



Integrated seed sector development Bahir Dar University Unit

PRESS RELEASE



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“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”

The BENEFIT projects conducted collaboration planning workshop between Amhara and Tigray units. Staffs from ISSD program management unit, Bahir dar and mekele university CASCAPE and ISSD projects, BENEFIT manager and staffs, CASCAPE country manager have attended two-day workshop at mekele from Dec 5-6/2017.

The prime objective of the collaboration workshop was to spectacle the status, identify challenges, develop recommendation and propose better strategy for collaboration activities of the year 2018. Presentations on collaboration achievements of the year 2017, challenges, opportunities and the way forward on for sense of responsibility and the implementation of strategies were also among objective of the workshop.

In the opening session **Dr Dewit 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 continuation of BENEFIT 2. He adds our planning for the year 2018 and the overall collaboration activities will relies on most achievable and trusted to bring impact for BENEFIT projects.

The workshop was effective in identifying challenges of the previous years and built consensus on the imminent years of intervention. The main challenges were budget, staff time, priority, lack of organized MEL, less commitment and strategic focus for collaboration activities. Consensus also built on allocating budget for collaborative activities once planning is done by apportion/scooping from each projects budget, assign focal person from coordinators/delegate + for technical staff it is part of normal duty and responsibility, focus on key strategic collaborative activities where impact will be significant, closely work with ATA, AGP, ACC, PSNNP and concentrated effort for PPMEEL.

In the closing of the collaboration workshop, **Dr Eyasu Elias**, CASCAPE country manager strongly addresses 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.

The workshop jointly organized by BENEFIT plus Mekele University and a total 30 participants drawn from collaborative projects (ISSD, CASCAPE, SBN and ENTAG) have attended.



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