

# NEWSSTORY

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

Contact: Kemal Kasim, +251-913179853, [kemalkasim@yahoo.com](mailto:kemalkasim@yahoo.com)

## Collaborative Training of Trainers (TOTs) conducted

BENEFIT-ISSD and BENEFIT-REALISE projects, two sister projects of Haramaya University namely BENEFIT-ISSD and BENEFIT-REALISE projects collaboratively facilitated a two-day Training of Trainers (TOTs) on Participatory Variety Selection (PVS) and Crowdsourcing (CS) for Woreda experts/ DAs and researchers. The training was conducted from April 24-25, 2019 at Harar city. A total of 75 woreda experts/DAs and researchers from 10 woredas of both projects (Chiro, Doba, Meta, Kersa, Kurfa Challe, Gurawa, Jarso, Dader, Bedeno, Kombolcha); Chiro National Research Sorghum and Fadis Agricultural Research Centres, and Haramaya University participated in the training were participated.



The objectives of the training were to:

- Create awareness on informal seed system implementation strategies;
- Create awareness on BENEFIT-REALISE project activities and focus areas;
- Introduce and train participants on the basic principles of PVS and CS trials using 10 steps of tricot;
- Demonstrate field layout and design on PVS and CS trials;
- Equip participants on pre-and post-harvest management of crops under PVS and CS trials;
- Enhance knowledge and attitude of participants on roles of gender and women empowerment in PVS and CS trials and;
- Enhance knowledge and attitude of participants on role of men and women farmers' perception and preferences in PVS/CS to enhance food and nutrition security.
- Enhance participants knowledge and skill on data management, documentation and reporting in CS and PVS trials.
- Equip participants knowledge and skill on documentation process (text, video and audio) and sharing of best practices and results.

Opening the training, Prof Chemedha Fininsa, BENEFIT-ISSD institutional Ambassador and Professor of Plant Pathology at Haramaya University, was made the opening remark. His remark was well-articulated and focused on the new models of variety popularisation i.e. PVS and CS. He appreciated PVS and CS tools for rapid technology dissemination in contrary to conventional breeding. He further emphasized that the Ethiopia agricultural system is not yet transformed mainly due to poor linkage between actors operating in the sector and weak extension services. This calls for strong commitment and collaboration in our areas of expertise, he said.

The morning session of day one was began by briefing BENEFIT-ISSD achievements mainly in 2018 project period, followed by BENEFIT-REALISE project overview, activities accomplished so far and

future directions by respective regional unit managers, Dandena Gelmesa and Bulti Tesso (PhD), respectively. Following that, introduction to basic principles of PVS and CS trials using 10 steps of tricot; design and layout of PVS and CS trials and management of the trials, and pre and post-harvest variety evaluation and management practices, was presented by Mr Dandena Gelmesa and discussed.

Following Training topics on gender sensitive data management and documentation skills such as procedures and guidelines to document qualitative and quantitative information such as farmers attitude, mechanism of filling data sheets appropriately during PVS and CS implementations were addressed during this session by Mr Zerihun Misgana, BENEFIT-ISSD project, Seed Expert.

In addition, roles of gender and women participation and empowerment in PVS and CS trials and; men and women farmers' perception and preferences in PVS/CS to enhance food and nutrition security were presented by Mr Nasir Siraj, BENEFIT-ISSD project Gender and Rural Development Expert and discussed.

In day two the training was focused on practical demonstration of PVS and CS practically on how to set up and manage PVS and CS trials. The practical session was conducted at Haramaya University main campus, research field. The training participants were formed three mixed clustered group (high experience vs low experiences) representing both projects prior to facilitation and demonstration of PVS and CS trial set up. This is to ensure rapid learning among groups and no individual left behind without grasping the knowledge and skills. The main activities applied on the field are: Design and Layout of PVS and CS trials, how to apply Pythagorean Theorem to make field layouts, randomization techniques for different designs, how to set A, B, C varieties next to others, how to set up replications against different soil property gradients (e.g. fertility gradient), and demonstrate row planting at recommended spacing and depth of different crops.

Following that, in class presentation on documentation and knowledge sharing in PVS and CS were delivered to the participants by Mr Kemal Kasim, BENEFIT-ISSD project Knowledge and Communication Expert. Process documentations, tools for documentation and knowledge sharing, tips and tricks for photography and filming, and knowledge sharing methods such as field days, seed exhibitions, experience sharing and social medias were addressed.

The training adopted diverse learning strategies such as lectures, brainstorming, individual and group test, group work, and practical exercise.

Closing of the training, Mr., Dandena Galmesa, BENEFIT-ISSD project unit manager strongly appreciated the trainees' active participation in the training and emphasised the commitment of each individual and partners participating in the projects to work strongly to contribute for project success while attain household food and nutrition security. In addition, Mr Dandena pointed that PVS and CS project implementation modalities of the two sister projects are similar including the top up payment for DAs/enumerators and woreda focal persons.