



**Parishioners from
Corpus Christi and
Our Lady of Lourdes
support small farmers'
request to allow them
to use their own seed.**



CAFOD has recently undertaken a study which shows that, in order to gain finance from the World Bank, African and other countries are forced to implement laws and subsidies to provide greater access to hybrid seeds and chemical inputs.

The resulting seed certification laws are making it illegal for local communities to propagate, grow, exchange and sell their own seeds.

Salina is a small farmer from Bangladesh. She has written to the World Bank imploring them to permit small farmers to:

- protect their fundamental rights to save, use, exchange and sell their own varieties of seed; and
- put an end to policies that limit their choice over seeds they can access.

The World Bank measures the success in terms of greater participation of the private sector in providing access to hybrid seeds and their necessary fertilisers, as opposed to measuring impacts based on poverty reduction or increased food security for poor farmers. As a result, major agribusiness companies have been the main beneficiaries, profiting from increased sales.

Parishioners were keen to sign up to support Salina's plea. Let us hope and pray that the World Bank listens to the cry so that poverty can be reduced and food security for poor farmers be increased.

Click here to download CAFOD's publication; [Sowing the seeds of poverty: How the World Bank harms poor farmers.](#)



Parishioners queue to support Salina's letter to the World Bank.