

# EFFECTIVE SEED STORAGE PROGRAM IN TIMOR-LESTE

A Final Evaluation by Johan van Duijn, an Independent Consultant



## Abstract

Mercy Corps' Effective Seed Storage in Timor-Leste (ESS) Program strengthened and transformed business model of the local tinsmiths, the producers of metal storage bins and has been identified as a key factor to program outreach. The use of promoted seed storage unit has contributed to an average 2.1 month increase of food self-sufficiency or an increase in 84% from the baseline among target beneficiaries. The reported decreases in post-harvest losses were: 87.7% for maize, 80.3% for rice, and 73.7% for beans.

## Introduction

- Since August 2011, Mercy Corps has been implementing the USAID/OFDA funded Effective Seed Storage (ESS) in Timor-Leste program.
- The overall goal to design and develop sustainable and scalable farmer seed storage models in Timor-Leste.



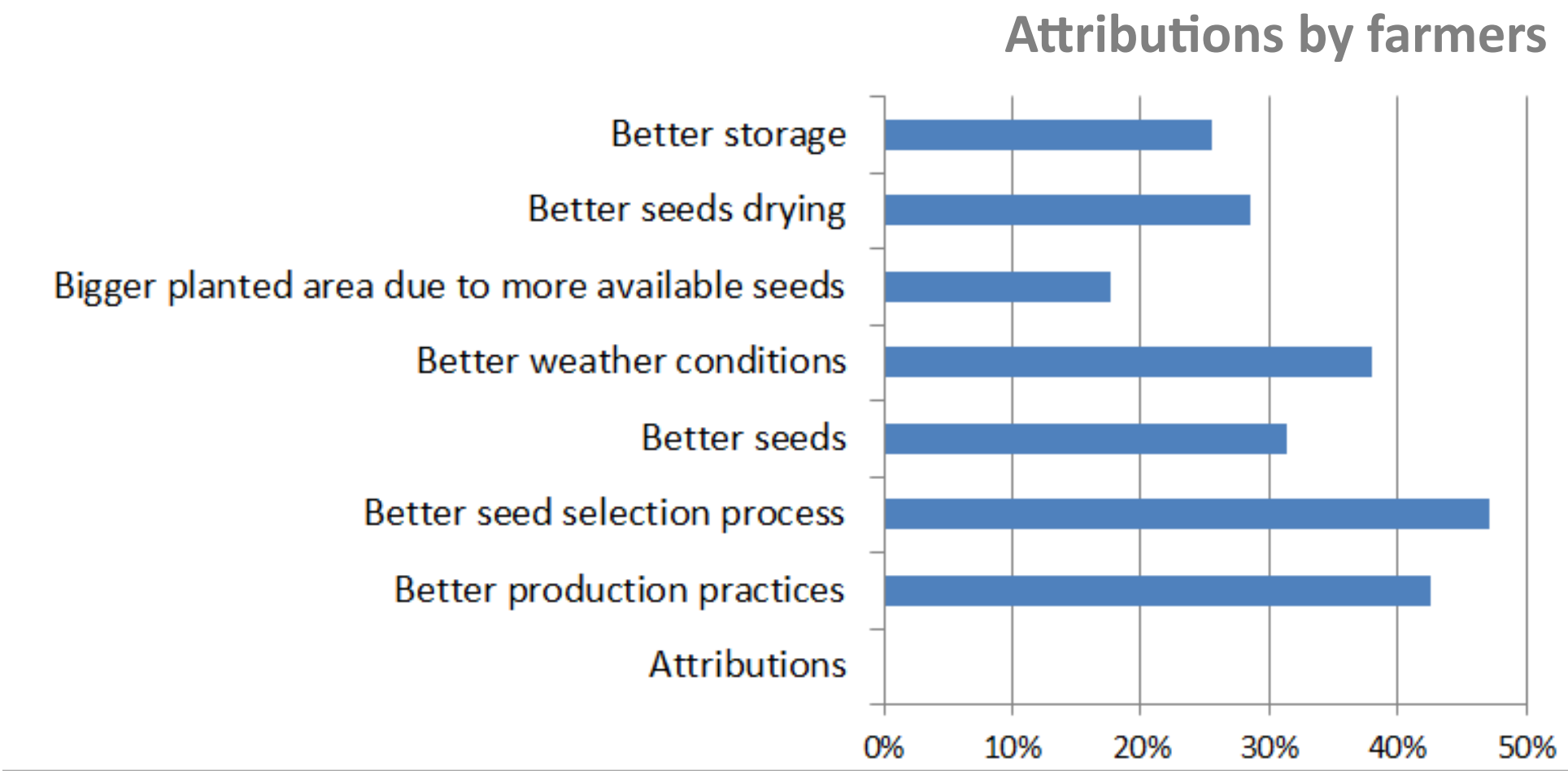
- Based on the success of the Pilot Phase in two districts, Mercy Corps initiated in March 2013 a partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for a nation-wide expansion of the ESS program to reach 40,000 rural households.

## Evaluation Methods

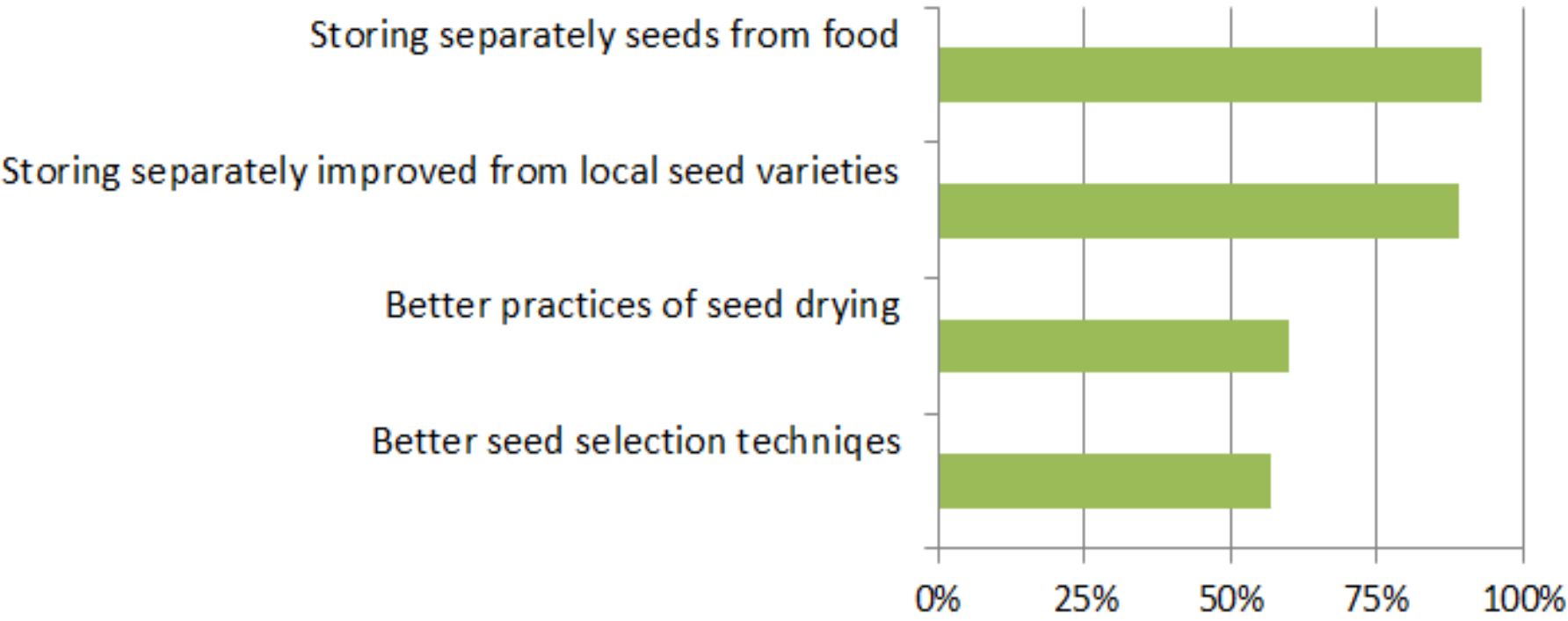
- A longitudinal survey by returning to 409 respondents of the baseline survey in order to identify changes in the lives of beneficiary households. This provided 5% margin of error and a confidence level of 95% for a beneficiary number of 40,000. Respondents were distributed in 4 Agro-Ecological Zone (AEZ),
- Focus Group Discussions with: i) beneficiaries in Liquica and Baucau, both were with men and women separately; ii) 16 (out of 17) seed storage manufacturers; iii) local implementing partners staff. Interviews with Mercy Corps and CRS staff.

## Results and Discussions

The program achieved a 2.1 increase in months of food self-sufficiency. Compared to an average of 2.5 months before the program, this represents an increase of 84.0%.



## % of farmers adopted contributing & promoted behaviors



Decrease in post-harvest losses reported by households: 87.7% for maize, 80.3% for rice, and 73.7% for beans.

