



NEWS STORY



Integrated Seed Sector Development Programme Oromia South and West Programme Unit

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Collaborative Experience Exchange visits and Field days on CS and PVS fields

ISSD OSW October 02, 2018 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: - ISSD Ethiopia Oromia South West unit has been doing on crowdsourcing (CS) and participatory variety selection (PVS) on three selected crops (Tef, Haricotbean, sorghum and fababean) to address 400 smallholder farmers in collaboration with Boset and Lume woreda ANR offices. Fifteen varieties of Tef for hundred farmers, twelve varieties of haricot bean for fifty farmers and seven varieties of sorghum for fifty farmers in four kebeles of Boset woreda and eight varieties of faba bean for two farmers in four kebeles of Lume woreda have been randomly provided and all smallholder farmers have planted as per the package arrangements.

A field day has been jointly organized by ISSD-OSW unit and Boset ANR office at two FTC, namely Chemeri and Melko on Tef and Haricot bean PVS and CS plots. The participants were local smallholder farmers, experts from woreda ANR office, ISSD-OSW unit team, six representative (seniors researchers who directly working on the intervened crops) researchers from Kulumsa, Melkasa, Holeta and DebreZeit agricultural Research centers as well as development agents. Initially, the participants visited tef PVS trial at Chemeri FTC and then observed farmers' CS plots. All the participants and researchers have attentively observed the trials and then common discussion was made before departing to Haricot bean trials.

During observation of the PVS plots, the farmers have been tentatively identified best bet promising varieties (e.g Boset, Simada, Tesfa, Nigusu) that are suitable for their agro-ecology. Most of the farmers convinced that all tef varieties are not suitable for their agro-ecology. They also raised the question of locally available seed and the sources of basic and/or certified seeds for the smallholder farmers to plant for the coming cropping season.

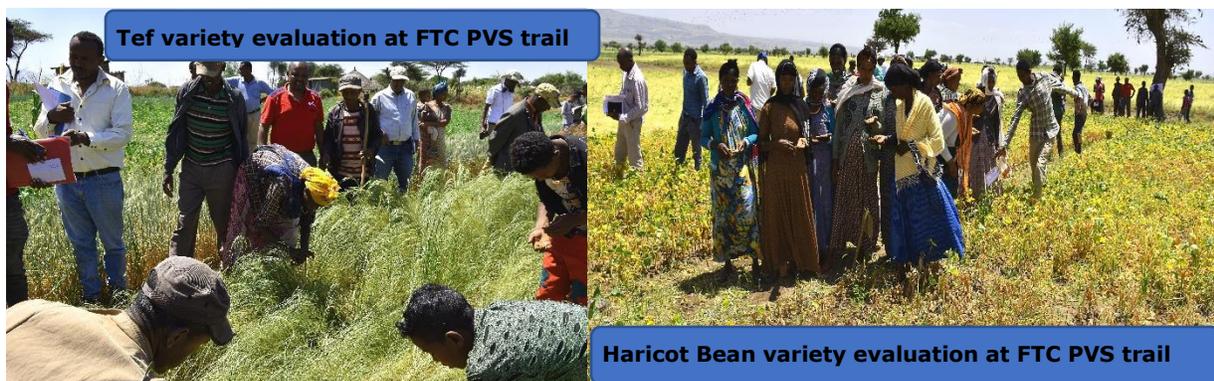
The researchers have appreciated the approaches of CS and PVS demonstration of the released varieties for many farmers in neglected areas within a short period of time and they confirmed that the approach will help to strengthen the informal seed system and it also increases the awareness of farmers and encouraging them to use improved varieties of their preference that boosts the productivity. They also suggested to organize the farmers in to common interested groups to make them local seed producer cooperative and they assured to provide pre-basic seed for them and other farmers in the area.

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Experience exchange visit on haricot bean CS and PVS trials were also conducted at Melko FTC and on some farmers' plots. Local farmers have also participated during the field day and they were very happy to get diversity of varieties that suit to their agro-ecology. The researchers suggested that late planting of the trials reduce the potential yield of crop varieties, and hence they recommend planting in mid to end weeks of June. Otherwise, they were very happy to promote the technologies where the releasing center does not address the marginal areas.

The ISSD-OSW unit and representatives from research centers travelled to Lume woreda to visit faba bean CS and PVS trials. The team has visited PVS trial at Arifata Jogola FTC. Eleven different varieties of faba bean have been planted in three replications. The performance of the varieties was good in terms of vegetative and pod setting performance though almost all varieties were susceptible to lodging due to uncommon high wind speed and high rainfall problem. As the result, the researchers were unable to judge the performance of the varieties in the testing areas and they suggest repeating for the next seasons for further evaluation. However, they generally appreciated the efforts that addressed many farmers within a short period of time.

A total of about 165 of farmers (117 male and 48 female) including experts from woreda and development agents as well as six researchers were participated during the events.



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

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