

PRESS RELEASE

Programme on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia
ISSD Oromia South and West Unit



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; August 31, 2017:- ISSD Ethiopia Oromia South West programme unit conducted farmers' field day on participatory varietal selection (PVS) at FTC and Crowd sourcing (CS) on farmer pilot of informal seed system participant farmers on August 30, 2017 at Lode Bamban Kebele of Sire woreda. It is well known that in this year 2017, ISSD-OSE has started to implement informal seed system in six woreda and 24 kebeles to achieve its goal. Smallholder farming is the dominant livelihood activity for the majority Sire woreda community; but it is also the major source of vulnerability to food insecurity and their often chronic malnutrition and recurrent famines. In Oromia, agriculture and social protection are inextricably interconnected. Sire woreda in general and Lode Bamban in particular were enrolled in to PSNP since 2006 due drought induced food insecurity in the area. Woreda Agriculture head, woreda agriculture experts, kebele level D.A, farmers that have been implementing the informal seed system and residents farmers of the village who were interested to take part on the field day were some of the participants of the field visit. To identify the most desired variety the participant farmers has sown three varieties of barely crop this year. The programme is very useful to select the most preferred variety depending up on the good attributes that the crop has, said the implementing farmers.

ISSD-OSE seed expert Mr Abdo Woyema noted that the concern of BENEFIT-ISSD Programme is to move from examples of success of few farmers to sustainable productivity increases to hundreds of millions of people moving out of seed scarcity. If we hope to meet that goal, it must be a goal we share. We must be coordinated in our pursuit of it. We must embrace more innovative ways of working towards ensuring seeds to the end users in time. So, if the seeds didn't get to the farmers in time for the planting season, the entire exercise will be a waste. The informal seed system is the efficient way to address shortage of seed, so the efforts of the programme is not go in vain', he said. He also added ISSD is breaking down gender barriers in agriculture and involved 23(46%) women farmers out of 50 programme participants; so during the field day women farmers' pilot was visited and it was well performed and well managed by the women farmers.

Obbo Wagayehun Gadissa thanked the ISSD-OSE, development partners engaging in committed farming activities that will help alleviate the seed and food insecurity in the woreda. The provision of different variety of barely seed and supplying them on time, as timeliness is a major concern in agriculture. Farmers should not always call for help from people, but engage in activities that will multiply the seeds given them to ensure the availability of more seeds for subsequent planting seasons. Donors and supporters will have to go elsewhere to others that have bigger needs", he said. He stressed the seeds will bridge the gap created in the agricultural sector by the injecting early maturing varieties in the woreda to withstand shortage of rain. He also pointed out that it is the duty the farmers to properly manage, maintain, ensure as a reliable sources of seed and disseminate seeds to other farmers in the woreda.

Obbo Gadisa Kebede, ISSD-OSE programme unit Manager asserted that ISSD is working to make quality seed of superior varieties is available and affordable for a larger number of farmers, thereby contributing to food security and economic development in the country. So, farmers should reap benefits from this injected crop seeds that helps as part of a chain of solutions to see farmers do better.

Finally he emphasized it requires coordinated effort to practical implement this informal seed system and making seed available for the farmers by the farmers at their vicinity. From their observation farmers raised different issues, comments and suggestions that gave the program color and flavor. It gave participants a chance to share their successes and raise their difficulties as well.



Faba Bean PVS at FTC



Barely CS on farmer pilot

The programme on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia aims to strengthen the development of a vibrant, market-oriented and pluralistic seed sector in the country, where quality seed of superior varieties is available and affordable for a larger number of farmers, thereby contributing to food security and economic development in Ethiopia. This is the vision of the ISSD programme in Ethiopia. www.issdethiopia.org

Integrated Seed Sector Development Programme in Ethiopia ISSD Oromia South and West Unit
BALEKER BUILDING, NEAR AGONA CENIEMA, GOTERA AREA
Tele Phone: (+251) 114-67-38-62 Fax: (+251) 114-66 67-68, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA