



# North Cluster Partnership: Achievements, Lessons & Way Forwards

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## Introduction

- Faba bean, chick pea and common bean are the target legumes in North Cluster Partnership.
- Target districts: Yilmanadensa, Farta, Enemay, Gonder-Zuria, Denbia, Debark and/or Dabat districts of Amhara Region.
- Partners & collaborators: ARARI-Adet & Gondar, MBI, SNV, Tsehay and Ghion Unions, BoAs, Community seed growers, Quality Control and Seed inspection Office.

## Main Achievements/Progresses in 2016

### Capacity Development

- About 499 male and 33 female totally 482 beneficiaries who are farmers and experts reached through training on faba bean and chickpea.
- Six ToTs and routine training sessions were organized on improved legume production, agronomic practices, inoculation, quality seed production and marketing
- Beneficiaries feedback showed that, skills, knowledge awareness of beneficiaries were improved through capacity building.
- Nutrition, post harvest, food recipes, marketing and business issues are gaps that needs to be addressed more.

### Dissemination

- Participatory technology promotion was used for both crops.
- About 1009 (926 male and 83 female) of beneficiaries reached through the different dissemination activities.
- More than 7810 kg of improved seeds, 60 kg of fertilizer and 122,623 g (981 sachets) inoculants were disseminated for target farmers.
- Dissemination approaches that uses BoA and PCs were cost-effective and innovative in reaching more farmers.
- Demand has been created on improved seeds and inoculants for further legume technology dissemination.



### Input Supply

- PCs, Unions, BoAs and farmers were used as input supply chains.
- Seeds were secured from research institutions while inoculants were mostly bought from MBI and fertilizers from PCs.
- About 21.5 ha of land was covered for seed production purposes.
- There is shortage of improved seeds and there is not still established inoculants supply chain for both crops.
- Farmers primary cooperatives and unions play major role in ensuring legume input access to the farmers.
- Enhance research centers capacity on improved seed production will availability of improved seeds for farmers.

### Market Linkages

- Two contract agreements were facilitated between seed producer PCs; Ghion and Tsehay unions.
- Two collective groups were supported through the process and 130 farmers benefited through collective marketing.
- More than 4000 kg of seeds were marketed through primary cooperatives and/or unions.

## Challenges faced in Implementations

- Lack of improved faba bean seed for adaptation trials,
- Unavailability of chemicals (Bayleton) on market for faba bean gall disease management,
- Unexpected rainfall, root rot disease, ball worm attack and human pest on green pod on chick pea adaptation,
- Clustering land was a problem due to occurrence of root rot disease (will to sow grass pea than chickpea to escape the disease),

## Lessons Learned

- The improved faba bean and chickpea varieties with inputs (inoculants and inorganic fertilizer) were excellent in performance than the local variety and has got acceptance by farmers,
- Feedback assessment from M&E, frequent field visit and field days showed that demand was created about the improved technologies of chickpea and faba bean (improved variety, inoculants and chemical control options).
- Knowledge and skill transfer methods, i.e. trainings, field days and technology evaluation played key roles in technology demand creation and dissemination activity.
- Working with stakeholders minimizes workload and make activities sustainable.



## Opportunities Identified

- Availability of improved legume technologies (varieties, agronomic practices, disease control options),
- There is good legume production potential in the targeted districts,
- There is high demand for legume produces both locally and internationally (export market),
- Availability of different stakeholders to facilitate the enhancement of legume production,

## Way Forwards

- Capacity building is still necessary on production packages and skills
- Roles and responsibilities share of each stakeholders should be strengthened more for timely input delivery and implementation
- Strength stakeholders linkages,
- Continue the ongoing agronomic trials planned last year,
- Further adaptation (pre-scaling out) of the activity to establish and strengthen community based seed grower and link to market (Cooperative/Union),



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