

ISSD Tigray

Newsletter - June 2018



PSPs, SPCs, EABC Enthusiastically Producing Seed

The Tigray regional seed technical team and ISSD staff paid five-days field visit to the Private Seed Producers (PSPs) found in Raya Azebo and Kilte Awlaelo and off-season barley early generation seed (EGS) production by Ethiopian Agricultural Business Corporation (EABC) Tigray branch in collaboration with Seed Producer Cooperatives (SPCs) found in Hawzien and Saesie-Tsaeda-Emba weredas. SMUR Agricultural Development PLC, Raya Horti Farm and Yohannes farm are among the PSPs visited in Raya Azebo and Kilte Awlaelo weredas. On the other hand, Lemlem and Dildil SPCs found in Hawzien and Saesie-Tsaeda-Emba weredas are also visited by the seed technical team. The seed technical team and ISSD staff visit has the following main objectives;

- To navigate seed production activities by PSPs, SPCs and EABC in southern and eastern zones of Tigray region;

- To assess challenges of the seed actors (PSPs, SPCs and EABC);

- To look and discuss alternative ways which help in tackling their problems;

The PSPs produce vegetables like: zucchini, cucumber, onion, potato, sweet pepper and fruits such as...

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MU-ISSD Hosts 2018 National Workshop

The MU-ISSD project hosted BNEFIT-ISSD 2018 national workshop from 13-15 March 2018 in Axum town. Different organizations and individuals from government institutions and project offices participated. In the national workshop, the 2017 projects successful approaches and innovations, seed key notes and other seed related crucial researches were presented by participants. The workshop has the following objectives (4);

- Share and learn 2017 successful approaches to scaling and embedding innovations

- Deepen understanding of BNEFIT partnership sister programmes' successful approaches to their innovations

- To build a constructive social working environment and team spirit for the year ahead

Message from the institutional advisor

The president of Mekelle University and BENEFIT-ISSD Tigray unit institutional advisor, Professor Kindeya G/hiwot, officially opened the national workshop. In his opening speech, he noted that MU-BNEFIT-ISSD project made marvelous and successful achievements in the seed sector. According to him, the successes in the seed sector are considered as seed revolution in the regional context. Eventually, he thanked all [Continued on page 5](#)



Vegetables & fruits seedlings produced by SPS [Credit: MU-ISSD/January 2018/G.Haweria]

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ካብ ሓረስታይ ናብ ሓረስታይ ዝግበር ልውውጥ ዘርኢ

ካብ ሓረስታይ ናብ ሓረስታይ ዝግበር ያታዊ ልውውጥ ዘርኢ ብዝተመሓየሸ ኣገባብ እንተተደጊፉ ብዙሓት ኣማራጽታት ፍሰት ዘርኢ ክፍጠሩ ይኽእሉ። እዚ ክውን ንምግባር ሸውዓተ ዓይነታት ዘርኢ ማለት ምሽላ፣ ስገም፣ ናይ ባኒን ፓስታን ስርናይ፣ ዳጉሻ፣ ዓተርን ዓልቋይን (ዓተር ባሕሪ) ኣብ 9 ወረዳታት [ራያ ኣላማጣ፣ እንደርታ፣ ክልተ ኣውላዕሎ፣ ደጉዓ ተምቤን፣ ዓድዋ፣ ኣስገደ ፅምብላ፣ ታሕታይ ማይ ጨው፣ ታሕታይን ላዕላይን ኣድያቦ] ዘለዎ 32 ጣብያታት ንዝርከቡ 3,400 ሓረስቶች [1,700 ደ/ኣንስትዮ] ንፈተነ ተባባሪሖም። ብመሰረት እዚ 75 ዝተፈለለዩ ዓሌታት ኣዝርእቲ ዝሓዙ 10,200 ዕሽጋት ንቶም ዘተጠቐሱ ሓረስቶች ተዓዲሎም። ብተወሳኺውን 14 ኣሳተፍቲ ሰሪሕኻ መርኣዩ ማእኸላት ተሓርዮን። ሓረስቶች እውን ብዝተወሃበም ተግባራዊ ስልጠና መሰረት ዘሪኦም። እዚ ናብ ካልኣት ንምግፋሕ ድማ ዋዕላ ተሞክሮ ልውውጥ ሓረስቶች ክሳልጥ እዩ። ኣብዚ ፈተነ ዝተሓቐፉ ኩሎም ሓረስቶች እቲ ፕሮጀክት ሸትኡ ንኸወቅዕ ን5 ኣብዚ ፕሮጀክት ዘይተሓቐፉ ሓረስቶች ክባፅሑ እዮም።



Packages of seed which distributed to CS farmers

ኣናእሽታይን ማእኸላዎትን ውልቀ ሃፋትም ኣፍረይቲ ዘርኢ

ዓቕሚ ዘርኢ መባዛሕቲ ውልቀ ሃፋትም ንምዕባይ እዞም ዝሰዕሱ ንጥፈታት ተተግቢሮም፤ ሕዚ ዘለውዎ ኩነታት ተፀሪዖም፣ ናይ ምዕዶን ምኽርን ኣገልግሎት ተዋሂብዎም፤ ንዘርኢ ሰራሕቶም ዘድሊ ገንዘብ ተለቂቑሎም፤ ምስ ምርምር ማእኸላት ክተሓሳሱ ተጋይሩ፤ ኣብ ምፍራይ ዝተመሓየሸ ዘርእን እሴት ሰንሰለት ዘርእን ዝተመሰረተ ድጋፍን ክትትልን ን5 ዘርኢ መባዛሕቲ ማእኸላትን ን5 ዘርኢ መባዛሕቲ ሰብ ውልቀ ሃፋትን ተገይሩ፤ ዘርኢ መባዛሕቲ ማእኸላት ኣብ እንታይነት ሕገ ደንቢ ሰልጢኖም፤ ዘርኢ መባዛሕቲ ናይ ባዕሎም ዕሬት ቁፅፅርን መረጋገጺ ብቐዓት ወረቐት ምስክር ክህልዎምን ተሓጊዞም። ብመሰረት እዚ 4 ካብቶም 6 ዘርኢ መባዛሕቲ ሃፋትም መረጋገጺ ብቐዓት ብምውናኖም ኣብ ወረድኦምን ካብ ወረድም ወፃኢን ንዘለው ሓረስቶች ዘርኢ ክሸጡ ይኽእሉ።

ሰንሰለታዊ ምትእስሳር ዘርኢ ልምዓት

ኣብ መዳይ እዞም ዝሰዕሱ ቁልፊ ስራሕቲ ተወጊኖም፤ ኣብ መንጎ ምርምር ማእኸላትን ዘርኢ መፍረይትን ምትእስሳር ተፈጢሩ፤ ቀፃላይ ስርዓት ቀረብ ቅድመ መስራሒ ዘራኢ ክህሉ ተሰሪሑ፤ ኣብ ምሓዝ ብቐዓት መረጋገፅን ምሕዳሩን ምስ ዘርኢ መባዛሕቲ ኣካላት ምርድዳእ ተፈጢሩ፤ ኣኼባ ስርዓት ምሕደራ ዘርኢ ምስ ክልላዊ ኮር ቲምን ፀገማትን ረብሓታትን ዝገፅር ዳህሳስ ኣብ 13 ፕሮግራም ልምዓት ሕርሻ ወረዳታት ተሳሊጡ።

ፍፃመታት ስግግር ፍልጠትን ርክባትን እዚ ፕሮጀክት

ኣብ 6 ኣዋርሕ ብበዓል ሞያ ስግግር ፍልጠትን ርክባትን እዞም ዝሰዕሱ ስራሕቲ ተፈጊዖም ኣለው። ሓደ ዜና መፅሄት ተዳልዮ ብ250 በዝሒ ቅዳሓት ተሓቲሙ። ኣብ ቀፃሊ ንመሓዘት ፕሮጀክታት፣ መዳርግቲ ኣካላትን ትካላትን ከምኡ እውን ዝተፈለለዩ ኣንባብትን ክባፅሑ እዮም። ድረ ገፅ ፕሮጀክት ዝተዋደደ ልዓት ዘርኢ ትግራይ ብኣደሸቲ ምዕባሊታት፣ ዜናታትን ስእልታትን ተመዓራርፍ። ክልተ ሓፀርቲ ቪዲዮታት ተዳልዮን ንተመልከቲ ቀሪቦን። ክልተ ትረኽታት ብሉፃት ተሞክሮታትን ትሸዓት ንንጥፈታት ማእኸላ ዝገበሩ ዜናታትን እውን ተዳልዮም።

ISSD Tigray Updates Summary

Seed Extension/Varietal Deployment

Akin to 2017, CS and PVS are the main areas for a major seed deployment system. MU-ISSD has deployed seven crop types to 32 kebeles found in nine weredas and 3,400 farmers [1,700 women] in 2018. The seven major crops are sorghum, barley, durum wheat, bread wheat, finger millet, chick-pea and faba bean. As a result, a total of 10,200 tricot packages and 75 varieties distributed. Moreover, 14 PVS sites identified for variety trail. Quality seed promotion through CS and PVS has going well in all weredas. Targeted farmers demonstrated greater awareness about quality seed use and need for adoption. To meet project objective, each farmer planned to share those new varieties for at least five other farmers who are not part of the project.

Private Small and Medium Seed Producers

To capacitate the PSPs, the following planned activities performed: performance of PSPs assessed, advice and consultation service provided, seed investment grant awarded, linkage with research centers facilitated, supervision and coaching on quality seed production and seed value chain to five PSPs & SPCs conducted, PSPs assisted in establishing internal quality control and guarantying certificate of competence (CoC) and SPCs trained on the implications of bylaws adopted by the SPCs. Following the efforts made on CoC, four out of six PSPs got CoC by now. After the PSPs have got CoC, they can sale their seed products directly to smallholder farmers in the wereda and outside the wereda.



Seed/seedling multiplication practice using greenhouse by PSPs

Seed Value Chain Development (SVC)

The following Seed Value Chain (SVC) activities are the major ones: linkage between research & seed producers, facilitating SVC manual, facilitate sustainable early generation seed production and supply system, creating understanding on seed certification and renewal process to SPCs & PSPs, conducting regional seed core team meeting on seed sector governance and regional seed sector vision for 2040, held rapid assessment to identify status, challenges, and opportunities of SPCs and CIGs in 13 Agricultural Growth Program (AGP) weredas.

Knowledge Sharing and Communication

ISSD Tigray website [www.mu.edu.et/issd] updated. Collaboration MSC story produced and presented to stakeholders. Nine news and two success stories have been produced and disseminated to ISSD audiences.



Some of the well performed barely varieties in crowdsourcing sites

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watermelons, papaya, grape and strawberry.

The PSPs are becoming center of excellence and innovation to the surrounding farmers and share experience among them. Moreover, they opened job opportunities for the youths and new graduates.

SMUR Agricultural Development PLC and Raya Horti Farm

SMUR Agricultural Development PLC for instance employed 150 workers (2 MSc holders, 8 BSc and 7 diploma holders are among others.) Comparing to other PSP farms, this farm produces quality vegetable. This product has long shelf life, explained Ato Tesfay, manager of the farm. The farm has a license to export vegetables and fruits and import special fertilizers and recommended chemicals. Investors pointed out that due to export standards and high quality demands they mostly use imported hybrid varieties. The team learned that private investors are willing to produce open pollinated vegetable seeds and fruit seedlings of different varieties to serve individual farmers and minimize shortage of vegetable seeds if they are technically well supported by the research and BoARD.

Major Yohannes started private onion seed multiplication and received ISSD grant to expand his seed production business. He is producing plenty of certified onion seeds. This year for instance planted more than one hectare with improved onion seed varieties, Bombay Red and Adama Red varieties. His farm created many jobs for nearby laborers (most of them women). He educated smallholder farmers on how they can produce onion seeds. G/kirstos Teklay is one of the individual farmers who took the experience on onion seed multiplication from Major Yohannes. "Taking a lesson from Major Yohannes, we started to produce onion seeds for ourselves and other farmers as well. On average we harvested 20-30kg of onion seeds. We sold ETB 500 for a kilo and earned ETB 10,000-15,000. We have now three years' experience of seed production and seedlings supply. Bombay Red and Adama Red are the varieties we used so far" said G/kirstos, the beneficiary farmer.

Major Yohannes said "I distributed both Bombay Red and Adama Red seed varieties to PSPs working around Raya valley and Kafta Humera weredas." He practically

shows them how they can manage their farm and advised them to avail themselves for external inspections.

Major Yohannes's challenges are;

- Lack of basic seed from regional research institutes;
- Lack of cleaning and packaging machine with its accessories (labeling);

- Lack of own land for seed multiplication;

To overcome the challenges, the team suggested that a linkage should be made with internal and external seed sources so as to produce certified quality seeds. Moreover, support for the requested machinery is also important for cleaning and packaging in order to produce quality seed to all parts of the region through his agro-dealers. In general, the PSPs show an interest to engage themselves in vegetable seeds and seedlings quality seed production so as to create seed access for nearby farmers and then fulfill the region's seed demand. Even though SPSs want to produce cereal seeds, they are not that much interested due to its low profitability and land availability.



Regional seed technical team visiting Maj. Yohannes farm

Observing the SPSs efforts in seed production and multiplication, Professor Fetien Abay, ISSD Tigray scientific coordinator, advised some of the PSPs to be vigilant in their plot design, structure, variety mixing (e.g. green pepper).

SPCs off-season barley EGS production by EABC

The EABC in collaboration with Lemlem and Dildil SPCs... [Read the full story at www.mu.edu.et/issd](http://www.mu.edu.et/issd)

Women SPC Members Featured in the Radio Program

Women who are the Seed Producer Cooperatives (SPCs) members in the ISSD Tigray operational sites have got the chance to express their seed production, membership obligation and marketing experiences for the general audiences of the region transmitted in the radio program. They also shared the benefits gained so far and the hopes they are looking for in the future. In the five direct support SPCs organized by the technical and financial support of ISSD in collaboration with Tigray Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development (BoARD), there are 80 women members since the SPCs establishment. Seven women members were randomly selected to share their particular experience and acquired advantages aimed to increase their membership size particularly women and to provide smallholder farmers with their preferred seed varieties. Women membership is steadily increasing from time to time after ISSD trainings, orientations, coaching and fellow ups which kept them well informed. Comparing to the men membership, it still needs a lot of effort in order to increase women membership. Interviewees mentioned the challenges encountered such as seed supply problem and inadequate technical support during sowing and harvesting.

Biri Zebasil is deputy chairperson of Limat SPC found at Hintset sub district, wereda Asgede-Tsimbla, northwestern zone of Tigray regional state. She is one of the seven members who were interviewed about their membership and the experiences acquired. She said "Nowadays after



Biri talks with a journalist from Dimtsi Weyane Tigray

receiving training on principles of cooperatives, importance of SPCs, characteristics of SPCs, weakness and strengths of some selected SPCs, experiences of SPCs in direct seed marketing (Hirirti Mekan, Shewit and Zerisenay), and importance of quality seed for SPC members given by MU-ISSD and cooperative promotion agency last year we were able to boost our seed production and skill." Furthermore, she explained that "Trainings concerning the importance of business plan for SPCs, market analysis, principles, strategy, opportunities and linkages for SPCs helped us to analyze the market situation. Due to these multi-disciplinary trainings we became more aware than before." [Read the full story at www.issdEthiopia.org](http://www.issdEthiopia.org)

Sorghum varieties released in other regions are adaptable and preferred by Tigray farmers

Often times there is an impression/presumption that sorghum varieties released in other regions of the country are not adaptable to Tigray agro-ecologies and hence not preferred by farmers. However, evaluation of a large number of released sorghum varieties from Melkasa Agricultural Research Center in Oromia and Sirinka Agricultural Research Center in Amhara through crowdsourcing and participatory varietal selection revealed that some of the released varieties performed well in Tigray. These varieties are selected and well promoted by many farmers for wider scale up adoption. It will be interesting if we share a story of one farmer among the 200 (100 female) farmers who applied crowdsourcing and participatory varietal selection in Asgede-Tsimbla district. His name is Mekonen Aregay who lives at a place called Deguadugugni, Tabia Selam, Asgede-Tsimbla district north western part of Tigray region. He is a farmer and farming is a means of livelihood for him and his family. He shared his experience on improved sorghum seed varieties using the crowdsourcing.

He says our farming system was traditional before. We were using seeds from our traditional store called *Gotera*. As a result, we were not benefiting from our efforts. We were getting low quality and poor yield. The grain was also not preferred in the market.

Nowadays after receiving training on crowdsourcing from Mekelle University (MU) in the last one year we were trained to separate which is seed and grain to increase



Well performed sorghum varieties introduced by ISSD

our crop production. Due to this training we became more aware to identify seed and grain. We kept seed and grain in a separate places or *Gotera*. Technically we plough the farm land three times before sowing and the fourth ploughing during sowing.

We practice 15 centimetres spacing between the plants and we got an encouraging yield. What I was interested by the intervention of MU was the deployed seed varieties are early maturing even with low rainfall. Comparing to the landraces, they are drought resistant. I remember that we visited the varieties sown in July 7, 2017 at Hitsats Tabia farmers' training center.

[Read the full story at www.issdEthiopia.org/www.mu.edu.et/issd](http://www.issdEthiopia.org/www.mu.edu.et/issd)

MU-ISSD Hosts 2018 National...

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partners and stakeholders who made resonant achievements in the seed sector.

Message from the national project manager

The BENEFIT-ISSD manager at national level, Dr. Amsalu Ayana, on his part mentioned that "In 2017 alone, ISSD supported seed producer cooperatives and private seed producers produced over 22 tons of seeds of grain crops and 3 tons of potato seed."

To Dr. Amsalu, the establishment of national seed advisory committee at national level to advise the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR) on strategic seed sector challenges and opportunities is considered as the lesson gained with the leadership of regional seed core groups. On the other way, the establishment of national seed stakeholder platform helps all stakeholders to meet and discuss seed sector issues. Issues of key concern from this platform will be taken up by the advisory committee, regional Bureaus of Agriculture and Rural Development and MoANR.

"ISSD has contributed its share to revise the seed law, seed system development strategy, the revision of plant variety protection, and several seed based regulations and directives." said Dr. Amsalu.

When it comes to seed in Ethiopia and the respective regions as well, ISSD becomes one of key actors, serving as knowledge center and information hub, added Dr. Amsalu.

Message from the EKN

Representing the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) in Ethiopia, Dr. Worku Tessema, appreciated the BENEFIT-ISSD Ethiopia innovations and approaches taught on seed in all five project units (Tigray, Amhara, South, Oromia east and Oromia south west). Dr. Worku acknowledges the collaboration works of regional partners like BoARD, researches and universities in transforming the seed sector. Finally, he advised seed sector actors to give much emphasis to the scalability and sustainability issues of the project activity.

Started with one of its programme components and few villages, ISSD has grown in depth and scope. Pro-

gramme components gradually increased, leading to substantial increase of budget and project staff.



Three media organizations namely Ethiopian News Agency (ENA), Dimtsi Weyane (DWET) and Tigray Mass Media Agency (TMMA) gave airtime coverage for the 2018 national workshop.



Dr. Amsalu Ayana, BENEFIT-ISSD project manager explaining the national achievements of ISSD Ethiopia [ISSD/2018]

The 2018 national workshop participants had a farewell group photo session and social gathering at the compound of Yared Zema International Hotel, the historical town of Axum.



BNEFIT-ISSD 2018 national workshop participants [MU-ISSD/March/Aksum/Gebreaweria/2018]

Portrait of Limat SPC

Address zone: North western Tigray

Wereda: Asgede Tsimbla

Tabia: Hintset

Year of establishment: 2013

Founding membership size: 15 [1 female]

Current membership size: 86 [10 female]

Initial capital: ETB 3,700

Current capital: over ETB 200,000

Post-harvest technology inputs: medium size seed storage and office are now constructing by financial support of ISSD Tigray unit project and the members labour, local material contribution considered as 30% co-funding. Limat Seed Producer Cooperative (SPC) is known for its tef and wheat seed multiplication and production. The SPC supplies seed to Ethiopian Agricultural Business Corporation (former ESE), NGOs and governmental organizations by buying and collecting seed from its members and other local farmers.

Limat SPC is aiming to solve the local seed supply scarcity by producing improved seed varieties.



Limat SPC's newly constructed seed storage



Portrait of Walta SPC

Address zone: Western Tigray

Wereda: Kafta-Humera

Tabia: May Kadra

Year of establishment: 2013

Founding membership size: 19 [1 female]

Current membership size: 21 [4 female]

Initial capital: ETB 3,200

Current capital: over ETB 140,000

Asset: one weighing balance (big) and office furniture are the assets the SPC has so far.

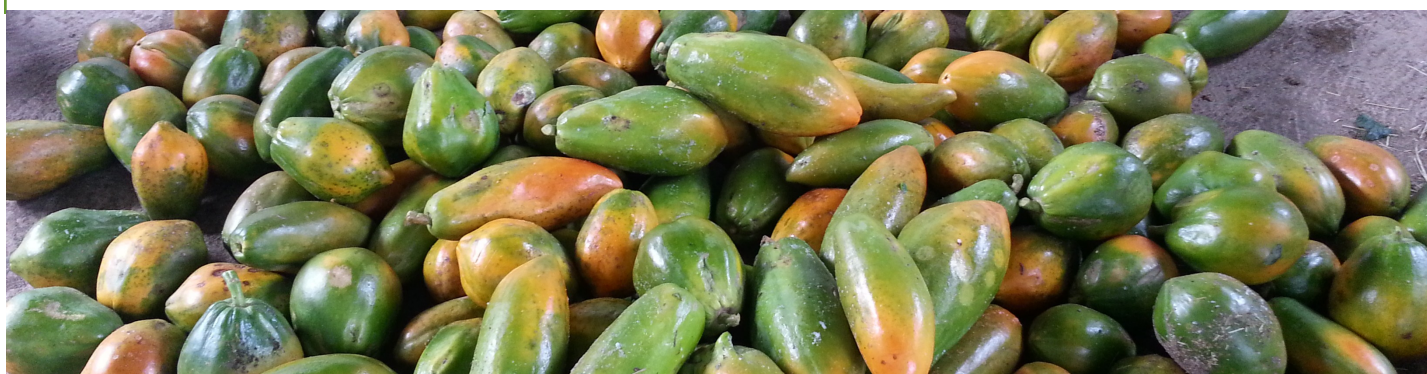
Each member of Walta SPC has five hectares of cultivable land which is suitable to produce sesame and sorghum varieties. Walta Seed Producer Cooperative (SPC) is, therefore, known for its sesame and sorghum seed multiplication and production. The SPC supplies seed to Ethiopian Agricultural Business Corporation (EABC), former Ethiopian Seed Enterprise (ESE), NGOs and governmental organizations by buying and collecting seed from its members and local farmers.



Walta SPC leadership sharing their seed production experiences



From our BENEFIT Partners



Improved Maradol papaya introduced by CASCAPE [CASCAPE/Tsiga'a/April/2018]

Improved Maradol Papaya Variety for Improved Life

Maradol Papaya was introduced by CASCAPE two years ago. Nowadays it is produced by many farmers living in different Kebeles of Raya Alamata wereda. Tsiga'a is one of these kebeles. It has good agro-climatic condition such as water resource and fertile soil. This technology has brought about significant change in papaya production in the area.

Before the introduction of the new Maradol papaya there was local variety which had low productivity. The numbers of fruits were few and quickly perishable. The fruits were not delicious and not competitive in the market. Later on, CASCAPE introduced the improved papaya variety called Maradol. It is found to be important that can bring change as it is the best variety. After the introduction of the new variety, farmers benefited greatly.

The other advantage of Maradol is it bears over 65 fruits per tree. The fruits are preferred in the market for their taste. One fruit weighs over five kg. But, the local varieties weigh one to three kg. It is good to prevent stomach ache (gastritis) and prevents heart disease as it is witnessed by the producers. The farmers said that 10 Maradol papaya trees are the same as one Holstein dairy cow. It gives product in nine months and is disease resistant. The fruit is not easily perishable it can stay for two weeks after harvest.

Among the benefits gained from this variety are; the farmers livelihood improved and job opportunities created for the youths; landless youths are benefiting from the intervention; Maradol has important nutritional value for human consumption; farmers have changed their feeding system and changed their houses from hats to

corrugated iron sheets. After farmers' production increased, market linkage was created by Mekelle University (MU) and local administration. MU arranged papaya selling shade in its campus. Now farmers have market and are getting the result of their effort through the arranged market.

The papaya plantation has played great role in rehabilitation, improving the environmental condition and making the area green.

In general, the Maradol papaya has been scaled up from few to many farmers as cluster. Farmers are covering their plots with papaya in place of other crops like teff and sorghum. The new papaya variety created job opportunities for 54 youth farmers (33 female), contributing to improved soil fertility, nutritional value and environmental rehabilitation at the same time.



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 Ethiopian Regions

Contractual EGS Production System Change in Amhara

In research, seed production starts with breeder seed. Before it gets to the farmers this different seed class passed through different actors. These actors do have their own roles- both in keeping the quality and quantity of the seed. Previously the research centers produced different classes of seed both breeders, pre-basic basic and certified seed. In addition the seed companies both public and private produces different classes of seed like research. This indicates that there is effort duplication and the role was not clear. However the research supposed to produce and focus on breeder and pre-basic seed production while the seed companies focus on basic and certified seed production.

Training of Trainers on Gender Sensitive CS and PVS in Hawassa

ISSD Hawassa University organized training of trainers on Gender Sensitive Crowd Sourcing and Participatory Varietal Selection from May 23-24, 2018 for partners at wereda level. Overall, 23 participants (7 female) took part in the training. The training is organized for wereda partners working through the informal seed system to ensure a sustainable crop improvement approach with the technical and financial support from ISSD.

Participants include ISSD focal persons from wereda agriculture and natural resource office, experts from rural women affairs and ISSD wereda enumerators. The objective of the training is to:

- Give brief overviews of designing and implementation of PVS and highlighting the importance of quality seed production

- Introduce the importance of informal Seed System for the stakeholders

- Acquaint the stakeholders with the Crowd Sourcing model

- To help farmers being part of the research and to do the selection by themselves

The training covered thematic areas as: objective of implementing CS and PVS into ISSD project implementation weredas; Introduction to the concept of crowd sourcing and PVS; Designing and implementation of CS and PVS approaches.

ISSD Tigray at a Pictorial Glance



ISSD Ethiopia – Tigray region - 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.