

# ISSD AMHARA

## Newsletter - January, 2018



### **Promoting crops and varieties through crowdsourcing**

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The farmer community based seed system has been implemented the effective informal seed system through seed extension in the region. In its nature, the seed extension work is primarily serve and support the informal seed system i.e farmer seed system. The farmer saved system is constrained with lack of diversified varieties in which farmers are stick to the limited variety and climate change from year to year. In order to alleviate problems related with this, integrated seed sector development project Amhara unit in collaboration with Bioversity International adopted a new approach to technology dissemination and evaluation, called Triadic Comparisons of Technologies (tricot). This approach helps to deploy many varieties by participating farmers through crowdsourcing model.

To pilot the approach, ISSD project in collaboration with regional bureau and woreda office of agriculture, six woredas (Habru, mekit, dera, N/Achefer, Fagta and Dejen ) and 12 kebeles were selected for piloting seed extension. In order to understand the crop and variety dynamics of woredas, focus group discussions relation to seed and market study were undertaken. Debriefing of the assessment conducted with 45 participants (regional, woreda and kebele) to create consensus on the results. And social seed networks analysis conducted in one kebele to identify nodal and connector farmers which plays a central role in seed exchange. Moreover, ISSD project Amhara unit made memorandum of understanding among six pilot woredas office of agriculture to implement the activities of seed extension and transferred 723,000-birr grants for six woredas.

### **Enhancing supply of disease free seed potato using screen house**

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Potato is the most important root and tuber crop in our country. It is one of the most productive food crops in terms of yields of edible energy and good quality protein .It is an ideal crop for smallholder farmers in the highlands of the region, as it yields more calories per unit area compared to other crops with a short growing cycle, and is nutritious. The region has good climatic and environmental conditions for higher potato production and productivity.

Even if the region has potential to produce potato in a wider scale, the vast majority of smallholder farmer's productivity is very low due to lack of supply of quality seed and occurrence of disease. As a result farmers use farm-saved seed potato obtained from local market. Furthermore, farmer-based informal seed system is generally unable to maintain seed quality or eliminate diseases such as bacterial wilt, or viruses.

In order to solve the problem of supplying disease free quality seed, ISSD in collaboration of Amhara Region Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI) has been working to produce and supply disease free quality potato mini tuber using screen house at Addis Alem seed producer cooperative in Farta woreda.

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## **Regional updates of integrated seed sector development project Amhara Unit**

The integrated seed sector development project Amhara Unit started with convening the 2017 plan interventions and implemented with stakeholders to achieve the intended objectives of the project.

Concerning seed extension, integrated seed sector development project Amhara unit has planned to provide training for piloting woredas on crowd sourcing and then 1195 farmers participated in the approach. Following this, selected farmers have sown three different varieties through crowdsourcing in six pilot Woredas at twelve kebeles. The crops are sorghum, Teff, wheat and Finger millet and 47 varieties were deployed. In this approach, 822 women farmers are participated and considered as significant. In addition to this, farmers to identify suitable varieties adaptable to the different localities participatory variety selection were conducted. Through this approach, six crops and forty-six varieties (2 local) promoted. In the last year, birr 723,000.00 grants have been provided for seed extension pilot implementers Woreda office of Agriculture. Therefore overall result of promoting seed extension gave promising as a starter because of the effort and made by ISSD and different partners. The major partners are Bioversity international, Research Centers, WoA and WWC. All these partners provided effective and efficient backstopping supports for the success of seed extension. Moreover, trainings have been provided to local partners on gender issues to balance women in seed extention activities.

Since 2016, the project supports five seed producers directly and 32 SPCs indirectly. These 32 indirect support SPCs are being supported by 7 regional partners. To enhance the implementation capacity of the SPCs, trainings have been provided to 117 cooperative members on quality seed production, post-harvest, organization management, and financial management to direct support SPCs and also training has been provided to seven regional partners who are engaging in the indirect support of SPCs on financial management and marketing and business plan development in this budget year. ISSD project Amhara unit has been rendering technical backstopping supports to direct and indirect support SPCs quarter basis to enhance the performance of SPCs and partners.



**Contributing for updates, Dec 2017**

ISSD project Amhara unit has been supporting directly five private seed producers since 2016. In line with this, training has been provided to five directly supported private seed producers and 17 supporting partners on seed production, marketing, business planning, partnership and financial management and moreover training has also been provided to five directly supported private seed producers on seed value chain for three days. To enhance the capacity of private seed producers, in 2017 grant has been provided to two direct support private seed producers( each of them has got Birr 119,000.00). In addition, ISSD project Amhara unit has been creating linkages to five direct support private seed producers with research centers, quality regulatory authority, and public seed enterprises for EGS production. A one day field day has been organized in one of directly supported seed producer ( Enagete International) and 32 partners participated and also experience sharing was conducted to between Loma Enazmir private seed producer which has got a co-grant from ENTAG for potato mini tuber production with Adet Agricultural Research Centre and Addis Alem seed producer cooperative.

Concerning our collaboration with sister projects, CASCAPE, ISSD, SBN and ENTAG, in 2017 budget year different activities have been planned together to achieve joint common goals. The planned activities mainly deal with three crops (bread wheat, malt barely and sesame) and three Woredas (Bure, Farta and Metema). Based on this, bread wheat and malt barely platforms have been organized in Bure and Farta Woredas respectively. During the platform, the concerned actors were participating and discussing on the challenges of bread wheat and malt barely value chain and also share responsibilities to tackle the identified challenges. Trainings have been provided to 40 subject matter specialists and DAs on quality seed production in Bure and Farta Woredas in collaboration with CASCAPE. Moreover, training has been provided to 22 SPC members and 72 female headed farmers on sesame and rotational crops seed production with collaboration SBN. Field days have been conducted in Bure and Farta Woreda to promote seed production and to share experiences among the seed actors.

Seed value chain approach is one of the component of ISSD project Amhara unit to make synergy the seed actors across the seed value chain. Based on this, the regional seed core group has arranged meetings to discuss on the challenges and identify key intervention areas along the seed value chain. During the meeting, innovation projects such as as shortage of EGS, absence of guide line for contractual seed production agreement and scaling up of potato mini tuber were the main agenda. As a result the core group has decided and assigned hybrid maize EGS for Avalo, and self-pollinated crops such as wheat, teff and faba bean and for ASE and developing guide line for contractual seed production for seed quality regulatory authority. Accordingly, 4.85 ha of hybrid maize and 252 ha of self-pollinated crops EGS produced in collaboration with Avalo and ASE respectively. Similarly, developing guide line on contractual seed production has been undertaken by seed quality regulatory authority. In addition, with the collaboration of ARARI disease free potato source seed screen house was constructed at Addis Alem SPC. To enhance the SPC, training has been provided to 13 cooperative members on mini tuber seed potato production management by ARARI. ARARI has provided 1000 growing pots, 500 litter capacity water container. The cooperative has harvested 13,000 disease free potato mini tuber and then it has been managed in DSL to be sprouted for planting in 2017 budget year. To enhance the capacity of the seed actors, Seed value chain and QDS training was provided to 91 seed value chain actors. Discussion form on seed quality and seed low has been organized for 134 seed actors and moreover seed quality control and sample collection training was provided to 34 inspectors and laboratory technicians.

With regard to capacity building and knowledge sharing activities, wide range of instruments is used for sharing experiences and lessons learnt to foster the use of concepts, methodologies, insights and practices among partners and stakeholders in various domains. A radio program that runs for three months in collaboration with AMMA was broadcasted. The program targeted on smallholder farmers which included both seed producers and seed users across the region. The major thematic areas of the radio program include ISSD Ethiopia and its achievements in the past, the seed sector challenges, major players and expected rolls of each stakeholder and others. Documentation of major events and sharing through different media channels were another issue addressed in this component. Moreover, to keep the audiences updated and informed the websites of ISSD Amhara was successfully updated to reflect current status and focus of the project. In relation to capacity development, research grant also provided for six students in a competitive based on the selected thematic areas of the project.



*Habru, kule kebele, Focus Group Discussion, 2016*



*Field Day on Seed Extension progress in N/Achefer, Sankra, 2017*

## **Promoting crops and varieties through crowdsourcing**

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The prime tools to deploy crops and varieties in a rapid way for large number of farmers are crowd sourcing (CS) and participatory varietal selection (PVS). Before conducting a training of trainers (ToT) for implementers, a coaching session made by Bioversity international on the methodologies of crowd sourcing for ISSD staffs and Adet agricultural research breeders. Following this, three days training of trainers was organized for 39 participants drawn from research center breeders, bureau of agriculture experts, woreda agriculture office experts, woreda women and children office experts, development agents and enumerators on CS model, PVS, basic concepts of gender mainstreaming, design and layout of demonstrations, seed production of finger millet, teff and wheat traits identification and randomization. Then after, the trainers provided a two days intensive training on CS, PVS, trait identification, bylaw development, gender and seed production. Following this, the selected 1195 farmers received three different varieties to select the best fit depending on the traits identified by the group of farmers. The seeds were weighted and provided based on the amount of seed collected from research centers.

To consider farmers preference and select best fit varieties ,traits were identified by a group of men and women farmers for all crops in all weredas. The most repetitive traits across the weredas are yield, disease resistant, and market value. To collect all necessary information in relation to the variety traits, an observation card prepared and distributed to all enumerators to fill the data required from 1195 (69% women) farmers.

After all these intensive activities, four crops (wheat, sorghum, finger millet and teff) and 47 varieties were planted in six woredas by 1195 farmers with crowdsourcing. Women involvement in the CS approach was significant (69%) and it is beyond the target (50%). In addition to crowd sourcing, participatory varietal selection (PVS), approach also implemented 10 model farmers and 10 FTCs. Six crops (finger millet, Barley, Faba bean, Haricot bean, field pea and sorghum ) and forty six varieties of which 2 are local demonstrated through PVS.

In order to promote the activities of the seed extension a field day was organized in North Achefer woreda in

Sankra kebele and visited by partners drawn from research centers, BENEFIT partners, bureau of agriculture, universities, cooperative Promotion agency and piloting woredas. In addition to this, coaching was made by the donor and PMU and provided constructive comment on the status of the seed extension in Dera Woreda. Moreover, documentary film also prepared by Bahir Dar university research and community service office and shared through Amhara television program. The results were shining because of the involvement of major partners (Bioversity international, Research Centers, WoA and WWCO). All these partners provided an immense contribution for the success of seed extension.

In order to strengthen the seed extension through CS and PVS, ISSD plans to increase the number of farmers from 1200 to 3600. Hence, emphasis should be given for quality seed production, supporting farmers training centers, investing on nodal and connector farmers, attracting new partners, preparation of manuals, improving small size storage mechanisms and recording of the farmers to whom they provide seeds.



*Exhibition in promoting quality seed, Dec ,2017*

## Joined hands for development

It is uncommon for most organization to jointly discussing with some agendas before planning session of shared activities. Moreover, projects that are designs to pass through many value chain actors and working with a close collaboration operators need to create an enabling environment in a way of discussing on bottlenecks before planning session. However, it is not commonly practices the discussion earlier than planning, instead it privileged for independent planning and conversing for implementation. Absence of joint planning and discussion hinders the effectiveness achieving the intended goal as expected. Considering this fact, integrated seed sector development project Amhara unit has been determined to strengthen the collaboration of seed producers with financial institution to unlock the bottlenecks with regard to enhancing the seed system. The consultative meeting conducted on 29, December with aim of linking seed producers with financial institutions to access credit. The workshop initiated by the unit and creates a room for financial institution to promote their products and criteria. Moreover, the seed producers also apprehend the financial institutions service.



The workshop goes through organized way as it included highlights on the progress of the project, intervention areas to familiarize the financial institution on integrated seed sector development project activities. Following this, the invited four financial institution (Buna international Bank, development bank of Ethiopia, Amhara credit and saving institution, cooperative Bank of Oromia) have presents their services, products and criteria to get credit and warm discussion held with seed producers.

In the discussion session, some ambiguities between seed producers and financial institution on credit access have thoroughly discussed and turn out to be clear. Issue of collateral, financial institutions restriction on credit access for seed producers and way of using assets as collateral to access credit highlighted. Finally, the financial institution has shown their interest in considering seed producers as a potential customer with a few requirements to be meet if the seed producers are honest, hard worker and committed to repay back on time.

### Strengthening linkage with research centers

During the previous phases of the project, seed system support focused on supporting the formal seed sector through training, financial support and policy development. The focus in promoting seed with seed extension has got limited attention, but a large number of varieties are in the shelf of the research centers. To promote different varieties to a large number of farm-

ers integrated seed sector development project implemented crowd sourcing approach in six piloted woredas and results promising commencement in promoting varieties for large number of farmers. The approach piloted in the region since 2016 with the initiative of ISSD and involvement of various regional seed sector actors. The approach is simply establishment of farmer-based groups and access many varieties to select the best fit based on their own preference. The pilot conducted in six woredas and 12 kebeles of the region with the involvement of ISSD, regional and woreda bureau of agriculture and shown promising commencement in the seed system. Moreover, it is effective to inject large number crops and varieties in a rapid way for numerous numbers of farmers and involvement of women were significant.

To strengthen the system in advance, integrated seed sector development project Amhara unit conducted planning workshop with research centers in aim of enlightening the achievements of crowdsourcing (CS) and PVS ,create collaboration, share responsibilities and know the varieties available in the hands of the research centers. The consultative workshop was organized for one day and participants drawn from the four regional research centers (DBARC, AARC, GARC and SARC) attended. The workshop started with performance evaluation of seed extention status of the year 2017 implementation period. Following this, presentation and discussion session held on available crops and varieties of each research centers for 2018 implementation period.

Research centers	Available crops, varieties multiplied by each centers
GARC	Sesame, food barley, cumin, chickpea, malt barley, faba bean, field pea, rice and mung bean
SARC	teff, bread wheat, durum wheat, food barley, malt barley, sorghum, faba bean, field pea, chickpea, haricot bean and sesame
AARC	bread wheat, malt barley, chickpea, teff, finger millet, food barley, faba bean
DBARC	lentil, chickpea, faba bean, mung bean, durum wheat, bread wheat, food barley, sorghum, teff, potato, onion, tomato and pepper.

Subsequent to presentation and discussion on available crops and varieties, a joint planning conducted in consideration of agro ecology of the project areas and farmers preference in the varieties. The workshop was effective in discussing barriers and built consensus on the research centers role in supporting ISSD in the design of uniform PVs lay out and supply of seeds for the CS activities, strengthen collaborative trainings, field days, seed access, linkage and involvement in monitoring and evaluation activities.

## **Enhancing supply of disease free seed potato using screen house**

*Continued from page 1*

ISSD project Amhara unit allocated and transferred Birr 320,000.00 for ARARI to build the capacity of tissue culture laboratory, purchase screen house, different facilities and to provide trainings. Accordingly, ARARI in collaboration with ISSD undertaken site selection and discussion with Adisalem cooperatives to understand the interest of the cooperative on the production of potato mini tuber. Then the cooperative agreed with ARARI to supply local material like forest soil, wood, compost and other materials which are required for screen house construction, moreover ARARI purchased and supplied screen house facilities. As the result, 15 m X 8m X 3 (Length, width and height) screen house was constructed with the involvement of ARARI, ISSD and the cooperative.



### **Growing pots installed in the screen house**

To manage the screen house, practical training on potato early generation seed multiplication and green house management was provided for 13 cooperative members by the researchers. The training was more of practical demonstration on handling, planting of plantlets and watering. Based on the training the cooperative prepared wood, compost, forest soil, sand and hand dug well to start installing the screen house.

Finally 1000 acclimatized plantlets developed from tissue culture laboratory have supplied. 954 plantlets were planted with full capacity of screen house. To improve the performance of screen house management frequent coaching and monitoring was undertaken ISSD in collaboration with ARARI.

Based on the frequent technical support by both actors, the cooperative has managed properly the screen house. As the result, the cooperative has harvested 13000 different size tubers which are sufficient to cover around half hectare of land. The result is shared and documented by Amhara mass media in collaboration with Bahir Dar University. Consequently, mini tuber production using screen house has been decided to be scaled up by ISSD and CASCPE in the upcoming planning year of collaboration activities.



### **Screen house and defuse light storage houses built by ISSD support.**

Furthermore, following the construction of the screen house, screen house facilities like 1000 growing pots, one water container with 500 liter capacity and watering can were supplied and installed in the screen house to plant the plantlets growing in the tissue culture laboratory.



**Plantlets growing on growing pots in the screen house**

## Sereten Endeg SPC

Sereten endeg seed producer cooperative organized and licensed in 2013 by woreda cooperative office. The prime objective of the cooperative is to produce farmers preferred crops and varieties and improves the livelihood of cooperative members. The cooperative has been supported through scaling up partner (Bure woreda office of agriculture) in collaboration with integrated seed sector development project Amhara unit. The cooperative currently has 198 members and of which 14 of them are women.



Field day at the SPc on BH maize variety ,Dec,2017

Starting from 2016, the cooperative directly supported by the project and primarily engaged in bread wheat production and maize. Moreover, the cooperative has a capacity to produce more than 2000 quintals of seed per year in their own members and out growers' scheme.

The cooperative has produced seed with technical support from woreda agriculture and ISSD project Amhara unit. Moreover, the project has been supporting the cooperative to adopt agricultural technologies that help to improve productivity. In this regard, capacity building (trainings in producing quality seed and business plan development), infrastructures like machinery and its shade building and market linkage created by the support of the project.

Beyond technical contribution, the project supports the cooperative a grant through co funding. In line with this, since 2016 budget year birr 107,000 has been provided to strengthen their capacity of producing quality seed and contributes the projects mission of creating well organized, market oriented, professional and strategically linked cooperatives.

In addition to this, the cooperative got construction of seed-cleaning shed, moisture tester, ground balance, packing machine, packing machine, processing machine by the project in collaboration with agricultural transformation agency (ATA).

## Internal Quality control in Loma Azmir private seed producer

Loma Enazmir private seed producer was established in 2010 in Amhara region, East Gojam zone with a legal license to produce and market seed. The seed producer, has 150 hectare land provided from the Regional Investment Promotion Agency. The seed producer started seed production in 2010/2011 production year with a total land of 44 hectare. The main activities of the seed producer are production of quality seed and disseminate to smallholder farmers at reasonable price. The product delivered to customers are maize, wheat and teff certified seed which is inspected and certified by the regional quality regulatory authority and own mini-laboratory.

The seed producer has got a grant from Integrated Seed Sector Development project Amhara unit innovation fund to strengthen private seed producers. The grant was provided for internal quality controlling facilities (mini-laboratory) for germination and purity test by their own expertise prior to external quality control. The grant provided was 119,000 birr from Integrated Seed Sector Development project Amhara unit project and the seed producer contributed a co-grant of 39,833 birr for the mini laboratory facilities. The mini-laboratory has contributed to improve seed quality and reduces the workload of external quality controlling authority. Moreover, the performance of the seed producer based on the ten Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set to evaluate private seed producer at the end of each year has improved in terms of quality seed production. The seed producer produced 976 quintal maize BH-661 variety in 2016/2017 production year and conducted internal quality germination and purity test using the mini-laboratory. In 2017/2018 production year the seed producer diversified crops and producing mung bean (10 ha) and tef kora variety (22ha). The product of the seed producer has been distributed mainly to smallholder farmers in the nearby kebeles and districts with the organization brand which is tagged in the bag. In addition, to direct beneficiaries, the product was distributed through direct seed marketing program using primary cooperatives and individual traders/agro dealers with contractual agreement.



Loma azmir private seed producer manager in the mini-laboratory, 2017, Debre Markos

# From our BENEFIT Partners

## BENEFIT partnership collaborative meeting of northern cluster

The BENEFIT partners program in collaboration with Mekele University organized two-day planning workshop from Dec 5-6/2017 in Mekele town, with aim of reviewing the implementation of 2017 planned activities and propose better collaboration interventions in the fiscal year of 2018. In the opening session **Dr Dawit Alemu**, BENEFIT manager, starts by saying "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much". Alerting all project Staff involvement in collaboration activities and contribution for the success of BENEFIT.

In the two-day workshop presentations on why BENEFIT projects collaboration needed, what are guiding principles of collaboration, major challenges and collaboration activities were discussed and reached consensus in the first session. Moreover, review of the two regions performance on collaboration planned activities of 2017 budget year and direction for the next year planning also issues agreed in the second session.

Based on a through discussion consensus built on allocate budget for collaborative activities, assign focal person from coordinators, focus on key strategic collaborative activities, Closely work with ATA, AGP, ACC, PSNNP, develop sense of responsibility and more concerted effort for PPMEL in the implementation year of 2018. In line with this, regional BENEFIT projects (ISSD, CASCAPE, SBN, ENTAG), have prepared their respective regional collaborative working plan of the upcoming year.

Finally, the participants agreed on the projects active involvement to sustainably drill and bargain the possible way out of the challenges during the implementation of collaborative activities in the upcoming years of BENEFIT. A total of 30 participants drawn from collaborative projects (ISSD, CASCAPE, SBN and ENTAG) have attended.

## Gender and nutrition working group established in Amhara region

The BENEFIT partnership projects established gender and nutrition-working group in aim of creating stronger links among BENEFIT programs gender & nutrition practitioners, to develop an effective system for information flow, knowledge and experience sharing among projects.

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ISSD project Amhara unit has put a breakthrough by hosting the first regional gender and nutrition working group meeting in October 12/2017, Bahir dar. The prime agendas of the meeting were discussing on the terms of Reference (TOR) of the gender-working group and collect inputs on the progress of gender and nutrition activities of each project and joint plan, identifying major challenges and forwards possible intervention for planning of 2018 activities.

In the meeting, gender and nutrition-working group established, review status of each project, identified major challenges & forwards possible solutions on gender and nutrition activities. Moreover, the working group members have decided to hold the second quarter regular meeting in mid Feb, 2018 and CASCAPE project Amhara unit will facilitate the leading role.

## ISSD Amhara collaborates with ENTAG to produce potato mini-tuber

In Amhara region, Loma Enazmir private seed producer has got a grant from ENTAG innovation fund for potato mini tuber production in 2017. The objective of the grant was to production a disease free seed potato mini-tuber. The grant was obtained based on the call for proposal from Ethiopia Netherlands Trade Facility for Agribusiness (ENTAG) through free competition.. The amount of the grant is 25,000 euro with 50% co-financing grant. With the support of Project Management Unit(PMU) the seed producer has got a one day theoretical and practical experience from Holeta Agricultural Research Center in potato mini-tuber production.

Moreover, Integrated Seed Sector Development Project Amhara unit the seed producer has got experience from Adet Agricultural Research Centre and Addis Alem seed producer cooperative which have prior experience in producing disease free potato mini-tuber. The seed producer rented appropriate land for potato mini-tuber production, purchased materials (local and industrial) to build the green house and Diffused Light Store (DLS). Integrated Seed Sector Development Project Amhara unit is continuing its support through monitoring, evaluation and linking the private seed producer with partners to implement the planned activities timely and efficiently.



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 in Other Regions

### ORMOMIA SOUTH WEST UNIT



Integrated seed sector development Oromia south west project unit conducted regional workshop with the theme entitled 'Promoting the use of quality seed on October 28, 2017 at Pyramid Hotel, Bishoftu town. The objectives of the workshop were sharing experiences and learning lessons on best practices in promoting quality seed;

linking those in demand with different sources in supply of quality seed, and strengthening collaboration in seed value chains.

Sixty-nine participants (seven of them were women) drawn from different stockholders attended the workshop .

### OROMIA EAST UNIT

ISSD project Oromia East unit organized seminar on Ethiopian seed regulation on July 31, 2017 at Ras Hotel, Harar City. The prime objectives of the seminar were creating awareness for seed producers, actors and stakeholders involved in seed value chain development. During the workshop, Ethiopian Seed strategy and policy and its enforcement implementation, design solution for current challenges in seed production also highlighted.

Twenty-eight participants from Research Centers, Universities, Farmers' Cooperative Unions, Seed Producers' cooperatives (SPCs), Ministry of Agriculture, Oromia regional and Zonal Bureau of agriculture and Natural resource, Agricultural Transformation Agency, and media organizations participated on the seminar.

### SNNPR UNIT

From August 10-15, the integrated seed sector development project SNNPR unit, organized field day in Derashe & Kedida gamela woredas with aim of evaluating the performance of new sorghum and Haricot bean varieties, documenting women's involvement and assess the overall performance of informal seed sector.

The field days attracted more than 600 participants drawn from (Atena, Haibena, teza gereba, Jore) kebeles, zonal, woreda farm and natural resource experts and other village farmers involved in select-ed crops or not.

The visit conducted in areas where drought frequently appear and found in nonproductive safety net woredas (PSNP). However, the trail conducted through crowd sourcing and participatory varietal selection in the areas are performing well and adapted the agro ecology for growing particular crops.



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### TIGRAY UNIT

The Integrated Seed Sector Development project Tigray unit has delivered crowd sourcing and participatory varietal selection training on 4 September 2017 in Mekelle University for woreda seed experts and enumerators. Trainees were composed of six seed experts from six woredas and 24 enumerators representing each kebele. The one-day training was mainly deal 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.

Twenty-eight 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. The trainees represented Raya Alamata, Enderta particular crops.

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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.