

ISSD and AGP's Joint Meeting to Modernize the Seed System

MU-ISSD and Agricultural Growth Program (AGP) staff conducted joint meeting on May 7, 2019 in the Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development (BoARD) meeting hall. Experts from BoARD were also attended the joint meeting. This joint meeting was conducted to support the development of a seed system that ensures the AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF QUALITY SEED AS PART OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORST in Tigray so as to improve food security and livelihood development of the rural community. To this effect, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed a year ago between MU-ISSD and BoARD-AGP at federal and regional level was familiarized to all staffs of both programs.



Participants attending the presentation on MoU by Yirga H/Silase, the SV expert

The action points which MU-ISSD and BoARD-AGP projects agree to work together include, but are not limited to sustainable seed availability in AGP weredas through increased quality seed production and marketing, upgrade the development of community based seed producer groups (CIGs) to SPCs using LSB mode by ensuring the CIG to get certificate of competence to sustainably stay in the seed business, promote the implementation of DSM innovation in AGP weredas and capacitate experts at regional and local level and CIGs. To these effects AGP

supports financially and ISSD technically to develop strategy as to meet these goals.

The joint meeting and discussions held are important to integrate and align both parties (ISSD and AGP) development interventions for the better use of resources, sharing knowledge and responsibilities based on the issues stated in the MoU. Accordingly, ten major activities are planned for 2019 fiscal year to be implemented in partnership with the seed sector. As a result, it was planned the registration of five CIGs to upgrade into formal SPCs and get CoC for seed multiplication.

ISSD as a pioneer and experienced project in the seed sector, can better serve the AGP interventions regarding supporting and facilitating the seed value chain development.

Main discussants made on market linkages, poor inspection system, in accessibility of seed to CIG, weak monitoring and evaluation procedures are among the problems need special attention. As the participants discussed, the seed task force at wereda level needs to replace with new wereda level seed core team so as to minimize the pending challenges faced the seed producers (both community based seed producers and local seed businesses).

Both ISSD and AGP finally agreed to jointly work to address the challenges observed and to create progressive regional seed sector. Hence, a joint assessment will conduct soon to see what technical and professional assistances are needed to upgrade CIGs into SPCs.

Need of MoU

- **Integrate and align development interventions for the better use of resources and sharing knowledge**
 - **which would maximize the benefits to smallholder farmers in Tigray region (overlapping).**
- **ISSD can better serve the AGP interventions regarding supporting and facilitating seed value chain development.**
- **AGP, being a major development partner in the Agricultural Transformation Plan of the Regional Government, can better support ISSD initiatives to bring institutional transformation in the regional seed sector development.**
- **Moreover, the parties agree to share information**
 - **Activities and innovations whose synergy benefit the performance of the seed sector, which plays a key role in enhancing agricultural productivity.**



Some of the key points of the MoU signed between MU-ISSD and BoARD-AGP