

## ***Contractual Early Generation seed production and agreement improvements to unlock challenges***

It is obvious that integrated seed sector development Amhara unit advance the contractual EGS production agreement since 2018, aimed to acquire the necessary seed and amount in affordable price from research and seed producers and developed trust on them to get the seed without reluctance regularly. These nurtures mutual trust between research institution, public seed enterprises, private seed producers and seed unions, similarly the role of bureau of agriculture has changed to act as a witness and mediated the agreement while ISSD facilitates the agreement ceremony.

In view of evaluating last year's EGS production, the Amhara region seed core group and seed unit held a one day discussion forum aimed to appraise and evaluate last year EGS production performance and to approve this year's plan. The meeting was attended by 15 core group and seed unit members and higher officials' assigned by ministries to support the region's agriculture sector.



The meeting was led by H.E **Ato Tefera Derbew, the former ministry of agriculture**, assigned to support the region, who has intensive knowledge on Ethiopian agriculture and experience to manage development areas supporting the sector.

The first session starts with evaluating last year performance of EGS production. The expert at the start raised ISSD's role in breaking discussion about the challenge of the seed sector and way of resolving issues with stakeholder's involvement. Among these the EGS demand assessment and EGS planning and contractual agreement session at regional level makes seed sector actors plan together and resolves long term challenges observed in in EGS production.

Then, BoA presented last year's EGS production achievement and challenges on crop and variety bases. Based on the presentation, EGS production of hybrid maize, teff and to some extent wheat crops shown promising results, while malt barley, sorghum and faba bean EGS production remains challenging. Last year's commencements of EGS contractual agreement considered as operative in minimizing BoA's effort on searching and allocating source seed and avoid effort duplication and role clarity. However, unwillingness observed in some seed producers to supply EGS based on the agreement made and some byers rearing back to keep the contract were added as main challenges that obstructs the regions EGS production. Moreover, the core group and seed unit's regular discussion on the status conferred as a big instigation while limited enforcement of the agreement was noted as a weakness to attain the desired goals of EGS production. Then, a planning session was steered to know how far the core group and seed unit are ready to cascade next year plan and comment on some issues involving the seed unit members and higher officials. Considering this, shortage of land and breeder seed were forecasted to be

a challenges while all actors involvement and commitment on EGS production were well-thought-out as opportunities for the upcoming years EGS production.



**Regional core group and Seed unit members while attending performance evaluation of EGS production**

Subsequent to the regional core group and seed unit's discussion on the status of EGS production and other associated issues, Amhara unit integrated seed sector development organized a contractual EGS production performance evaluation and agreement signing workshop in collaboration with regional bureau of agriculture.



The workshop opened by Ato Tesfahun Mengiste, Deputy Head of Regional Bureau of Agriculture, noted that **"the legal and regulatory framework of signing agreement before production is a significant factor in both access and availability of improved seed. Previously, we have not yet established a system to make legal agreement on the production of early generation seed. However, with great commitment of ISSD and BOA issue of EGS become profound starting from last year. Then, demand assessment and participatory planning of EGS for the coming five years projected. Following this, each year signing of contractual early generation seed production agreement between seed producers and buyers started. Evaluating the performance of EGS become issue of the core group/seed unit and minimizes BOA's role.**

This year signing of early generation seed production contractual agreement have not yet started direct into ratification rather focuses on the evaluation of the status with the involvement of research institute, seed companies, unions and facilitators (BoA & ISSD).Expertise from BoA presents the performance of contractual EGS production of the 2018 and the plan and draft contractual agreements of 2019 EGS production. Following the presentation discussion led by Ato Tesfahun of BoA, Dr Dereje of

ISSD and Ato Agdew from BoA managed the overall issues raised by the participants. Lack of breeder seed of Hidase wheat variety, holker of malt barley and BH540 of hybrid maize parental line were refreshed as a weakness while hybrid maize parental lines, ogolche wheat variety and teff upheld as encouraging ones. Following the presentation issue of breeder seed and scarcity of land were refreshed as a big challenge to sign the agreement. Moreover, developing low of enforcement in case of indisposed the contract agreement also another issue frequently inquired by the participants. Then, BoA promised to settle issue of encounters with regard to land (for out growers) and the agreement also refine with take in consideration of low of enforcement to resolve challenges in relation to the problem. Then, Research institute, seed companies (private and public) and unions signed this year early generation contractual agreement with a better commitment and desire of incising a lot than ever.



*Seed buyers and sellers while signing this year EGS contractual agreement*

The overall preceding's of discussion at core group and seed unit level with the involvements of higher officials, evaluating the performance EGS production in the existence of seed buyers and sellers and actors curiosity to cascade EGS signing agreement as consistent activities were shown as improvement. Moreover, the commitment of involvement of seed producers and government official's interest enhances to become self-sufficient by encouraging EGS seed producers. A total of 50 participants drawn from regulatory authority,ATA, public seed enterprises, private seed producers, research institutions, unions, BOA and ISSD staffs attended the signing of EGS production contractual agreement workshop of the year 2019.