

# NEWS STORY

Project on Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia  
ISSD Oromia (East) project unit

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## STRATEGY TO IMPROVE SEED PRODUCTION AND MARKETING SYSTEM IN HARARGHE ZONES

In Ethiopian context, the supply of improved seed rarely fulfilled farmers' needs due to poor demand collection. Although seed supply does not meet the demand of farmers, significant amount of seed leftover is common every year at unions and primary cooperatives stores.

Specifically, Hararghe seed demand has unique characteristics interims of agro-ecology, location, and farmer's criteria for seed selection and utilization. Farmers' seed demand still not satisfied by crops, varieties, timely delivery, and competitive price. The seed allocation and supply from outsource could not satisfy the demand in all aspects. Therefore the zones should have strategy to ensure the seed self-sufficiency. Based on this ground, BENEFIT-ISSD project, Oromia east unit has organized one day workshop on strategy to improve seed production and marketing system in Hararghe zones on March 4, 2019 at Harar city, Ras Hotel.

The overall objective of the workshop was to design strategy of seed production and marketing system in Hararghe zones. Accordingly, the workshop were discussed mechanisms to strengthening coordination among actors in seed value chain, actors' role in demand collection, production and marketing, and ways to ensuring accountability and others.

The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- To consolidate and endorse the seed demands compiled by unions in collaboration with BoA and CPA, seed production and marketing plan of unions
- To evaluate implementation of 2018 SVC pilot and scaling innovation project
- Identify role of different actors and their level of involvement in seed production and supply in the zones
- assess institutional and technical capacity of seed quality control and certification centre of Haramaya University
- To discuss on means of institutionalizing successful innovations for sustainable seed sector development

The Conference was officially opened by Mr Dandena Galmessa, ISSD project manager of Oromia east unit. A total of 18 seed sector stakeholders including officials and representatives from regional and zone Bureau

of Agriculture (BoAs), zone Cooperative promotion Agencies (CPA), Haramaya University, Chercher Oda Bultum, Burka Galeti and Afren Kalo Farmers' Cooperative unions, and Chiro National Sorghum research centre were participated in the workshop.

Two plenary sessions were held on demands compiled by three farmers' cooperative unions (Afren Kalo, Burka Galeti and Chercher Oda Bultum) from east and west Hararghe zones in collaboration with BoA and CPA. On the demand collection side, significant variance observed between demand collected through conventional ways by BoA and demand collected in collaboration with unions, BoA, and CPA amounting to (3684Qt). In addition, the variations also observed in terms of crop varieties. The demand collected in collaboration approach is more realistic and accurate compared with conventional demand collected by BoA. Plan for certified seed production and EGS compiled at the three unions. Except hybrid crops, unions and SPCs take responsibility to produce certified seed and Haramaya University and agricultural research centres of the zones to supply EGS. For seed marketing and distribution three seed marketing approach (conventional, pilot to improve efficiency of conventional system, and DSM) system planed and organized at three unions for the two zones for 2019.

During morning sessions, four plenary presentations were held on implementation and challenges of pilot innovation projects to solve SVC bottlenecks. These innovations are seed quality assurance, EGS production and supply, and improving SPCs autonomy and organizational management. Accordingly for EGS Haramaya University is producing different crops and varieties of EGS. However, the technical and infrastructural capacity of HU enterprise is below minimum requirement to produce and supply quality EGS. For quality assurance the weak internal seed quality control of producers and lack of effective technical support from BoA were observed as major challenges of quality seed production.

In the afternoon, six plenary sessions were held that focused on key topical issues for which greater knowledge and evidence was needed to guide decision makers. These included seed utilization trend, seed production, and marketing plan by two unions in east and west Hararghe zones; Haramaya University Seed quality control and certification achievements and challenges; Haramaya University EGS production, achievements, challenges, and future plan; and SPCs development process (achievements, challenges) zones cooperative promotion agencies. These plenary presentations were complimented by discussions and recommendations session.

The output of the workshop include: unions taken up responsibility of organizing and managing demand collection in collaboration with CPAs and BoA; performance of on-going projects evaluated and recommendation were made; seed demand, production, and marketing plan organized by unions was approved and agreement reached among actors; role of actors to improve performance of seed production and marketing identified and stakeholders agreed to play their role; and mechanisms to strengthen effective coordination and linkage of actors identified as key focus areas in the future.

#### **Key messages, remarks and way forward from the workshop**

- To access EGS and hybrid seed the union should focus on EGS production plan especially for OPV crops
- Old varieties such as BH660, Paven 76, Javi and etc should be out of production and focus should be made to popularize recently released high yielding varieties
- Unions should take up the role of organizing demand, seed production, marketing and distribution of the zone.
- To ensure accountability key role players such as BoA, CPA, and unions should sign MoU and work accordingly
- The role of BoA and CPA should more on technical support rather than directly involving in seed production and marketing
- HU and ARCs should strengthen their technical and infrastructural capacity to satisfy EGS requirement of the zones
- Haramaya University should improve the technical and human capacity to produce and supply quality EGS
- Effective monitoring and evaluation system should use for follow up and performance measurement

