



South-East Cluster Partnership: Achievements, Lessons & Way Forwards

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Introduction

- South-East cluster target legumes are faba bean and Chickpea which are conducted on highland areas (Sinana, Goba and Agarfa districts) while chickpea activities on midland areas (Ginir district) of Bale zone.
- The key partners and collaborators of south-east cluster are ILRI-N2Africa, IQQO-SARC, Balegreen, MBI, ACOS-Ethiopia, Oromia Seed Enterprise, District BoAs, and Unions (Agarfa Kajewa, Oda-Roba, Siko-Mendo and Sofumer).

Main Achievements/Progresses in 2016

Capacity Development

- A total of 299 (246 male & 53 female) beneficiaries were reached through trainings with the main focuses on inoculant technology, improved agronomic practices and on the role of cooperatives/ unions in facilitating the input supply and market linkages.
- No feed back assessment was conducted on skill and knowledge gained and challenge faced during training.

Dissemination

- Input was disseminated through in collaboration between BoA and Unions with close follow up of research and other stakeholder.
- About 782 (636 male & 146 female) beneficiaries were reached through field day, demonstration and adaptation activities.
- Amount of inputs disseminated: 15.61 qt of seeds of faba bean and chickpea, 15.64 qt of NPS fertilizer and 274 sachets of inoculants.

Input Supply

- 4 ha of faba bean and 35 ha of chickpea basic seed were multiplied on Sinana station and Balegreen, respectively.
- Fertilizer and inoculants were supplied through Unions while seed was supplied through other means due to seed shortage by producers.
- Around 900 sachet of inoculant were disseminated by Oda-Roba union at Ginir district whereas no seed dealt.
- In input supply chain there was weak linkage between supplier and buyer.

Market Linkages

- Contractual agreements between buyers and unions were not yet signed due to late cropping season of the area .but plan to be held to facilitate the agreements in the coming month.
- Signing contract agreement between buyers and union is crucial for profitable grain market access for farmers.

Challenges faced in Implementations

- Lack of labor saving tools like herbicide and combine harvester on both crops.
- Too late disbursement of budget by ILRI-N2Africa.
- Series restriction on financial flow system (Polly system)
- Erratic rainfall during planting time
- Extremely devastating frost
- Security problem in the area during training session and late planting time

Lessons Learned

- Dissemination through union and PC is cost-effective and innovative in reaching more farmers.
- Improved linkage between PPPs in the cluster.
- Team sprit was well developed within PPPs.
- Pre and end of season cluster PPP meeting developed the feeling of ownership by the stakeholders to share their role and responsibility.
- Seed access increased due to farmer to farmer seed system increased.
- Trend of cereal monoculture showed change due to N2Africa project impact.
- Target crops showed responsive to inputs (Rhizobium and P).

Opportunities Identified

- Presences of the potential Cooperatives/Unions.
- Presence of NGOs like SG-2000 who involves on small scale mechanization (thresher) on pulse crops in Bale zone.
- Conducive environmental and soil conditions for target pulse crops production in the area.
- There is potential seed multiplier organizations in the cluster.
- High demand for target pulse crops production due to low market price and severe diseases on wheat whereas better price (triple) for pulse crops.

Way Forwards

- Unions and PCs should be capacitated for the success of the project.
- Trainings on post harvest management, processing and utilization and market orientation should be strengthened.
- There should be input demand information and agreement signed between last miles to ensure sustainable input supply to the farmers. .
- Labor saving tools should be given attention.
- Attention should be given for NARS partner trainings.

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