

ISSD Tigray

Newsletter - July 2019



6th edition

Enhancing Malt Barley Production and Marketing in Tigray

Barley is one of the staple crops growing in the highland parts of Tigray region. Due to the fast expansion of brewery factories, the need for malt barley production and marketing is indispensable now days in the region. However, the malt barley value chain is at its infant stage and is constrained by many factors. To identify and address malt barley production and marketing bottlenecks, strengthening malt barley platform with partners is an important strategy. The southern zone agricultural coordination office and BENEFIT projects (ISSD, CASCAPE and REALIZE) jointly conducted a consultative workshop to enhance malt barley production and marketing in southern zone of Tigray regional state on May 14, 2019 at Maichew town.

Professor Kindeya G/hiwot, president of Mekelle University, officially opened the one day consultative workshop mainly focused on malt barley production and marketing procedures. In his opening remark, Professor Kindeya advised BENEFIT projects to work jointly in planning and implementation in the area in malt barley production and marketing.

He also underlined that the stakeholders' contribution in the sector is immense and needs pertinent collaboration. [Continued on page 3](#)

ISSD and AGP's Joint Meeting to Modernize the Seed System

MU-ISSD and Agricultural Growth Program (AGP) staff conducted joint meeting on May 7, 2019 in the Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development (BoARD) meeting hall. Experts from BoARD were also attended the joint meeting. This joint meeting was conducted to support the development of a seed system that ensures the AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF QUALITY SEED AS PART OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS in Tigray so as to improve food security and livelihood development of the rural community. To this effect, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed a year ago between MU-ISSD and BoARD-AGP at federal and regional level was familiarized to all staffs of both programs.

The action points which MU-ISSD and BoARD-AGP projects agree to work together include, but are not limited to sustainable seed availability in AGP weredas through increased quality seed production and marketing, upgrade the development of community based seed producer groups (CIGs) to SPCs using LSB mode by ensuring the CIG to get certificate of competence to sustainably stay in the seed business, promote the implementation of ... [Continued on page 5](#)



IN THIS ISSUE

Project Updates	2
Lead story 1 contd.	3
Success Stories	4
Lead Story 2 contd.	5
Portraits	6
Project Updates	7
Project Updates	8

ሓፂር ግንዛብ ዝተዋደደ ልምዓት ዘርኢ ትግራይ 2011 ዓ/ም

ካብ ሓረስታይ ናብ ሓረስታይ ዝግበር ልውውጥ ዘርኢ

ካብ ሓረስታይ ናብ ሓረስታይ ዝግበር ያታዊ ልውውጥ ዘርኢ ብዝተመሓየሸ ኣገባብ እንተተደገፉ ብዙሓት ኣማራጽታት ፍሰት ዘርኢ ክፍጠሩ ይኸእሉ። እዚ ክውን ንምግባር ሸውዓተ ዓይነታት ዘርኢ ማለት ምሸላ፣ 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] ዝርከባ 32 ጣብያታት ንዝርከቡ 2,600 ሓረስቶች [ፍርቂ ደ/ኣንስትዮ] ንፊተን ተባቢሎም። ብመሰረት እዚ 81 ዝተፈለለዩ ዓሌታት ኣዝርኢኦ ዝሓዙ 7,800 ዕሽታት ንቶም ዝተጠቐሱ ሓረስቶች ተዓዲሎም። ብተወሳኺውን 17 ኣሳተፍቲ ሰራሕቲ ማእኸላዊ ማእኸላት ተሓርዮን። ሓረስቶች እውን ብዝተወሃበም ተግባራዊ ስልጠና መሰረት ዘሪሖም። እዚ ናብ ካልኦት ንምግፋሕ ድማ ዋዕላ ተምክሮ ልውውጥ ሓረስቶች ክሳልጥ እዩ። ኣብዚ ፊተን ዝተሓቐፉ ኩሎም ሓረስቶች እቲ ፕሮጀክት ሸትኡ ንኸወቅዕ ን5 ኣብዚ ፕሮጀክት ዘይተሓቐፉ ሓረስቶች ክባዕሉ እዮም።



Farmers practical training on crowdsourcing [Alamata, 2019]

ኣናእሽተይን ማእኸለዎትን ውልቀ ሃፋትም ኣፍሪይቲ ዘርኢ

ዓቕሚ ክልተ ኣፍሪይቲ ዘርኢ ውልቀ ሃፋትም ብቐዓት መረጋገገ ወረቐት ረጅብም፤ ዘርኢ ንምፍራይ ዝሕግዝ መምርሒ ውን ተዋሂብዎም። መፀለም ዝገወር ዝተዳቐል ምሸላ ንምርካብ ምስ ዘርኢ ኢንተርፕራይዝ ብምዘርራብ ተራኺቦም። ክልተ ኣባልነት ክፍሊት ወረዳም። ምስ ባዩር ዓለም ለኽ ኩባንያ ዘርኢ ብዝተገበረ ምርድዳእ ዘርኢ ኣፍሪይቲ ሃፋትም ኣብ ምፍራይ ኣሕምልቲ ብሓባር ክሰርሑ ተገይሩ። ብተወሳኺ ኣፍሪይቲ ዘርኢ ውልቀ ሃፋትም ምስ ትካላት ምርምርን ትግራይ ባዮ ቴክኖሎጂን ብምትሕብባር ዘርኢ ሸኮር ድንሸን ጅንጅብልን ክረኽቡ ተገይሩ። ምብዛሕ ዘርኢ ስርዓት ንምትሓዝን ግልጋሎታትን ኣታዎታትን ብቐሊሉ ንምቕራብን ቀፀልቲ ዋዕላታት፣ ዝርርባትን ምይይጣትን ክካየዱ እዮም።

ሰንሰለታዊ ምትእስሳር ዘርኢ ልምዓት

ኣብ መዳይ ሰንሰለታዊ ምትእስሳር ዘራኢ ልምዓት ዝሰበሱ ቁልፍ ስራሕቲ ተወረዳም፤ ኣብ ምፍራይ መሰራቲ ዘራኢ (ኣደ ዘርኢ) ደቐቐን ቢራ ስገምን ዕውት ስራሕ ተሰሪሑ። ምብዛሕ መሰራቲ ዘራኢ ደቐቐን ኣብ ናብራ ሓረስታይ ዘላቂ ለውጢ ብዘምዕል መልክዑ ብማእኸል ምርምር ኣላማጣ ዳህሳስ ተኸይዱ። ብተወሳኺ መሰራቲ ዘራኢ ቢራ ስገም ዝባዘሉሉትን ትካላዊ ቅርጺ ክህልዎን ዘኸኸል ምስ ዩኒቨርሲቲ መቐለ ሕርሻ ኮለጅ ተወሒኑ። ሓረስቶች፣ ዘርኢ መባዛሕቲ ሕ/ሰ/ማእኸለቲ፣ ሰብ ውልቀ ሃፍቲ፣ ሕርሻ ወኪላትን ካልኦት ዝምልከቶም ኣካላትን ዘሳተፉ ኣብ ምፍራይ ፅሬቱ ዝተሓለወ ቢራ ስገምን ሰሊጥን ዘድሃበ ስልጠና ብበካራት (BENEFIT) ኣሓት ፕሮጀክታት ተዋሂቡ።

ፍጻምታት ስግግር ፍልጠትን ርክባትን እዚ ፕሮጀክት

ኣብዘም 6 ኣዋርሕ ብበዓል ሞያ ስግግር ፍልጠትን ርክባትን ዝተፈፀሙ ስራሕቲ ንምጥቃስ ክልተ ዜና መፅሄትን ተዳልዮን ንሕትመት ቅሩባት ኮይነን ኣለዎ። ድረ ገፅ ፕሮጀክት ዝተዋደደ ልምዓት ዝርኢ ትግራይ ብሓደሽቲ ምዕባሊታት፣ ዜናታትን ስእልታትን ተመሳራርዮ ሰሓብነቱን ተገባብነቱን ወሲኹ። ክልተ ፅሑፋት ብሉፃት ተምክሮታትን ሸውዓተ ንንጥፊታት ማእኸል ዝገበሩ ዜናታትን እውን ተዳልዮም ብዝተፈለለዩ ኣገባባት ንኣንባብቲ ተባቢሎም። ንዝርዝር ንጥፊታት እዚ ፕሮጀክት ዝድህስስ ፅሑፍ ተዳልዮ ኣብ ጋዜጣ ወይን ተሓቲሞ ንመንበብቲ ተባቢሎ።

ISSD Tigray Updates Summary

Seed Extension/Varietal Deployment

In 2018 crowdsourcing and PVS are the main areas for the seed deployment system. MU-ISSD has deployed seven crop types to 32 kebeles found in nine weredas and 2,600 farmers [half women] in 2019. The seven major crops are sorghum, barley, durum wheat, bread wheat, finger millet, chick-pea and faba bean. As a result, a total of 7,800 tricot packages and 81 varieties distributed. Moreover, 17 PVS sites identified for variety trail. Quality seed promotion through CS and PVS has been implementing well in all weredas. Targeted farmers demonstrated greater awareness about quality seed use and need for adoption. To meet project objective, all farmers planned to give those new varieties for at least five other farmers who are not part of the project.

Private Small and Medium Seed Producers

Two SPSs have got and two renewed CoC. PSPs has got manual that describes the seed certification procedures. With the communication made with ESA one experienced PSP has selected and linked with CIS for accessing striga resistant hybrid sorghum. Two PSPs have paid membership fee for ESA. PSPs have started discussion with byer international seed company to work together on vegetable seed production. PSPs linked with research institutions and Tigray biotechnology got access of sweet potato tuber and ginger. Conducting partnership workshop, continuous discussion and follow up will be continued.



A farmers is surprised by the seed amount and looking over it

Seed Value Chain Development (SVC)

EGS production and supply of dekokko and barley were successful. An assessment of improving livelihood of farmers via supplying sustainable quality dekokko EGS in Tigray, by Alamata research and dissemination of EGS of improved food and malt barley varieties under rain-fed condition in Tigray, Ethiopia by CoDANR have entered in to implementation after discussion with the partners for specific institutional embedding. Farmers, SPCs, PSPs members and DAs were trained on malt barley quality seed production and sesame seed production jointly in collaboration of the BENEFIT projects MU-ISSD, CASCAPE and REALISE to improve both malt barley and sesame seed value chains.

Knowledge Sharing and Communication

ISSD newsletter is made ready to print soon. ISSD Tigray website [www.mu.edu.et/issd] updated. Seven news and two success stories have been produced and disseminated to audiences. The overall ISSD achievements analysis printed out in the local newsletter.



Field visit to off season wheat seed multiplication supported by CASCAPE and AGP projects at Hashenge village southern Tigray.

Continued from page 1

He finally, appreciates BENEFIT projects exertion and commitment regarding malt barley production and marketing.

To enhance malt barley platform and build up stakeholders' awareness about malt barley production and marketing, four papers were presented. The presentation's mainly focused on: BENEFIT projects research and development endeavors, the need of partnership and its importance, Ethiopia's experience in malt barley production; challenges and opportunities of malt barley production in Tigray - the experience of Global Malting Service (GMS). Aiming to enrich the malt barley platform, general and group discussions were facilitated. In the discussions, challenges were prioritized and possible solutions were suggested. As a result, lack of EGS (Early Generation Seed) was identified as a key challenge for the development of malt barley value chain. To address the shortage of EGS, source seed multiplication at FTCs (farmers' training centers) and schools was mentioned as an alternative remedy. The other proposed solution was the development and release of low land malt barley varieties so as to diverse areas of malt barley production and marketing. Expanding the malt barley production and marketing to all barley growing areas such as the high lands of Degua-Tembien, Atsbi-Wenberta, Ganta-Afeshum and Laelay-Maychew weredas were suggested as a potential for barley production and multiplication.

Following the group discussion, BENEFIT projects and participant stakeholders (Universities, research centers, agencies like ATA and TAPMA, GMS, Raya brewery Share Company, Hadnet Raya seed producer and marketing union and SPCs, weredas and southern zone) submitted their action plan concerning what to contribute in the joint partners responsibility. In order to follow each project's and stakeholder's activity progress, responsible individuals were assigned from each group.

To increase malt barley production, BENEFIT project takes the initiation to mapping malt barley producing areas, to create linkages with universities, research centers and buyers, capacity building and policy engagements. Universities and research centers on the same trend takes responsibility to conduct EGS multiplication, variety and package development, value chain analysis,

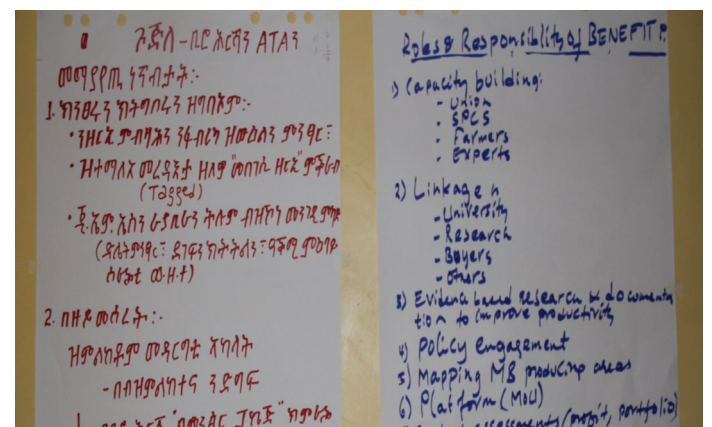
seed health research, police research and niche identification.



Discussion with different stakeholders concerning



Group presentation on malt barley production platform



Some of barley production tasks taken by stakeholders

A Leap from Variety Trial to Seed Multiplication

Since 2016 on, ISSD has embarked on supporting the informal seed system. Crowd Sourcing (CS) and Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS) are the modality of intervention. Intervention crops and weredas were identified in consultation with BoARD and farmers. In 2017 and 2018, a total of 800 farmers [600 for barley and 200 for chick pea] were targeted in Degua-Temben wereda. Farmers' selection criteria were designed in a way that 50% of the beneficiary farmers be women. Targeted farmers were trained in quality seed production and gender issues. Farmers, experts and development agents were trained in CS implementation. The CS model of seed extension has deployed three varieties per farmer from which farmers would identify best suited variety for their specific micro-climate. 10 barley varieties were deployed in 2018 for 400 (50% female) farmers in Degua-Temben. No other organization, but ISSD, has ever introduced barley varieties in Tigray. MU-ISSD is the only organization (to date) that has deployed improved barley varieties in the target wereda. Before ISSD, farmers relied on local barley varieties of low productivity and poor quality. The idea is that farmers will have access to wider varieties of different crops that address the dynamics of agricultural production. Moreover, farmers will have to adopt various seed technologies that suited their micro-climate conditions.

W/ro Berhane Mesfin is one of the 200 farmers targeted in 2017. "I never had access to improved barley varieties. Our varieties were mixed and degraded in quality. I



W/ro Berhane's quite follow-up to seed multiplication

used to get only wheat and chick pea from BoARD; no barley, however, and yield used to be meager" W/ro Berhane narrated the problem context for fellow farmers in her kebele and wereda. As a result of the training given by ISSD and support by BoARD experts, she has sowed three varieties as per technical standard. The three packages were 20 grams each. She has employed the same management for the trials. The three varieties given to W/ro Berhane have resulted in 7kg, 6 kg, and 5kg (Fetina, Hirity, and HB) of yield despite the unfavorable climatic condition. The 20 gram Fetina variety has convinced her. In 2018 she has been given 70kg of Fetina based on her request for seed multiplication and earned 250kg. The performance of the varieties has created new demand by local farmers. She confirmed that farmers are asking her for seed exchange with tef/wheat or cash.

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

Embeba Atsela Seed Producer Cooperatives

Embeba Atsela, from Embalaje wereda, is one of the 20 indirectly supported SPCs. The SPC was established in 2014 with 30 total founding members (seven female farmers). Its initial capital was ETB 1,800. Membership and registration fees was ETB 70 (60 membership fee and 10 for registration) respectively. Currently, the SPC has a total of 167 members (38 female-women headed). The membership criteria were: possessing cluster based plots of land (from 0.125 hectare) who able to pay 100 membership share and 30 registration fee. It is open to buy share as much as possible based on the rules and regulations set by cooperative agency. Accordingly, the highest membership share bought by a single farmer so far is three i.e. equivalent to ETB 300. Seventy two farmers have bought three shares. Out of this, women share is 15 in number. The SPC now has ETB 85,000 on cash, fixed assets and a storage built with a cost of ETB **130,000**. Out of the five top leadership positions the SPC has, only one is occupied by a women as an accountant. In the five subcommittees (audit, quality control, education, saving and credit, and purchasing), the number of women are eight out of 23 subcommittees members. The SPC facilitated its General Assembly twice a year (February and July).

Amount of seed supplied

Year	Target to collect	Collected	Remark
2018	445 quintals	231 quin	
2019	690 quintals	595 quin	Drought
2020	800 quintals		In process



Newly constructed seed storage and office of the SPC

Trainings/capacity building

Different capacity buildings were given to the SPC members by MU-ISSD project, wereda cooperative experts, Hadnet Raya union seed producer and NGOs. Moreover, ISSD supports the SPC in financial and technical ways. Accordingly, a total of ETB 108,250 was given as a grant from 2016-2019 from MU-ISSD.

Audit

The SPC audited two times and is ready for the third time to be audited. The result shows very good ex-

Continued from page 1

DSM innovation in AGP weredas and capacitate experts at regional and local level and CIGs. To these effects AGP supports financially and ISSD technically to develop strategy as to meet these goals.

The joint meeting and discussions held are important to integrate and align both parties (ISSD and AGP) development interventions for the better use of resources, sharing knowledge and responsibilities based on the issues stated in the MoU. Accordingly, ten major activities are planned for 2019 fiscal year to be implemented in partnership with the seed sector. As a result, it was planned the registration of five CIGs to upgrade into formal SPCs and get Certificate of Competence (CoC) for seed multiplication.

ISSD as a pioneer and experienced project in the seed sector, can better serve the AGP interventions regarding supporting and facilitating the seed value chain development.

Main discussants made on market linkages, poor inspection system, in accessibility of seed to CIG, weak monitoring and evaluation procedures are among the problems need special attention. As the participants discussed, the seed task force at wereda level needs to replace with new wereda level seed core team so as to minimize the pending challenges faced the seed producers (both community based seed producers and local seed businesses).



ISSD and AGP staff participating in the joint meeting held to discuss the memorandum of understanding

cept minor recommendations but not considered as grand errors and seen as a threat.

The SPC's future plan

- It plans to increase membership size to 210 farmers in the 2020;
- The SPC motivates to double each farmer's share;
- It plans to finalize the storage's remaining construction and fencing.

Store construction

In the storage construction, in addition to the 70% of ISSD contribution, community and wereda administration contributions were vital to mention. In activities like purchasing of cement, galvanized corrugated sheet and other industrial materials which cover 30% of the

total construction expenses, the wereda took the responsibility. In the community contribution, the SPC members actively paid labor force by supplying stones, sand and digging the basement.

Problems the SPC faced

The following are some of the most problems challenged the SPC;

Lack of office furniture (chair, table, shelf, stationery materials), additional budget for finishing construction and budget for fencing and guard house construction.

Finally, the SPC's chairperson, Kahsay, expressed his gratitude for the ISSD project's financial and technical supports arranged so far.

The Portrait of Gash Reda Lema Mechanized Farm

Location of the PSP: Southern zone, Raya Azebo Wereda, Tabia Adigalimo
Year of establishment: 2010
Year joined ISSD: 2013

Job opportunity created (total number of employees): 76 [42 males and 34 females (43%)]
Nature of the employees: Currently the positions of the PSP's employees are categorized into three. These are three professional employees, 43 contract laborers and 30 seasonal (daily) laborers. In the PSP's executive management position, there are two males but not female.

Description of the PSP: As per the agreement reached with the ISSD project, in the 2019, the PSP is producing green pepper seedlings and orange flash sweet potato variety cuttings and distributing to the smallholder farmers. Out of the 2 million single cutting of sweet potato planned to produce and distribute; 1,437,500 single cuttings has been distributed to farmers found in Samre, Kola-Temben, Laelay and Tahtay-Adyabo weredas. They will also distribute to Raya-Azebo wereda in the near future. These sweet potato cuttings are sourced from the Mekelle tissue culture which produces quality products. The PSP bought sweet potato cuttings with a price of 0.80 cents and sold to farmers at a price of 0.50 cents per single cutting. Moreover, farmers gained green pepper seeds, animal feedstuff and clean water services for free from the PSP.



Sweet potato cuttings rolled with 250 pieces to sell for farmers

For 2020, the PSP is planned to construct greenhouse, shed net and avocado seedling production which covers two, one and 25 hectares respectively. The PSP wants ISSD to call stakeholders meeting so as to discuss seed/seedling production issues and its quality.

Crowdsourcing: An approach to diverse farmers' seed varieties

Hafta G/Mariam, 45 years old farmer from Enderta wereda Tabia Didiba. He is one of the 3,400 farmers who were participated in the last year's (2018) crowdsourcing at regional level. Hafta is one of the 400 farmer beneficiaries at wereda level. He was recruited by the wereda office of agriculture based on the criteria set to recruit researcher farmers. He took the training (theoretical and technical) concerning the new bread wheat varieties packages and its technics introduced by MU-ISSD project at Tabia level. Hafta said "I sowed the varieties given to me from MU-ISSD in separate plots technically. All the three varieties given to me well performed. I used fertilizers, other managements and supplementary irrigations so as to utilize the variety's potential. As a result, I have harvested 8kg from one of the varieties from 20 gram. For the purpose of seed production and multiplication, I sowed all the 8kg seed harvested in 2017. In the end of 2018, I earned a total of 80kg of improved bread wheat seed from the 8kg seed sowed. Even though, the packages were too small to multiply. After two years however, it gives me much production and encourages me to do so". "The project is useful for small holder farmers who have scarcity of new and/or improved varieties" added Hafta.

Moreover, Hafta said that "before 2017, seed varieties came from other places. These seed varieties were not agro-ecology fit varieties and suffered from different diseases. These days, we, the farmers ourselves, are able to choose our preferences from the small seed amounts given to us by ISSD project. As



Wheat seed multiplied by Hafta [Enderta wereda, Meremiet]]

researcher farmers, we understand the varieties' traits to select the best varieties from the given varieties. As stated in the projects objective, it is mandatory to share at least for five farmers. From the 8kg for instance, Hafta on his part shared to other five farmers so as to scale up seed multiplication to other farmers and even to other weredas. Farmers showed their interest over these deployed varieties and started to produce privately. As Hafta mentioned, ISSD is more participatory, inclusive and farmer based project in creating of access of seeds of new varieties. The main challenges observed are their attitudinal change towards seed system and the seed itself is not yet improved. Hafta and 30 farmers have planned to group as seed producers to fully engage in the seed production.



Off season seed multiplication beneficiary farmer looking into his best wheat varieties introduced by CASCAPE and AGP

Research Centers are Essential in Sustaining CS and PVS

ISSD Tigray unit delivered a one day briefing workshop for researchers concerning how to scaling up of different varieties through crowdsourcing (CS) and participatory varietal selection (PVS) practices introduced by Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) in Mekelle on 7 April 2019. The briefing workshop has the following objectives:

- Institutionally embedding and scaling crowdsourcing and participatory varietal selection,
- Sustainability and creating common understanding concerning crowdsourcing and participatory varietal selection.

The briefing workshop was opened by Dr. Addis Abraha, new ISSD regional unit manager. He addressed that *"ISSD is a prominent project in introducing the new concepts of CS and PVS on farmers field individual farmer level. We are, therefore, here together to institutionally take over the ISSD CS and PVS innovations by the research institutes and centers to make it sustain, and let farmers get more access to seeds of preferable varieties."*

Participants of the orientation workshop were came from one research institute, Tigray Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), and four research centers; Mekelle, Alamata, Axum and Shire Maytsebri. The target weredas for CS and PVS are Raya Alamata, Enderta, Kilte Awlaelo, Degua Tenbien, Adwa, Tahtay Maychew (partnered by Axum Agricultural Research Center), Laelay and Tahtay Adyabo (partnered by Shire Maytsebri Agricultural Research Center) and Asgede Tsimbila in Tigray



Some of the ISSD briefing workshop participant researchers and ISSD Tigray regional unit manager

region. These weredas were former ISSD and Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development (BoARD) seed system operational weredas. The ISSD project experts presented their three years' experience on crowdsourcing and participatory varietal selection then after proceed to debriefing session. During the debriefing session researchers become oriented on crop and number of farmers to be target for the 2019 production year, budget allocation and financial utilization and other related issue. According to the researchers' suggestion from Axum research center, even though, chickpea is nutritious pulse, it is difficult to administer due to raw eating culture of the community and become a challenge to introduce again.



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.

EGS: A Means to Solve Acute Seed Production and Supply Shortage in Tigray

ISSD Tigray in collaboration with Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) and Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development (BoARD) facilitated Early Generation Seed (EGS) production and supply through contractual agreement regional workshop with EGS and seed producers on March 30, 2019 in Mekelle.

The objective of the workshop was mainly to see rooms for regional EGS production and supply. The participants agreed that breeder seed, pre-basic and basic seeds are critical problems and needs attention by professional and integrated solutions from agricultural research institutions.

Dr. Abraham KidaneMariam from ATA, Tigray branch stressed that, the demand for EGS is still mismatched and needs sustainable EGS production and supply. Thus, the EGS should be produced by the agricultural research institutions and centers. We, therefore, should give solemn attention to do so.

Following the Dr. Abraham's remark on EGS production, three papers presented by BoARD, ATA and Tigray Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) representatives respectively. The fundamental concepts of these presentations were mainly focused on seed production and supply, the roles played by seed producer cooperatives and unions in seed production and supply, the functions of agricultural research institutions and centers based at regional and local level and others.

Following the presentations that used to brainstorm for participants, a discussion concerning EGS production and supply mechanisms was held and chaired by Ato Fiseha Bezabih, BoARD former deputy. Moreover, the

discussion essentially stressed to identify the real challenges so as to set possible remedies. Accordingly, the main challenge forwarded by the TARI research was the scarcity of land plots for EGS production. Most of the agricultural centers, Axum for instance, did not have their own farm for EGS multiplication sites, they instead rent farmers plots which is circled by so many personal intricacies. Finally participants agreed to assess nearby schools and farmer training centers land potentials in



Participants of the EGS production workshop in one

ducers (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 stakeholders both at regional and local level, Direct Seed Marketing (DSM) innovations and their impacts, integrated motivations in Early Seed Generation (EGS) 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.

[Read more on www.mu.edu.et/issd/](http://www.mu.edu.et/issd/)

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 Pro-

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.

www.ISSDethiopia.org

ISSD Ethiopia – Tigray Unit - Mekelle University

For more information contact:

Addis Abraha | Regional unit project manager

addis.abraha76@gmail.com | +251 914 72 14 54 | +251 14 00 90 66

G/Haweria Berhane | Knowledge Sharing Expert |haweriagb@gmail.com |

ISSD Project Management Unit

Dr Amsalu Ayana | project manager| aga.amsaluayana@gmail.com

SAN building, 2nd floor, Square Bisarata Gebriel