

MU-ISSD Delivers Orientation Workshop with Implementing and Scaling Partners on Crowdsourcing, PVS

The ISSD Tigray unit has delivered orientation workshop on crowdsourcing (CS) and participatory varietal selection (PVS) for researchers from four Agricultural Research Centers (ARCs) and wereda office of agriculture representatives on September 03, 2019 in Mekelle University Main campus. Each wereda was represented by head of office of agriculture, cooperative coordinator, seed expert (focal person) and representative from wereda women affairs.

The orientation workshop was opened by Addis Abraha (PhD), ISSD regional unit manager. In his opening remark he stated that the workshop was very important to facilitate the deployment of improved and local varieties to



Addis Abraha (PhD) delivering opening remark

wider farmers and provide more selected varieties preferences in varietal selection in order to scale it up through seed multiplication.

The orientation workshop organized by ISSD had the following objectives;

- To orient and reorient scaling partners and implementing weredas on the modalities of crowdsourcing and PVS implementation at FTCs
 - Introducing to crowdsourcing vis-à-vis PVS
 - How to select tabias/kebelles
 - Criteria of inclusion of target farmers
 - Expected roles and role division (partners and ISSD)
 - Discussions on past experiences of CS implementation
 - Challenges and opportunities
 - Data management and integrity for variety evaluation (issues, limitations, challenges, and related practices).
 - Potential avenues of institutional embedding of CS approach by regional scaling research partners.
- To introduce stakeholders with ClimMob software

The one day orientation was mainly dealt with CS and PVS implementation procedure at individual farmer level. More specifically, participants oriented about farmers selection (50% women), data collection, data management, data processing and the disadvantages of wrong data recording for further impact analysis of the intervention.

Moreover, limitations observed in 2018 fiscal year such as late reporting, poor data collection by partners, limited knowledge of implementers were presented to be carefully managed in this year's CS and PVS implementation.

A total of 35 experts have participated in the orientation CS and PVS given by ISSD seed, farmer organization and value chain experts. Raya Alamata, Enderta, Kilte Awlaelo, Degua Temben, Adwa and Asgede Tsimbla were represented by the expert participants. Moreover, Alamata, Mekelle, Axum, Shire Maytsebri ARCs and Tigray Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) were also represented by their researchers.



Wereda and ARC participants seriously attending the ISSD orientation and experiences to date [Credit: ISSD/May 2019/G.Haweria]

Participants set an action plan to submit beneficiary farmers list, sub districts' site selection and other related data to the ISSD project within 10 days. Then after, ISSD will prepare randomizations, based on the ClimMob software for each beneficiary so as to deploy seed packages on time. Finally, the workshop was officially closed with appreciation for joint future collaboration work and commitment from partners.