INTEGRATED RESEARCH APPROACH FOR DEVELOPMENT OF POTATO PRODUCTION IN CHENCHA DISTRICT, ETHIOPIA

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Introduction

• Three integrally linked PhD research projects are being implemented in southern Ethiopia to enhance the development of potato production.
• The research is designed to integrate
  • the “hard” science on the potato crop,
  • Farming systems research at farm level,
  • Technology transfer and impact studies at community level
  in a tiered manner

Objectives

• To improve the quality of seed potatoes and the potato crop in Chencha district
• To assess the diversity, sustainability of farming systems, optimize sustainability of potato production management system
• To analyse the promotion and (non) adoption of potato technology to understand optimal research-led approach at community level

Materials & Methods

Project 1 works with few farmers that fulfil common selection criteria for Projects 1, 2 & 3
Project 2 works with farmers of Project 1 plus more farmers that fulfil common selection criteria for Project 3
Project 3 works with farmers of Projects 1 & 2 plus more farmers
The three projects also work jointly on cross cutting objectives

Conclusion

This integrated research approach addresses the gaps of previous approaches which focus on tackling single agricultural problem at a time while different problems are interrelated.

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