

ISSD Tigray unit conducts consultative meeting

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The meeting was initiated by ISSD Tigray unit private component in close collaboration with department of crop and horticultural science (DCHS) of the college of dry land agricultural and natural resources on 24 December 2017 at Mekelle University main campus.

The objectives of the consultative meeting are:

- To strengthened market linkages between horticulture seed producers and input and service providers, particularly for Private Seed Producers (PSPs)
- To discuss regional market linkages and quarantine bottlenecks,
- To develop joint action plan on the responsibility of each participant entity

Representing Mekelle University office of the vice president for research and community services, Professor Fetien Abay, ISSD scientific coordinator, in her opening remark noted that as Tigray region it is mandatory to develop seed diseases controlling mechanism or professional quarantine system especially in horticulture. According to her, Mekelle University has a mandate for research and community services and is highly committed to endorse proposal grants to foster the regional seed sector development in general and encourage researchers as well. She also emphasized that solid collaboration among seed entities most importantly universities, research institutes and projects is essential to come up with evidence based intervention on quarantine.

A PowerPoint presentation was made by an expert of plant protection and quarantine from the bureau of agriculture and rural development. The legal frame work, regional quarantine processes and the challenges faced along the process were presented. In conclusion it was noted that the regional bureau of agriculture is expected to present a formal request to Mekelle University on quarantine challenges that require further research work. The academic staff and professor Fetien expressed readiness to support the bureau of agriculture.

The project experience on quality seed multiplication, dissemination and market linkages and profitability analysis of different seed crops were also presented by the ISSD business development and marketing expert during the meeting. It was underscored that the ISSD project is inclusive in its approach and works closely with the relevant departments in the university. Innovation funds/grants are prioritized and indorsed by the regional seed core team. So far, ISSD has been doing a valuable contribution to the development of the



Participants of the consultative meeting on market linkage and quarantine

regional seed sector and should keep up the momentum to be more visible in its endeavors.

The consultative meeting on market linkages between horticulture seed producers and input and service providers as well as quarantine practice was attended by 39 (4 female) participants from different seed related academic and research backgrounds.

Finally, the participants agreed to develop an action plan to resolve the shortage of horticulture seeds and quarantine issues.