

Challenges with Establishing and Maintaining Effective Seed Systems: A Global Perspective

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Seed systems for peanut have several unique factors that create challenges to establish and sustainably maintain. However, the continued introduction of improved varieties remains a critical tool to increase the productivity and quality of the crop worldwide. Biophysical attributes specific to the crop, such as low multiplication rates, limited ability to use processing and handling equipment for other crops, relative fragility, and bulky storage and transport constitute additional economic and social costs for the seed system. Peanut is grown commercially and as a subsistence crop in hundreds of countries, leading to a diversity of solutions to these challenges often unique to each context. Through dozens of interviews with experts across the globe, I have gathered descriptions and impressions of diverse seed systems and developed typologies and evaluations of these systems to better understand peanut seed systems with the intention of offering insight for improvements and risk reduction.