



Sustainable  
Intensification of  
Mixed Farming Systems

# Highlights on Forage Seed Activities

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# Initiatives/projects supporting activities on forage seed system in Ethiopia

- Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING)
- Mixed Farming Systems (MFS) initiative
- Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA)
- Diversification in East and Southern Africa - Ukama Ustawi (UU) initiative
- Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) Phase II



# Approaches used to improve access for forage seed

Africa RISING project- three seed system models:

- Model farmer
  - ✓ easier but difficult to coordinate and sustain in the long run.
- FTC
  - ✓ Easier to coordinate but land is limited within FTCs.
- Cooperative
  - ✓ is an innovative one in the long run.
  - ✓ the approach can build social capital of farmers to produce forage and forage seed.
  - ✓ can pave the way for a business model for forage seed supply.
  - ✓ farmers can use cooperatives to aggregate their forage seed as well as serve as forage seed retailers for private suppliers.



## Current projects and initiatives (MFS, AICCRA, U2 and TAAT) approaches:

1. Commercialization of forage seed business
  - Create functional *linkage among multiple stakeholders* for the commercialization of the forage seed business.
  - Identify core technical climate-smart *forage innovations* for seed business commercialization.
  - Establish *land clustering* among interested farmers through primary cooperatives and cooperative unions.
  - Establish *business linkage* between private forage seed aggregators and farmer cooperative unions.
  - Lobby with local Agricultural Authority representatives to extend *forage seed inspection and certification* service for cooperative unions.



2. Market-based forage seed supply
  - Establishing *business-to-business* linkage between private seed suppliers and local agro-dealers.
  - Support local agro-dealers with *market assessment*.
3. Revolving forage seed supply scheme
4. Improving *early generation forage seed* production at NARS through backward linkage with ILRI Gene Bank and forward linkage with forage seed businesses
5. Behavioral change communication through community *radio, mobile voice blasts and in-person training*.





## The commercialization model is under piloting stage in North Showa Zone

- North Shewa *Office of Livestock Development* recruited farmers in Siadebr District, 80 farmers in 3 villages.
- Total land area clustered for commercialization is 15 ha.
- *SNV* provided logistics and local facilitation.
- *ILRI* provided technical training on forage production.
- *Wedera Union* agreed to sub-let its seed production certification for farmers willing to produce forage seeds.
- *Anatoli* provided starter seed and entered a formal production arrangement.
- The zone *seed inspection unit* agreed to inspect farmers fields despite their smaller size.

## Next plan

- Improving forage seed companies access to *Early Generation Seed (EGS)*.
- Developing *local forage seed market* in collaboration with local partners.
- Promoting commercial *forage biomass* production.
- Undertake *cost-benefit analysis* to develop extension and policy messages for wider scaling of the business model.
- Co-develop *joint activities on commercialization* of forage seed with Land O'lakes, SNV, ATI and ABC in CE, Sidama and other southern regions.

