

Legume SELECT: Science-driven Evaluation of Legume Choice for Transformed livelihoods

Stakeholder mapping for legume intensification in LegumeSELECT Project sites in Ethiopia

Fact sheet

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Key messages

- Ethiopia's grain legume productivity has remained low compared to the demand and agricultural potential of the country.
- A mapping and analysis exercise by the LegumeSELECT mapped 24 key legume value chain stakeholders in Digga and Sinana.
- More than half of the stakeholders work with faba bean, common bean, field pea and chickpea, which are the leading grain legumes both in area and volume of production in Ethiopia.
- For the most part, legume forages and trees, which are key components of mixed crop-livestock farming systems, are overlooked as sources of food and forage resources.
- Legume intensification in Ethiopia requires developing legume-specific value chains and improving access to locally preferred varieties of high-quality legume seeds.



Methodology

- Desk study and consultation with informants were used to identify potential collaborating stakeholders for the LegumeSELECT Project in Digga and Sinana woredas.
- The analysis focused on legume production scenarios, opportunities, major constraints, and plans as well as descriptions of the specific roles of the stakeholders.
- Key informant interviews were conducted with the stakeholders using a semi-structured questionnaire.



Results

Stakeholders scope

- Twenty-four (13 at Digga and 11 in Sinana) key informants were interviewed for the stakeholder mapping and analysis.
- The primary influence of identified stakeholders ranged from woreda to national levels.
- Government and non-governmental organizations, private sector, research institutes, input suppliers, service providers and processors are the key stakeholders in the project sites.
- The engagement of stakeholders in the legume value chain ranged from 7-18 years.

Priority legumes

- While 33% of the stakeholders currently work on up to two legume crops, only two of them work on up to seven grain and forage legumes.
- Faba bean and field pea are the top grain legumes with attention from more than 50% of the stakeholders.
- Among forage legumes, alfalfa and vetch lablab have the greatest attention of different stakeholders whereas legume trees have the least focus among interviewed stakeholders.



Roles of stakeholders and their level of engagement

- A diverse group of stakeholders are involved in the legume value chains in terms of:
 - legume production (e.g. farmers)
 - Capacity building (e.g. training)
 - Input supply (e.g. improved seeds)
 - Service provision
 - Processing (e.g. soya bean processing)
 - Legume marketing as aggregators (e.g. farmers' unions)
- The stages of stakeholders' involvement and their prioritized roles in the legumes value chains were highly skewed towards input supply (18%), capacity building (16%) and extension services (11%).
- Their priority roles and actual involvement were least in processing, storage and exporting of legumes products.

Level of engagement with other stakeholders

- Every interviewed stakeholder currently interacts with at least three stakeholders.
- About 50% of the stakeholders are willing to work with others, primarily with processors and NGOs.

Challenges in legume production and intensification

The top six challenges in legumes production and intensification in the LegumeSELECT sites are:

- Lack of certified legume seeds
- Poor markets
- Lack of seeds for preferred legume varieties at the local level
- Low legume production due to low rainfall, pests and diseases
- Lack of fast maturing legume varieties
- Lack of finances/high cost of inputs and services

Community engagement and gender equity

- All stakeholders use extension tools such as demonstration, sensitization meetings, field days and farmer exchange visits to ensure community engagement.
- The frequency of community engagement activities varies from weekly to biannually for most of the stakeholders.
- Regarding gender equity, about 80% of the stakeholders have tried to ensure gender equity (e.g. by deliberately selecting 30% of women and inclusion of youth).

Information flow

- The stakeholders described the information flow between them and farmers as two-way.
- The information flow mainly relates to seed supply (18% of stakeholders), training (16%) and exchange visits (15%).
- The least emphasized activities in the flow are processing and value addition (2%) and storage of produces (3%).

Stakeholders' challenges in community engagement

- The stakeholders' obstacles in engaging the community in legume value chains are
 - poor local market access
 - limited access to inputs
 - inadequate certified legume seeds, and
 - high costs of inputs
- The main priority strategies of the stakeholders to overcome the challenges include:
 - To improve access to input supply among stakeholders.
 - To improve legume market channels/market aggregation.
 - To seek financial support for interventions.
 - To create awareness on production and storage services.

Stakeholders' aspirations for legume intensification

- Since there is high demand for legume products in the country, the stakeholders have a positive attitude to investing in legume production and marketing.
- The stakeholders also have the ambition to exploit the potential benefits of legume farming, which include
 - Higher income generation
 - Increase production for consumption
 - Value addition



Recommendations

- Improve coordination among relevant stakeholders to avoid duplication of activities and address gaps in legume production intensification.
- Establish a stakeholder platform to coordinate legume intensification activities in Digga and Sinana
- Develop legume-specific value chain for more specific stakeholder mapping and investment
- Boost supply of locally preferred varieties of demand-based quality legume seeds should be enhanced.
- Strategic development to enhance stakeholders' engagement in forage and tree legume production and marketing.
- Strengthen legume value addition, credit services and legume marketing



Reference

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