

## BENEFIT Partnership Projects Deliver training on sesame

BENEFIT partners jointly delivered training of trainers on production, management and marketing of sesame for agricultural researchers from May 28-30, 2018 at Gebar Shire Hotel, Shire town. A total of 22 researchers from Humera and Shire Maytsebri agricultural research centers which are established on the sesame potential areas took the training of trainers organized by BENEFIT sister projects [ISSD, CASCAPE & SBN].



Agricultural researchers who participated in the training of trainers [MU-ISSD/Shire/May 2018]

The objective of the training of trainers on production, management and marketing of sesame for researchers is to bring researchers into one thematic research consensus in the sesame production, marketing and management around western and north western zones of Tigray.

Ato Yemane G/Meskel, from CASCAPE project opened the training session. In his opening speech he mentioned that the training is prepared to fill the gaps observed in the sesame production sector and which is targeted to boost sesame productivity, to distinguish sesame management systems and to produce market oriented sesame production so as to compete in the sesame export standards. According to him, if BENEFIT sister projects [ISSD, CASCAPE & SBN] work together with the agricultural research centers giving special focus to sesame, productivity will improve dramatically, alternative market outreaches will diversify and management systems will be enhanced.

**The major topics covered during the training are:**

- Integrated soil fertility management and soil nutrient balances;
- Quality seed production in sesame;
- QUEFTS application (fertilizer recommendation);
- Integrated pest management in sesame;
- Storage management and pest control in sesame;
- Grain and seed sesame marketing;

Desale Gebretsadik, a socio-economist by profession is an associate researcher at Shire-Maytsebri Agricultural Research Center (SMARC) who participated in the three days training. He sat for conversation with the ISSD KSC expert and shared his training experiences.

**KSC expert: What did you learn from this training?**

**Desale Gebretsadik:** During the training session as trainee I acquired knowledge:

- ✓ Regarding the national and international sesame marketing trend, export and import volume;
- ✓ On planning how much to produce, when to produce, and where to sale it;
- ✓ On the sesame price determining factors and how these factors could be addressed in the Ethiopian context as far as the international market is concerned;
- ✓ About new techniques of seed production and integrated storage management practices;
- ✓ On soil fertility, how nutrients flow and how they could be balanced;

**KSC expert: How can you apply/use this training (TOT) concept in your research center?**

**Desale Gebretsadik:** Targeting my research obligation, the way I could apply is;

- ✓ Doing research in improving the price of sesame and other main crops produced in the target area;
- ✓ Consulting and giving training to producers to plan the type of a commodity to produce, for whom to produce, where and when to sale, the quality and quantity the targeted buyer will demand and how the product could be competent and become winner in the planed market
- ✓ Considering the impact of PHL and storage management practices on the economic status of actors in the commodities value chain
- ✓ The production efficiency and profitability of commodity producers and their product quality considering the soil nutrient balance.

**KSC expert: From all the training sessions which one impressed you more? Why?**

**Desale Gebretsadik:** Generally, all the sessions impressed me, because these sessions are part and parcel of the value chain in every commodity as that commodity incorporates inputs (seed), production, storage and marketing. So, for obtaining demandable quality product it is mandatory to

use quality seed and stored in the recommended standards and that quality product is harvested as matured and stored keeping its quality so that the buyer will be impressed with the quality produce. Finally, the consumer or the buyer will be satisfied by the quality produce to pay higher price which makes the producer to get higher profit.



**Desale and his colleagues during the training session [MU-ISSD/Shire/2018]**

**KSC expert: What do you want to improve in the future (for next time)?**

**Desale Gebretsadik:** It will also be better if more time is allocated for each session, so that more time is available for discussion on problems and set solutions for the specified problems.

### **Sesame and world market trend**

As presented to the trainers, China leads sesame production worldwide, followed by India. Even though, China and India are the leading sesame producers in the world, they are not raw sesame exporters like Ethiopia. Ethiopia is the prime raw sesame exporter in the world. Western and north western part of Tigray especially Humera area makes Ethiopia known as raw sesame exporter in the Far East countries. The largest sesame importer in the world is Japan followed by China, the world's second populous country. The US, Canada, the Netherlands, France, and Turkey are other major sesame importing countries. Sesame export to Europe is difficult due to tough export standards, this call for reliable research in order to change the raw sesame export trend and become competent sesame exporter. To produce more and export standard sesame, training on production, management and marketing is important to give to the researchers who are engaged in sesame production.



In each presentation there were hot question and answer sessions followed by extra discussions and explanations which enabled to broaden the level of understanding of the researchers.