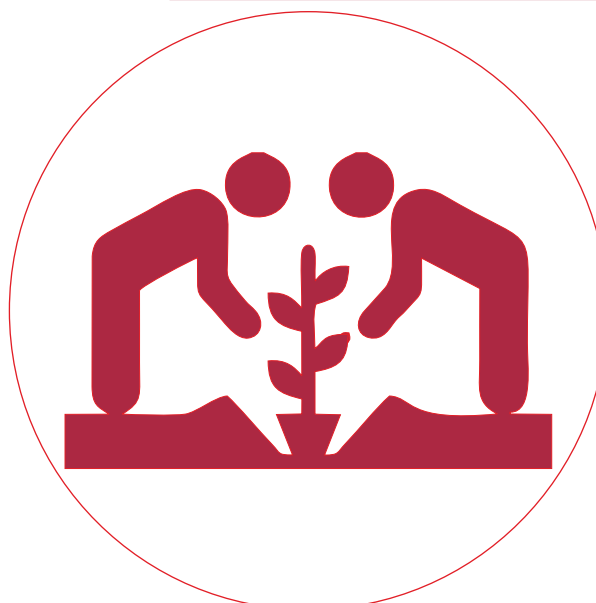
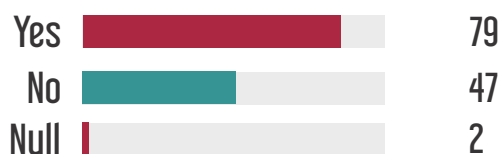
Do you adopt agricultural/farming practices from surrounding villages?



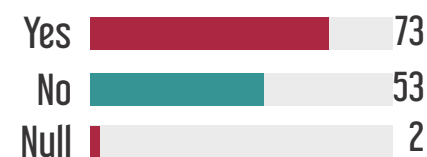
Do you practice cross breeding



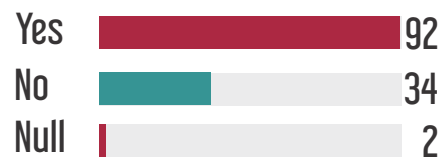
Are all your foods made from your local crops



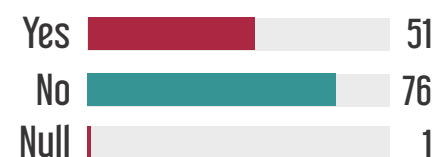
Are there still plant that you eat that grow in the wild?



Do you practice home gardens for some of your local plants?



Are there traditional events or gatherings where seeds are exchanged, showcased, example, New yam festival





# NEEDS assessment Findings



Majority of respondents are Women



There are seeds that are Indigenous to Sheda Community



Community Participants save old seeds mostly by keeping them in Fire/cooking places



Majority of respondents see this conservation method as reliable and cheap



A need however arises to have a better and modern conservation method. Modern Seed bank



Assess to seeds are not controlled by external forces hence community has some form of Seed/Food Sovereignty





**BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION  
AND RESOURCE CENTRE (BERC)**  
*Building a sound Biodiversity Knowledge for Nigeria*

Address:  
Flat 2 block 120,  
Kaita Close,  
FHA Kubwa Abuja


[www.bercnigeria.org](http://www.bercnigeria.org)

 Biodiversity Education

 bercnigeria

 [bercnigeria@gmail.com](mailto:bercnigeria@gmail.com)

 bercnigeria

 +2349091560004  
+2349091563646