

## **SOIL IS LIFE**

### ***Importance of Using Hybrid or Improved Seeds in the Poor Fertile Soil***

Ushindi FM Radio

Script

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**Host:** Welcome dear listener, it is another day to listen Soil is Life programme. This programme produced and aired at Ushindi Fm 98.6, broadcasting live from Mbeya region, Tanzania. In our programme today we are discussing the importance of using hybrid seeds. In particular, we will focus on looking at the importance of using these seeds in soil which affected by erosion and lack of fertility. We have managed to speak with a researcher William Krispal Hamis from Tropical Pesticides Research Institute. We also managed to speak with the president of the Southern Highlands Association of Farmers and he will tell us the importance of using hybrid seeds. This programme is supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC). My name is Nelly Mwaipyana to present this programme welcome.

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**Host:** Let us now start the discussion by listen our guest who is explaining how Tropical Pesticides Research Institute deals with the issues of seeds preservation.

**Guest 1:** My name is William Krispal Hamis, a researcher from Tropical Pesticides Research Institute. Overall our activities are to ensure that we preserve various types of crops and vegetation seeds. Our activities mainly revolve around collecting various kinds of seeds of plants which are available locally from farmers and such as from wilderness and elsewhere for preservation.

We use special machines called dryers to dry the seeds. The machines contain moisture content of 3% to 7%. Then dried seeds are stored in a temperature of 18 centigrade. Now those seeds are usually given to farmers, who need those seeds but there are also natural grains that are not with farmers but can be found in forestry. Our role is to ensure that native seeds are preserved and we always evaluate to check that which seeds are at risk of extinction. After the evaluation we can now find which seeds need to be collected for preservation and stored for future generation. Sometimes researchers from abroad countries would request those seeds for improvement and later can be turned to farmers for productions in the country.

**Host:** Dear listener you can give your opinion relating on our topic, write a short message on telephone number 0719 97 06 65.  
And now listen to Mr. William is telling us what they are doing to encourage farmers to use native seeds.

**Guest 1:** Strategies to ensure that we have native seeds are taken into action after the evaluation of different regions and kind of seeds suitable. Given evaluations are

strategically enables us to collect or to encourage farmers to continue to cultivate the crops with native seeds or improved seeds. Currently we are undertaking some projects to encourage farmers to plant native seeds in the following areas, Mtwara, Liwale, Newala, and Mbinga. But also these projects aim to improve poor seeds with hybrid technology so that farmers will get high yield productions.

**Host:** Could you tell us how do farmers benefit from preservation of these native seeds?

**Guest 1:** Direct benefits farmers get, is where seeds are given back to the farmers. When farmers lose certain seeds it is easy to find at our store and some of them are improved.

Another benefit is when breeders take seeds for improvements and produce hybrid seeds. Farmers will get the benefit of the quality of seeds from these improved seeds by breeders.

Also stored seeds are in good place differ from seeds which are stored locally as they are in danger to be destroyed by pests.

**Host:** Mr. William, tell us, what is the best seed farmer should use between native seeds and hybrid seeds?

**Guest 1:** Native seeds are better, their grains have a lot of vitamins but the challenge for now is poor productions. Native seeds are not longer stable to fight against pests and droughts differ from hybrid seeds.

Hybrid seeds have great quality than native seeds because are improved to fit the essential requirements or special needs. For instance breeders can aim to improve the seeds for quick production depends on the area and soil fertile.

Hybrid seeds are targeted for short term yields. Farmers can use and harvest crops within three months. Also hybrid seeds produce high quality crops.

Another factor for using hybrid seeds is that are improved to fight against pests which affect plants and cause poor production.

**Host:** And what do you tell the farmers, should keep using native seeds or hybrid seeds?

**Guest 1:** To improve production and combat food insecurity farmers should cultivate hybrid seeds, which have been improved for better productions. Farmers who plants these seeds will harvest a lot of crops differ from those who plant native seeds. Sometimes it is good to also take care of the native seeds because improvement of seeds comes from native seeds.

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**Host:** Dear listener, you are listening Soil is Life programme and today we are talking about the importance of the use of hybrid seeds. You can give your

comments about what you have heard in this programme, write a short message to the phone number 0719 97 06 65.

Now it is the time to listen the Southern Highlands President of the Association of Farmers he is telling us in detail the importance of using hybrid seeds in modern agriculture.

**Guest 2:**

My name is Atuduveni Ng'amba 'president of the southern highlands Association of Farmers regions. We have visited and asked members from each district to search area where we will produce hybrid seeds. We plan that each district from next year will start producing improved seeds.

Research has been conducted and productions of these seeds expecting to start early next year. National as a nation still does not have the ability to produce enough seeds to certify all farmers in the country.

Hybrid seeds can have up to 25% percent higher yield. Hybrids often show greater vigor and fast growth.

In Tanzania soil erosion has left the country without fertile land native seeds are no longer capable to produce quality yields. Using hybrid seeds has become the major solution to produce higher yield and quality crops.

**Host:**

Is the use of native seeds causes' food insecurity in our country?

**Guest 2:**

Food insecurity is the global challenge. This is the same in our country, food security has become challenge in our country because of drought exists.

The great challenge is poor soil fertile caused by soil erosion and other climate change. So using native seeds produces poor quality crops which cannot reach the demands of the community.

Dear listener today we have no surplus in this programme, of course you have listened well the importance of the using improved seeds to increase your production and thoroughly eradicate food insecurity which brings hunger in our country. For comments and advice on this program write short messages to telephone number 0719 97 06 65. This programme brought to you by Nelly Mwaipyana, thank you and goodbye.

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