

MU-ISSD Presents Achievements at the University Research Review Day

The ISSD Tigray unit project has presented its main achievements on the Mekelle University annual research review day workshop organized by the office of Vice President for Research and Community Services and College of Dryland, Agriculture and Natural Resource (CoDANR) on April 15, 2019.

The presentation includes the main ISSD achievements in the past three years on farmer based seed system, Seed Producer Cooperatives (SPCs), Private Seed Producers (SPSs), Seed Value Chain (SVC) and communication materials used to promote the access of farmer preferred varieties.



Moreover, the presentation included this 2019 year activities plan. It also extends to share partnerships created with stockholders both at regional and local level, Direct Seed Marketing (DSM) innovations and their impacts, integrated motivations in Early Seed Generation (ESG) supply to address the problem of quality seed supply, the promotions ISSD used to reach potential audiences using online media, print and electronic media, demonstrations, finance fairs, organized farmers field days. A number of smallholder farmers benefited, SPC and PSPs received investment grant were presented.



In the past three years [2016-2018] for instance, a total of ETB 3,486,250 [2,706,250 and 780,000] has been allocated to direct and indirect support SPCs and PSPs respectively. Besides, 4,600 individual farmers received three types of seed packages and identified their preferred varieties to preserve and grow in the years to come. It was also indicated that, additional 2,600 smallholder farmers are planned to be accessed with farmer preferred varieties and necessary technical supports in 2019 this fiscal year.

The participants, most of them researchers from different disciplines, were highly impressed by the crowdsourcing and participatory varietal selection models introduced by ISSD both at farmer and farmers training center levels.

Following the ISSD's "selling ISSD achievements" presentation by Ato Solomon Petros, ISSD farmer organization expert, REALISE and CASCAPE projects from BENEFIT partnership program also presented their research progresses and achievements done.