

PRESS RELEASE



Programme on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia

Farm Land Hotel, Nekemte, Oromia; December 21, 2017

(ISSD Ethiopia December 25, 2017 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia):- BENEFIT-ISSD, BENEFIT-CASCAPE (Jimma University) and BENEFIT-ENTAG Ethiopia programme has jointly organized 3rd Soybean platform meeting at Farm Land Hotel of Nekemte town on December 21/2017 to strengthen the integration among different Soybean actors. The representatives of the three programme welcomed the participants. A total of 43 participants representing different governmental and non-governmental organizations were involved in the consultation meeting. The participants were from Soya Bean researchers, extension workers, producers, processors, cooperative unions, input and service suppliers and traders as well as development partners like N2Africa, Clinton Health Access initiatives, Self-Help Africa and 2scale.

The objectives of the meeting was to bring all stakeholders across soya bean value chain to discuss and suggest strategies and solution on: Soybean technology development and adoption (improved varieties with recommended agronomic practices both pre and postharvest technologies), production potentials including extent of production and place of production, market linkage and market information, soybean whole and retail marketing opportunities and challenges including transportation and input and output financing. Also the meeting emphasized the need to link and align soybean stakeholders (researchers, extension, producers, input providers, processors, traders and development partners).

Opening the consultation meeting, BENEFIT-ISSD Ethiopia programme Manager Amsalu Ayana (Ph. D) said, the discussion was mainly organized to strengthen collaboration of soybean actors and believed to bring tangible outcomes from the discussion of participants. Dr. Amsalu briefly explained the economic importance and nutritional content of the crop, origin and distribution of soybean, introduction and adaptation of soybean in Ethiopia, major production regions and zones, production trends, soybean research and varieties released with agronomic and crop protection practices. Mr. Yared Sertse from SHAYASHONE Consultancy clarified soybean trading which include marketing potentials, opportunities and marketing niches. During the discussion the producers raised the challenge of market, whereas the processors and traders expressed the shortage of soybean produce for their market. Similarly seed producers complained for inadequate demand for soybean seed, while soybean grain producers were complaining shortage of soybean. This shows lack of well facilitated soybean value chain.



Questions, comments and suggestions have focused on strengthening each part of the soybean value chain – availability and access of seed, grain production, and marketing of grain for processing. Participants appreciated the consultation meeting for its relevance, timeliness and worthy.

Amsalu Ayana (PhD), manager of the ISSD Ethiopia program, on the closing remark, has expressed his gratitude for the participants and the organizing team and reminded the soybean stakeholders to stand strong towards developing soybean value chain, including seed value chain. Finally he wished the participants safe journey back home.

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

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