



## ISSUE BRIEF

Programme on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia ISSD Oromia South and West (ISSD-OSW, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia):

ISSD-OSE conducted rapid gender assessment in three Seed Producing Cooperatives (SPCs) of (Kolbe, Tuka Katara and Moti), to identify the challenges, propose possible solutions and to act on the identified challenges to address the issues. These SPCs (Kolbe, Tuka Katara and Moti) are located at East Showa, Arsi and West Showa Zones of Oromia Regional State respectively.

The rationale of the assessment was to identify the gender related issues with in the Seed Producing Cooperatives (SPCs) and to provide possible solutions. Though Men and women farmers are the members of these SPCs, they are assigned to different roles and responsibilities with in these cooperatives. Especially in some seasons such as seed cleaning and sowing time, women are the main responsible person to clean the seed as well as to sow the seed if planted by raw. This adds another working hour. They are also responsible to undertake their socially, culturally and biologically assigned reproductive and community roles. So, devising some mechanisms by which women can get a relief from their triple burdens.

The finding indicated that: -

- Then number of women with in the SPCs is far less than that of men as a member
- The restricting traditions of Cooperatives and cultural taboos are the major factors for the women's less participation
- The number becomes less when it comes to the leadership position within SPCs
- Though the number is not proportional, both women and men are almost equally engaged in all activities either at pre and post-harvest activities except for some activities.
- Manual seed cleaning and sowing (if row planting) are the main activities in which women plays a great role than men. It adds additional burden on women in addition to their reproductive and community roles.

### **The way forward to improve Gender related and other challenges in SPCs**

- Due attention should be given for facilitating the access to improved and labor-saving technologies such as raw planter, seed cleaning machine and others that would reduce women's workloads

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- Affirmative actions should be applied for women farmers to address the cooperatives criteria that restricts the women's participation. E.g. Relatively low registration fee and not making the payment at one time.
- The announcement for the women farmer's membership and the affirmative action available should be in a way that they can understand easily.
- Intensive awareness creation and Gender model family approach should be in the place by giving a due attention for "on the spot and both spouses" approach

### Reactions so far on some of the identified challenges

Two SPCs (Kolbe and Tuka Katara) linked to different institutions for infrastructural and technical capacity buildings and Criteria for women membership for Moti SPC revised to encourage the women as a member and a leader of their SPC.



The programme on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia aims to strengthen the development of a vibrant, market-oriented and pluralistic seed sector in the country, where quality seed of superior varieties is available and affordable for a larger number of farmers, thereby contributing to food security and economic development in Ethiopia. This is the vision of the ISSD programme in Ethiopia. [www.issdethiopia.org](http://www.issdethiopia.org)

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