

# ISSD Region

## Newsletter - December 2017



### ISSD Tigray delivers nutrition and gender training to experts

Two days of training of trainers (ToT) on nutrition and gender given to regional and wereda stakeholders on 17 and 18 October 2017. In the ToT organized by ISSD Tigray unit regional experts, bureau of women affairs, gender working group, wereda focal persons, gender and ISSD experts were some among the participants. In this training a total of 35 participants of which 14 (40%) were female participants.

Professor Fetien Abay, the scientific coordinator of ISSD Tigray, introduced participants the necessity of ISSD implementation in Tigray region. Accordingly, she said that ISSD always gave priority to farmer based seed system especially in the normally neglected crops like sorghum, the most staple grain all over the region, to achieve food security and then to fulfill the demands of nutrition. Moreover, she presented her research based professional experiences about local crop variety breeding and the nutritious potential they have .

In addition, she said "as ISSD Tigray we have established about 60 seed producer cooperatives (SPCs) all over the region. These SPCs have so many contributions to nutrition and food security achievements. Our main focus therefore is gender, nutrition and farmer based seed system provision." [Continued on page 3.](#)



Training participants in one [ISSD Tigray|2017|G.Haweria B.]

### Hadinet Raya seed union inaugurates seed store, seed laboratory

The partnerships program initiated by Mekelle University Integrated Seed Sector Development (MU-ISSD) and the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) has been very successful and is bearing fruit. The collaboration between the two parties started back in November 2014 to undertake capacity development support for community-based seed producers in Tigray region. The objective of the collaboration is to bring about sustainable agricultural transformation in a bid to ensure food security.

As a continuation of the first phase sub-contract agreement between the two parties, two newly established seed unions located at Maichew and Axum were selected for the construction of modern seed stores by mobilizing joint resources .

Hadinet Raya Seed Producer & Marketing Union Cooperative PLC was established during a special ceremony that took place at Maichew in April 2016. The Union has 13 primary SPCs under its umbrella with 2,138 members (504 Female & 1,634 Male).

According to the sub-contract agreement, a modern seed store was constructed at Maichew with the financial support from ATA and co-founding contribution from [continued on page 5.](#)

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*ISSD Tigray team wish you all our readers a happy new year of 2018.*



## ሓፂር ግንዛብ ዝተዋደደ ልምዓት ዘርኢ ትግራይ

### ካብ ሓረስታይ ናብ ሓረስታይ ዝግበር ልውውጥ ዘርኢ

ካብ ሓረስታይ ናብ ሓረስታይ ዝግበር ልማዳዊ ልውውጥ ዘርኢ ብዘበናዊ ሜላ እንተተደረፉ ብዘሕ አማራጽታት ፍሰት ዘርኢ ይፈጥር። እዚ ንምትግባር ኣርባዕ ዓይነታት ዘርኢ [ምሳሌ፡ ስገም፡ ናይ ባኒን ፓስታን ስርዓይ] ኣብ 6 ወረዳታት [ራያ ኣላማጣ፡ እንደርታ፡ ክልተ ኣውሳሶ፡ ደጉዓ ተምቤን፡ ዓድሞን ኣስገደ ፅምብላን] ናብ ዘለዎ 24 ጣብያታት ንዘርከቡ 1,200 ሓረስቶት [50% ደ/ኣንስትዮ] ንፈተነ ተኣታትዮን፡ ብመሰረት እዚ 75 ዝተፈላለዩ ዓሌታት ኣዝርኡት ዝሓዙ 3,878 ዕሽጋት ንቶም ዘተጠቐሱ ሓረስቶት ተዓዲልዎም። ሓረስቶት እውን ብዝተወሃበም ስልጠናታት መሰረት ዘሪኦም ንፍረ ኣብቂዎም። እዚ ናብ ካልኣት ንምግፋሕ ድማ ተሞክሮ ልውውጥ ማእኸል ዝገበረ ዋዕላ ሓረስቶት ተሳሊጡ። ኣብዚ ዋዕላ 1,823 ሓረስቶት ልምዲ ቀሲሞም። ኣብ ዝተዓበዎ ፈተነታት ልዑል ድሊት ብምርኣዮም ድማ፡ እቶም ኣብ ፈተነ ዝኣተዉ ነፍሲ ወከፍ ሓረስቶት ን5 ሓረስቶት ከባዕሉ ተሰማሚዖም።

### ኣናእሽተይን ማእኸለዎትን ሃፋትም ኣፍረይቲ ዘርኢ

ዘርኢ መባዛሕቲ ሰብሃፍቲ ተቐፃፃሪ ኣካል ፅሬቶም ዝመስከረሎም ዘርኢ ከፍርዮ ይግባእ። ነዚ ከውን ንምግባር ምስ ማእኸላት ምርምር ሕርሻ ኣላማጣ፡ ሞኾኒን ሑሞራን ከተኣሳሰሩ ተገይሩ። ክልተ ዘርኢ መባዛሕቲ ሰብሃፍቲ ፍቓድ ዘርኢ ክረኽቡ ምስ ሕርሻ ቢሮ ተሰሪሑ። ዓቕሞም ንምዕባይ ድማ ኣብ ምድላው ንግዲ ትልማ፡ ዕዳጋ ፅንዓትን ምሕደራ ንግድን ዘድሃበ ስልጠና ን18 ዘርኢ መባዛሕቲ ሰብሃፍቲን 8 ክኢላታት ወረዳን ተዋሂቡ። ብተወሳኺ 6 ዘርኢ መፍረይቲ ፍርያቶም ከላልዩ ድጋፍ እንትግበረሎም፡ ካልኣት ድማ ኣብ ቁጥታ መሸጣ ዕዳጋ ክኣትዉ ተገይሩ። ካብዚ ብተወሳኺ 18 ኣንስትዮ ዝርከቡኦም 97 ኣባላት ኮሚቴ ዘርኢ ም/ሕ/ማሕበርን 21 ወረዳን ጣብያን ኣካላትን እውን ሰልጢኖም።

### ሰንሰለታዊ ምትእስሳር ዘርኢ ልምዓት

ክልላዊ ኣኼባ ምስላጥ፡ ዳህሳስ ህላወ ዘርኢ 2009 ዓ/ም ምክያድ፡ ክልላዊ መምርሒ ስርዓት ዘርኢ ምድላውን ምስ መዳርግቲ ኣካላት ትሕዝትኡ ምግምጋምን፡ ስርዓት ዘርኢ ወረዳታት ዝጠናኸረሉ ኩነታት ምስ ኣብ ዞባ፡ ወረዳን ጣብያን ዝርከቡ ተሳተፍቲ ሰንሰለት ዘርኢ ኣካላት ምይይጥ ምክያድን ምስ ፕሮግራም ዕቤት ሕርሻ ክልል ምርደዳእ ምግባር ናይዚ መንፈቕ ዓመት ቅንዲ ንጥፈታት እዮም።

### ፍፃመታት ስግግር ፍልጠትን ርክባትን እዚ ፕሮጀክት

ብመሰረት በቢ ርብዒ ዓመቱ ዝተፈላለዩ ትሕዝቶታት ዘለዎ ሓደ ክልላዊ ዜና መፅሄት ከነሕትም ዝሓዘናዮ መደብን ብፍሉይ ዝተሓተሙ ፖሊሲ ምልክታታትን፡ ብበዓል ሞያ ስግግር ፍልጠትን ርክባትን እዞም ዝሰዕሱ ስራሕቲ ተዓሚሞም ኣለው። ሓሙሽተ ዓይነታት ፖሊሲ ምልክታ ነብሲ ውክፎም ብ300 ቅዳሕ ብድምሩ 1500 ቅዳሓት ተሓቲዖም። ሰላስት ሕታማት ብድምሩ 800 ዜና መፅሄታት ተሓቲዖም። እዚኦም ድማ ንመዳርግቲ ኣካላት፡ መሓዙት



A team from CDI & PMU visit to one of PVS sites

ፕሮጀክታት፡ ትካላትን ዝተፈላለዩ ኣንባብትን ተባቢሎም። ድረ ገፅ ፕሮጀክት ዝተዋደደ ልዓት ዘርኢ ትግራይ ብሓደሽቲ ምዕባላታት፡ ዜናታትን ስእልታትን ተመዓራርዩ። ክልተ ቪዲዮታት እውን ተዳልዮን ንተመልከቲ ቀሪቡን።

## ISSD Tigray Update Summary

### Varietal Deployment / Seed Extension

PVS and CS are the main areas for a broader seed system deployment mechanism. To do so, the ISSD-MU has deployed four crops into 24 kebeles found in 6 weredas and 1,200 farmers [50% of them women] in 2017. Practically, four major crops (sorghum, durum wheat, bread wheat and barley). Accordingly, a total of 3,878 tricot packages and 75 varieties deployed. To scale up the best practices observed on PVS & CS, 1,823 farmers attended seed promotion events in both regional and wereda levels. As final output, each farmer planned to share those new varieties for at least five other surrounding farmers.

### Private Small and Medium Seed Producers

PSPs are expected to produce quality seed to meet the standards set by regional regulatory body. In order to meet the standards, PSPs linkage with Alamata, Mokoni and Humera agricultural research centers is important. Moreover, the process of granting Certificate of Competence for two PSPs was facilitated by BoARD regulatory body. Training on business plan preparation, marketing and seed business management was given to 18 PSPs and eight wereda experts. In addition, six PSPs were supported to promote their quality seed products in the regional workshop. SPCs also were supported to sell their seed products through direct seed marketing. 97 SPC committee members [18 female], 19 wereda experts, and two DAs also attended the same training.

### Seed Value Chain Development (SVC)

The following SVC activities are the major focus areas:



Some of the green pepper seed multiplications by PSPs

conducting regional core team meeting and seed security assessment (SSA 2017), facilitating the development of regional seed value chain manual by regional seed technical committee and its review by different seed sector stakeholders, facilitating consultative meeting on strengthening wereda level seed system with zonal, wereda and kebele level SVC actors and discussion on AGP and ISSD partnership with Tigray region coordinator.

### Knowledge Sharing and Communication

ISSD Tigray website [www.mu.edu.et/issd] updated. Five policy briefings (300 copies each) and 800 news letters have been produced and disseminated to all ISSD audiences. Five stories and 13 news produced.





Cluster based wheat multiplication by the seed producer cooperatives [ISSDTigraay|2017|G.Haweria B.]

Continued from page 1.

The training of trainers was opened by Ato Beshir Ahmed, ISSD Tigray unit manager. In his opening speech, Ato Beshir mentioned that multiplication of quality seed, improved and farmer preferred varieties is crucial since seed is the base for food security.

He also advised trainers to be more concerned in provision of quality seed in order to boost agricultural productivity.

Following Ato Beshir's speech all participants introduced each other by explaining their name, position and the organization working for.

### Major topics covered in the training of trainers

The major topics presented for the trainers were of two kinds; nutrition and gender based.

### Topics covered in nutrition training

The following topics the major ones among others;

- ◆ Nutrition, health and agriculture linkage
- ◆ Agricultural growth, food and nutrition security
- ◆ Nutrition sensitive agriculture
- ◆ Malnutrition



The trainees rehearse the training in a group work

### Topics covered in gender training

- ◆ Gender and basic concepts
- ◆ Gender as development issue and gender mainstreaming
- ◆ Gender analysis concept and tools
- ◆ Gender in project cycle management

### Question, answer and discussion sessions

The training was participatory. In each topic of the training, participants reflect their opinions, perceptions and experiences in relation to the presentation given. These kinds of intervals help participants to stimulate/refresh and get ready to the next session. In this training video show, group exercises and brain storming methodologies were applied.



Trainees presenting their group work

### Training medium of communication

The presentation slides (both the nutrition and gender mainstreaming) were prepared in English and orally translated and presented into Tigrigna (mother tongue of the trainers) to be easily understandable.

# Crowdsourcing: A story of change on wheat

Adwa *wereda* is known for its cereal crop production specially wheat varieties. Some years ago, crop performance and production was good. Cultivation frequency, low use of agricultural inputs and repeated ploughs now leads to the fertility and production decline. Not only had these, but also limited availability of cultivable lands, high population growth rate and limited supply of improved seed deterred production of wheat crop in this area. To solve the chronic problem of wheat seed supply, a new mechanism of seed access is needed to employ using crowdsourcing.

Region wide 1,200 total farmers participated in crowdsourcing in six *weredas* and 24 *tabias*. In each *wereda* there are 200 target farmers [50% female] from four *tabias* namely: *Debregenet*, *Endabagerima*, *Weyenti* and *Yeha*. Each *tabia* has 50 target farmers [50% female] who are active in local seed maintenance practices. At *Endabagerima* for instance, there are 25 women, both women headed and house wife involved in crowdsourcing to multiply bread wheat seed varieties.

W/ro Letebrhan Tsehayu, 48 years old, is one of those 50 farmers who are engaged in the crowdsourcing of bread wheat. From BENEFIT partners, Letebrhan received 100 grams of three different bread wheat seed varieties. Based on the training given on crowdsourcing she was able to characterize each seed variety.

"Farmers were reluctant while seeing the small amount



*Wheat varieties deployed by ISSD Tigray performed well*

of bread wheat seed varieties planted in small plot size. They considered the crowdsourcing practice is wasting arable plot for insignificant planting. During planting season most of the farmers were hesitant looking to the amount delivered to them. Later on, the performance of the bread wheat seed varieties such as spike length, fast growth and drought resistance traits convinced them. Some of them are now asking me to share these varieties for further multiplication purpose" said Letebrhan.

For next year, Letebrhan planned to increase plots so as to multiply bread wheat seed to create access of seed supply to her relatives and neighbors as well.

## From freedom fighter to seed investor

In the Tigray region of Ethiopia, there used to be no locally produced seeds basically. The government used to bring improved onion seeds from the central parts of the country. In 2008, Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) planned to solve this chronic lack of local seed supply by supporting private investors working on improved seed multiplication, production and dissemination.

### **Yohannes Girmay and ISSD**

One of the investors was Yohannes Girmay, a former member of the Tigray People's Liberation Front. He started a private business in seed multiplication and received an ISSD grant to help expand his business. By consulting with ISSD, the Tigray Agriculture Research Institute, and the Bureau of Agriculture, he now produces plenty of wheat seed varieties in Kilte-Awlaelo district of the Tigray region.

Yohannes used to struggle because he had little farm land, starting capital and market linkages. He submitted a proposal to the Tigray Land Use Administration and not yet secured a plot. He borrowed some money from a micro-finance service.

ISSD gave Yohannes an investment grant with which he purchased a water pump. "ISSD encourages me to stay in the seed business especially onion and wheat when I have doubts about it," he said. "The project supported me in lobbying to ease the previous stringent regulatory requirements in getting the Certificate of Competency. It facilitated the smooth communication with authorities by



creating different platforms and consultative meetings. Moreover, ISSD opened opportunities for trainings, workshops, seminars, field visits, and experience sharing events."

### **More, better seed**

Yohannes does not have his own land, but he rents plots from smallholder farmers. Land rent per hectare costs him from 25,000-30,000 ETB per harvest. As his yield increased from six to 16 quintals per hectare, he now earns threefold the rent for land. Not only does he benefit himself, but his achievements provide quality onion seed to all who are in need. He supplies them with different onion varieties, [continued from page 6](#).



Continued from page 1.

Mekelle University and the local community as well.

Adjacent to the seed store, ATA also constructed office with many rooms and seed laboratory for the union which was inaugurated the same day 11 November 2017.

During the inaugural ceremony, federal and regional ATA representatives, federal and regional BoARD representatives, MU-ISSD technical staff, TARI staff, woreda offices of agriculture, zone and woreda administrators and farmers were in attendance. The event was colorfully celebrated.

In the afternoon, a discussion forum was chaired by Ato Fiseha Bezabih, deputy head of BoARD and Ato Solomon Abraha, head of Cooperative Promotion and Market Development Agency.

In the introductory part, the seed union manger, Ato Kalayu Birhanu made a power point presentation on the union's performance to date and plans for 2017. He stressed that the union is facing challenges associated with market linkage, electric power and transportation facilities. According to the manger, the seed union has planned to purchase 15,774 quintal of seed from its members in 2017. He noted that post-harvest technology mobilization and loan process are underway to realize the plan.

During the discussion, representatives from different partners (federal, region, zone and wereda) stressed the significance of the inaugurated infrastructures in transforming the seed sector in general and in enhancing the seed value chain in particular.

ATA representative, Dr. Yitbarek Semeane expressed his delight and congratulated Hadinet Raya Seed Union on possessing modern seed store with full facilities. Furthermore, as a way forward, he advised the union members to put in place a clear vision as far as seed business and marketing channels are concerned. He thanked Mekelle University and other stakeholders for their commitment in the construction of the seed store.

Representatives from the federal ministry of agriculture, BOARD, ISSD and TARI also pledged to continue supporting the seed union until a time that the union becomes technically well equipped.

In conclusion, important issues of great concern were raised on what to do with the unused seed cleaners located at Ayba Tabia and Maichew. Ato Fiseha Bezabih, deputy head of BoARD took an assignment to closely study the case in a bid to address the delayed utilization of the indicated post-harvest technologies.

Before starting the inauguration ceremony, a briefing was given by Ato Abraham, ATA technical expert on the overall schedule and objective. Thus, the program started by a field visit which was organized by Emba Alaje wereda office of agriculture where seed multiplication sites of different crop varieties were observed. A cluster of well performing wheat varieties was observed. Moreover, a new wheat variety (*WEGENA*) was also demonstrated & is expected to be promising according to the views of the farmers.

The chairman of Birhan Ayba SPC (*Riesse Debri*) pointed out that the SPC has signed an agreement to supply 2,500 quintal of seed to Hadinet Raya Seed Union and at the same time to supply 900 quintal of malt-barley seed to Raya Brewery PLC.

The field visit participants expressed their appreciation on the efforts made by Emba Alaje wereda office of agriculture for supporting the farmers and creating market linkages with the seed union and Raya Brewery PLC.



BOARD, ATA representatives during inauguration ceremony



The first onion seed production by the ISSD supported private seed producers [ISSD Tigray|Kilteawlaelo|2017]



organized themselves as LSB mid-2013.

Biruhtesfa is one of the LSBs established with the same objective. The LSB had 50 founding members [14 females] with ETB 15,000 initial capital and 27.5 hectares of land as seed business startup.

After three years of engagement in seed multiplication and dissemination, Biruhtesfa currently has 114 members [30 females], over ETB 155,000 cash excluding fixed assets. In addition, the LSB's annual seed supply capacity increased from 358 quintals to 895 quintals in the last three years. More than those overall developments, the LSB and its members are equipped with experiences on how to multiply and disseminate quality seed for themselves and beyond.

Kahsay Hiluf is the chairperson and founding member of Biruhtesfa. Biruhtesfa is one of the 14 LSBs founding members of Hadnet Raya seed producer and marketing union cooperative PLC in the southern zone. The LSB bought one share with ETB 25,000 from Hadnet Raya seed producer union. Moreover, it has planned to buy another share with ETB 25,000 keeping the same procedures. Kahsay said that *Meswaeti Tabia* has a total of 431 hectares of arable land. Out of this, 250 hectare is suitable for wheat seed multiplication. To use the opportunity, the LSB is in track to exploit the ISSD project's capacity building efforts and financial support and also other research institutes. The training on cooperatives seed multiplication, marketing principles and advantages of having business plan given to the LSB by ISSD project staff are crucial for seed multiplication activities. [Read full story at www.issdEthiopia.org](http://www.issdEthiopia.org)



Some of the wheat varieties produced by LSBs

## LSBs: The source of alternative seed supply

Wereda Endamekoni is one of the high land areas of southern zone in Tigray region. It is known for cereal production especially wheat even though farmers were affected by the lack of seed access. Before the government identified the wereda as a potential wheat cluster, farmers were active in producing, preserving and exchanging wheat crops among themselves in the absence of institutionalized seed cooperatives. Some farmers from Meswaeti Tabia tried to observe the experience of Local Seed Business (LSB) found in adjacent weredas. Having such kind of indigenous knowledge and LSB experiences on wheat crop varieties, farmers

## Portrait of Lemlem SPC

Address:

Zone: Eastern

Wereda: Hawzen

Tabia: Megab

Year of establishment: 2012

Founding membership size: 35 [1 female]

Current membership size: 136 [20 females]

Initial capital: ETB 1,050

Current capital: over ETB 1.6 million [ETB 102,000 cash]

Infrastructures the SPC owned: modern seed storage 3000 quintals storing capacity, bathroom, toilet and office which is build by ISSD Tigray unit in collaboration with ATA (Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency), seed cleaner machine, packaging machine, ground balance and guard house constructed by co-funding of 30% as community contribution.

Lemlem Seed Producer Cooperative (SPC) is known for its wheat seed multiplication. This year for instance, the SPC members planted 91 hectares. The SPC provides the seed collected from its member farmers.



Lemlem LSB wheat production after harvest [ISSDTigray|2017]

[Continued from page 4](#)

such as Bombay Red with its high market value, and Adama red with its shelf life. In the past, Yohannes's family was not food secure. However, after starting his seed business, he is able to feed the family, construct a house, and send his children to attend school regularly. Even though he already overcame the many challenges he faced, Yohannes still welcomes support similar to that of ISSD. Eventually he plans to export onion seed to neighboring countries like Sudan.



# From our BENEFIT Partners



BENEFIT projects [ISSD & CASCAPE] sorghum adaptation trial [Credit: ISSD Tigray| Asgede-Tsimbal| Sept. 2017]

## BENEFIT portfolio conducts collaboration activity Review & planning workshop

The Bilateral Ethiopian Netherlands Effort for Food, Income and Trade (BENEFIT) conducted a workshop on collaborative activity review & planning in Mekelle on 5-6 December 2017 in an effort to increase synergy and improve efficiency of resource utilization.

The BENEFIT partnership unites four different projects namely: ISSD, CASCAPE, SBN and ENTAG. The BENEFIT partnership strives to bring an impact on improved sustainable food, income, trade and nutrition security of rural households in Ethiopia.

During the opening ceremony Dr. Dawit Alemu, the BENEFIT manager delivered a keynote address and gave directions where he stressed the importance of collaboration for increased efficiency and more effective scaling of technologies and approaches in a bid to live up to the expectation of target beneficiaries and partners. Moreover, Dr. Dawit underscored the necessity for alignment among upcoming government and other flagship projects.

As an entry point to the main content of the workshop, *World café exercise* was conducted where a clear vision on collaborative intervention and challenges were shared. Deliberations went on for one hour to create more understanding on BENEFIT partnerships, guiding principles and meaningful collaboration for improved impact in the years ahead.

During the workshop, two reports were presented by Dr. Girmay G/Samuel and Dr. Yehenew G/Selassie, the team leaders of Tigray & Amhara regions respectively. Achievements, challenges, and lessons learned in 2017 and implications for 2018 were presented.

Great emphasis was given for synergy and scaling more target groups during the discussion. The need for strong commitment and serious attention of all partners in the BENEFIT hierarchy was underlined in order to effectively

carry out the tasks entrusted to BENEFIT portfolio at all levels.

The workshop was successfully concluded by creating common understanding among the participants on collaborative activities, objective and EKN expectation. Challenges were identified and mitigating measures were also agreed upon. Based on the given template, collaboration plans for 2018 of the two regions were prepared and stories of change were identified during respective regional working group sessions.

In closing ceremony, Dr. Eyasu Elias, the CASCAPE national manager, extended his sincere gratitude to all participants for coming and their active participation. He expressed hope for better collaboration at BENEFIT level in 2018.



The 10,000 quintal capacity storage of Hadnet Raya union



The Integrated Seed Sector Development Project (ISSD Ethiopia) is one of the proud projects under the BENEFIT partnership.

The Bilateral Ethiopian Netherlands Effort for Food, Income and Trade (BENEFIT) Partnership unites four projects funded by the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by Wageningen University and Research: CASCAPE, ISSD-Ethiopia, SBN and ENTAG.

## ISSD Tigray in collaboration with BoARD conducts SVC manual review

ISSD Tigray in collaboration with Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development (BoARD) conducted Tigray seed value chain (SVC) manual review workshop in the presence of government, NGOs and project representatives on 08 December 2018 in Mekelle, Desta International Hotel.

Representing Mekelle University office of the vice president for research and community services, Professor Fetien Abay, ISSD scientific coordinator, in her opening speech said that as a region a guideline on seed system is a necessary tool to have. Mekelle University, as institute of higher learning institution and research and community services is highly committed to assist the seed sector. She also addressed that solid collaboration among universities, research institutes, NOGs and projects is essential to solve seed related problems.

The objective of the regional SVC manual review workshop is to enrich and incorporate diversified expertise ideas to the manual drafted by the regional seed technical team.

The SVC manual review workshop was attended by representatives from BoARD, MU, MU based projects [ISSD and CASCAPE], TARI, ATA, Feed the Future Ethiopia Regional Cooperative Promotion Agency, GIZ, Ethiopian Agricultural Business Corporation (former ESE). All participants



discussed the drafted manual divided into three groups. After reading the whole document participants commented the manual and come up with their final points to be included in the first draft of the SVC regional manual. According to the given comments, suggestions and feedbacks, the manual preparation committee known as regional seed technical team promised to amend the manual. Thoroughly discussants inquired whether the manual is developed with reference to the national seed roadmap and gave great responsibility to all concerned bodies. Incorporating ideas forwarded by the participants, the manual is expected to be a guiding document for the regional seed sector actors.

## ISSD Tigray delivers training for seed experts, enumerators

The Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) Tigray unit project has delivered crowd sourcing and participatory varietal selection training on 4 September 2017 in Mekelle city Endayesus campus for wereda seed experts and enumerators. Trainees were composed of six seed experts from six weredas and 24 enumerators representing each Tabia. The one day training was mainly dealt with field data collection, crop characterization like tef, sorghum, wheat (both drum and bread wheat) and over all seed performance record mechanisms of the informal seed system. Concluding remarks and technical advices also were given by Professor Fetien Abay, scientific coordinator of the project.

A total of 28 trainees have participated in the training. Among them 17 are female enumerators trainees. To make the training more practical, participants observed



Mekelle University on station research site. Raya Alamata, Enderta, Kilte Awlalelo, Degua Tembien, Adwa and Asgede Tsimbla weredas were represented by the trainees.

The trainees witnessed that, the newly introduced informal seed network system is invaluable in creating job opportunities for the youth especially the female ones.

ISSD Ethiopia – Oromia East - Mekelle University

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*ISSD Ethiopia aims to improve female and male smallholder farmer access to quality seed of new, improved and/or farmer preferred varieties sustainably increase agricultural productivity.*

*Using an Integrated Seed Sector Development approach, ISSD Ethiopia promotes a vibrant, pluralistic and market oriented seed sector.*

*ISSD Ethiopia works through teams based at Haramaya University, Bahir Dar University, Mekelle University, Hawassa University and the Oromia Seed Enterprise. ISSD Ethiopia is part of the BENEFIT partnership the Project Management Unit is hosted in the BENEFIT office.*

*[www.ISSDethiopia.org](http://www.ISSDethiopia.org) or [www.mu.edu.et/issd/](http://www.mu.edu.et/issd/)*