Current Trends & Issues Affecting Farmers’ Rights to Seeds
Farmers’ seed systems under threat

• Farmers are the stewards of seed diversity since the dawn of agriculture
  • up to 80% of seeds are supplied by the farmers’ seed systems

• The global recognition remains in the articles of treaties and declaration
  • The implementation remains a challenge
  • Issues on access and benefit sharing
  • Digital Sequence Information

• Corporate capture
  • Technological
  • Market
  • Laws and legislations
    • IPR
    • Seed certification & marketing laws

• Alarming rate of PGR diversity loss
# Corporate Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPANY</th>
<th>NET SALES</th>
<th>SHARE OF GLOBAL SEED MARKET</th>
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<tr>
<td>PIONEER</td>
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<td>KWS (DENMARK)</td>
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<td>DOW</td>
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<td>LAND O'LAKEES</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>SAKATA (JAWN)</td>
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**SHARE IN GLOBAL SEED MARKET (GSM)**
- 1985: 12.5%
- 1996: 16.7%
- 2009: >44%
The leading seed companies are also the leading agrochemical companies
Transnational companies are continually consolidating the market
Conclusion

Seed development, production, exchange, & sale are part of dynamic farmers’ seed system

• This dynamic system is the reason why we still have seed diversity
• To protect such diversity, we need to protect the farmers’ seed systems
• Current seed policies imported from developed countries do not fit this dynamic system
• Policy making must be grounded on realities and recognition of the two distinct seed systems

We need to incorporate rights-based approach in the seed conservation and sustainable use

• Agrochemical corporations, food processing companies, and all other corporations engaged in food production should be guided by the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
• Breeders, including farmer breeders need to be provided with incentives that do not restrict farmer’s access to seeds
• With all the challenges that farmers are facing now, the only way they can continue sustaining genetic diversity is when their rights are protected and upheld
“The more a seed system recognizes and supports farmers as stewards of a seed system for all of humankind, the more this system fulfils people’s human rights.”

Michael Fakhri
UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food

Salamat po!

Thank you!