

producers are nurtured by government support, access to basic seed of improved varieties, entrepreneurship, technical skills and capacity, sustaining demand for quality seeds, enterprise ownership and profitability, and links between farmers and the formal seed entrepreneurs. The partnership with the private sector is worth recognizing as one that would work best to empower small-scale farmers. Team building is also very critical to the success of seed production to facilitate viable linkages through contract marketing. Basic seed access still remains a challenge for most rural smallholders and requires adequate measures to ensure accessibility and affordability. Therefore, seed companies will be encouraged and motivated to ensure they grew a portion of basic seed for their use.

For more about the success story please contact Dr Nathan Phiri, the Principal Investigator for the project at the Zambia Seed Certification & Control Institute (nathpzm@yahoo.co.uk; nathanphiri@gmail.com).